



THE e-APP in MONTANA

A

Presented by:
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Notary & Certifications Administrator
Montana Secretary of State's Office



A 21st Century Expedition

Issued 4 e-Apostilles

- 1 Customer in California
- RON Notary in Montana
- 3 Accepted, 1 Rejected

2020

Spreading the Word

- Presentation at NASS
- Working with State Dept
- Created Advisory Board

2022

In Production

- Partner with MT RONs
- < 750 e-Apostilles YTD
- Promoting e-APP

2024

2019

New Notary Laws

- Full implementation of remote online notarization (RON)
- New online processing system for Notary and Apostilles
- **E-Register for Apostilles**

2021

Partner with Paradigm

- In-depth research
- Focus on CeDiploma
- Outreach to universities
- Worked with HCCH, Israel, UK

2023

Ready to Launch

- Phase 1 – Pilot
- First 2 e-Apostilles – Georgia (Country)
- Underwhelmed - Back to the drawing board
- **SUCCESS!!! 75 e-Apostilles**

2025

Moving Forward

- @Gov platform operational
- Fully automated process
- Work towards digital Vital Records
- Target 55% e-Ap by EOY

MONTANA'S STORY



Step 1: Click the hyperlink and enter the Apostille number.

Verify Online: <https://biz.sosmt.gov/apostille>

Apostille & Authentication Verification

Apostille/Authentication Number
11051

Submit

Please enter the Number on the form you were provided from the State of Montana to verify the Apostille or Authentication.

Step 2: Compare the information here to the information on the e-Apostille.

< Back to lookup

Verification Information

Apostille/Authentication Number	Issue Date
11051	04/09/2024

Signed Details

Country
United States

Signed By
SUSAN TAYLOR

Acting Capacity
NOTARY PUBLIC

Seal/Stamp
seal/stamp of SUSAN TAYLOR, NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MONTANA, U.S.A.

Certified Details

Certified Date
04/09/2024

Certified By
Christi Jacobsen, Montana, Secretary of State

Apostille/Authentication Number
11051

City, State
HELENA, MT

Security Features

Digital Signature

Background Filaments

➤ Woven through text

e-Apostille Border

➤ Microscopic text, not solid line

Competent Authority

Digital Signature

➤ Multi-colored

State Seal Embossed

➤ Looks three-dimensional

Active Hyperlink

➤ Links to e-Register

Document Description

➤ Identifies and connects underlying document

SECRETARY OF STATE STATE OF MONTANA

APOSTILLE

(Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)

1. Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
This public document
2. has been signed by KRISTI STROUF
3. acting in the capacity of NOTARY PUBLIC
4. bears the SEAL/STAMP OF KRISTI STROUF, NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MONTANA, U.S.A.
5. at HELENA, MONTANA
6. on 25TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023
7. by CHRISTI JACOBSEN, STATE OF MONTANA
8. No: 08984
9. Seal/Stamp

10. Signature



Christi Jacobsen

Christi Jacobsen
Montana Secretary of State

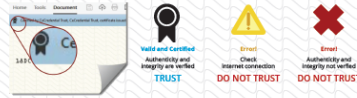
Verification #: 08984

Verify Online: <https://biz.sosmt.gov/apostille>

Document Description
Last Name Sample_Passport

Document Description - serves to append this eApostille to the accompanying underlying document. Parameters are customer specified. The eApostille neither confirms, denies, or makes any inference about the underlying document.

Security:
With Adobe Reader, certification and encryption are designated by a blue banner and black ribbon, which signifies the document has not been modified since issuance and cannot be repudiated. Do not trust the document if any other symbol is displayed.



This e-Apostille:

- Only certifies the authenticity of the signature and the capacity of the person who has signed the public document, and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the public official bears.
- Does not certify the content of the document for which it was issued.
- Constitutes an Apostille under the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents only if the Convention is in force between the United States and the country where it is to be presented.
- Complies with the proceedings of the International Forum for the electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP).

- ✓ Contains all the required elements of an Apostille
- ✓ Verifies all the same information as paper Apostille
- ✓ Both documents are contained in a secure tamper-evident file
- ✓ Underlying record can be electronic or scanned copy of hard-copy document
- ✓ Completed file with e-App and document transmitted to recipient electronically
- ✓ Entire process takes less than 1 day

MONTANA'S e-APOSTILLE

OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

- **Cost of System**
 - ✓ Partnered with a private-sector vendor
- **Cost to Customer**
 - ✓ Factor in costs for time/shipping, frustration
- **Lack of Demand**
 - ✓ When offered the option, customers want e-Apostilles
- **Acceptance by Destination Countries**
 - ✓ Issues are more with non-governmental recipients

CONCERNS

Request

Financial Dossier – Registering a Business Abroad

(6 documents, 2 principals, 3 states)

Obtaining Visas / Work Permits

(45 Individuals – FBI Background
Reports)

