

Apostilled, Certified, Notarised & Translated Documents

What they are & what they are not

By & Copyright To Steve Robinson

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NOTE NEVER LAMINATE ANY OFFICIAL DOCUMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF ANY MIGRATION PROCESS AS THAT WILL RENDER THAT DOCUMENT TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE FOR ANY PURPOSE RELATED TO YOUR MIGRATION PROCESS!

This entire situation is commonly & hugely misunderstood by many would be migrants to Portugal so let's take a look at what they are, what they are not & what they are or are not needed for.

Apostilles = An apostille is a stamp or document that is attached to an original document from an official source to say the original document is legal in the country it was issued & can only be done by the designated Government dept of any country that is signatory to the Hague Convention & (for example) that dept is the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in the UK & in South Africa it is the SA High Court of DIRCO <http://www.dirco.gov.za/> but it should be noted that SA High Court Apostilles are not acceptable to Portugal for the purposes of Migration & also be aware that when you Google any such service that you need to check very carefully indeed that you are actually contacting the relevant Government dept & not a third party company posing as Government dept for the purposes of hitting you with a needless surcharge for their services.

Certified documents = A stamp & signature attached to a copy of an original document that states it is a certified copy of that original document & this is done by a lawyer.

Notarised Document = Is similar to a Certification but is done by a Notary who also records the notarization on official records which nowadays will be the relevant data base.

Whether you need any of those options to achieve any particular process will depend on the required documents lists of what person or Government dept you are dealing with so check very carefully indeed & try to work on the principle of better to have it & not need it than to need it & not have it but if something is difficult or impossible to obtain then recheck the required documents list again & then apply what I call the Scalia Principle which is (as he wrote in a famous Supreme Court judgement) 'It says what it says & doesn't say what it doesn't say' which means that if the list says something is needed then it is & if it does not say it is needed then it is not needed.

Also apply the same principles to translations & similar & note the legislation below say official documents in English, French & Spanish do not need to be translated etc.

https://www.homepagejuridica.pt/noticias/2471-documentos-civis-em-ingles-frances-e-espanhol-deixam-de-precisar-de-traducao?fbclid=IwAR3w8WioI3gB4Jyb--DD4CYlaBgl_wAuLFtNJWcN5YQvGQTqA9MFmnCfmH8

Also note that official documents from other EU member state countries etc also do not usually need to be Apostilled, Certified or notarised.

https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_public_documents-551--maximize-en.do?fbclid=IwAR1n9nn2PBT3pTzZo-3u5_Imu0OfkUzPuxx30F_q5tdihnJKh6KGbIHjfS0

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