International Adoption Qualification

(18 documents – multiple states)

Paper Process

Minimum - at least
24 - 30 days*
* If nothing is wrong or
gets lost

Average - 4 - 6 weeks
- up to 12 - 14 weeks

Often months of
frustration and
expense

e-Apostille

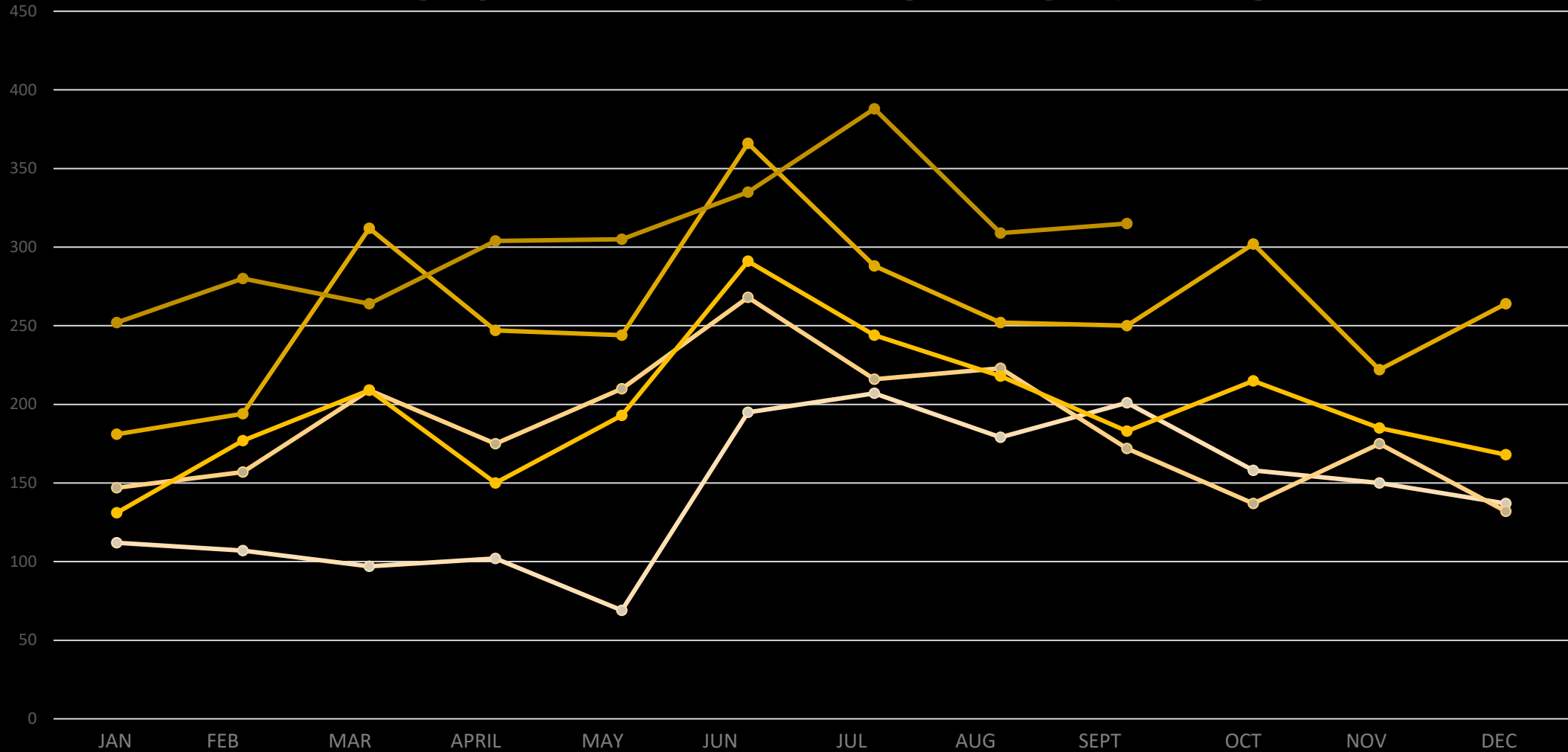
Total Time (including
online notarizations)
Less than 28 hours

Start to Finish -
3 Days per batch!!!

A full dossier was created,
processed, submitted, and
approved in **22 days!**

STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS

APOSTILLE PRODUCTION



ANNUAL TOTALS

2024 (YTD) = 2752

2023 = 3122

2022 = 2364

2021 = 2221

2020 = 1714

THE NUMBERS

CUSTOMER

✓ **FASTER**

✓ **MORE RELIABLE**

✓ **MORE SECURE**

✓ **LESS EXPENSIVE**

- No Shipping Costs
- One e-Apostille – Multiple uses
- Easily replaced if lost or undelivered

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

✓ **MORE SECURE**

- PII not as exposed
- Documents not as susceptible to loss
- Less vulnerable to fraud/forgery

✓ **MORE EFFICIENT**

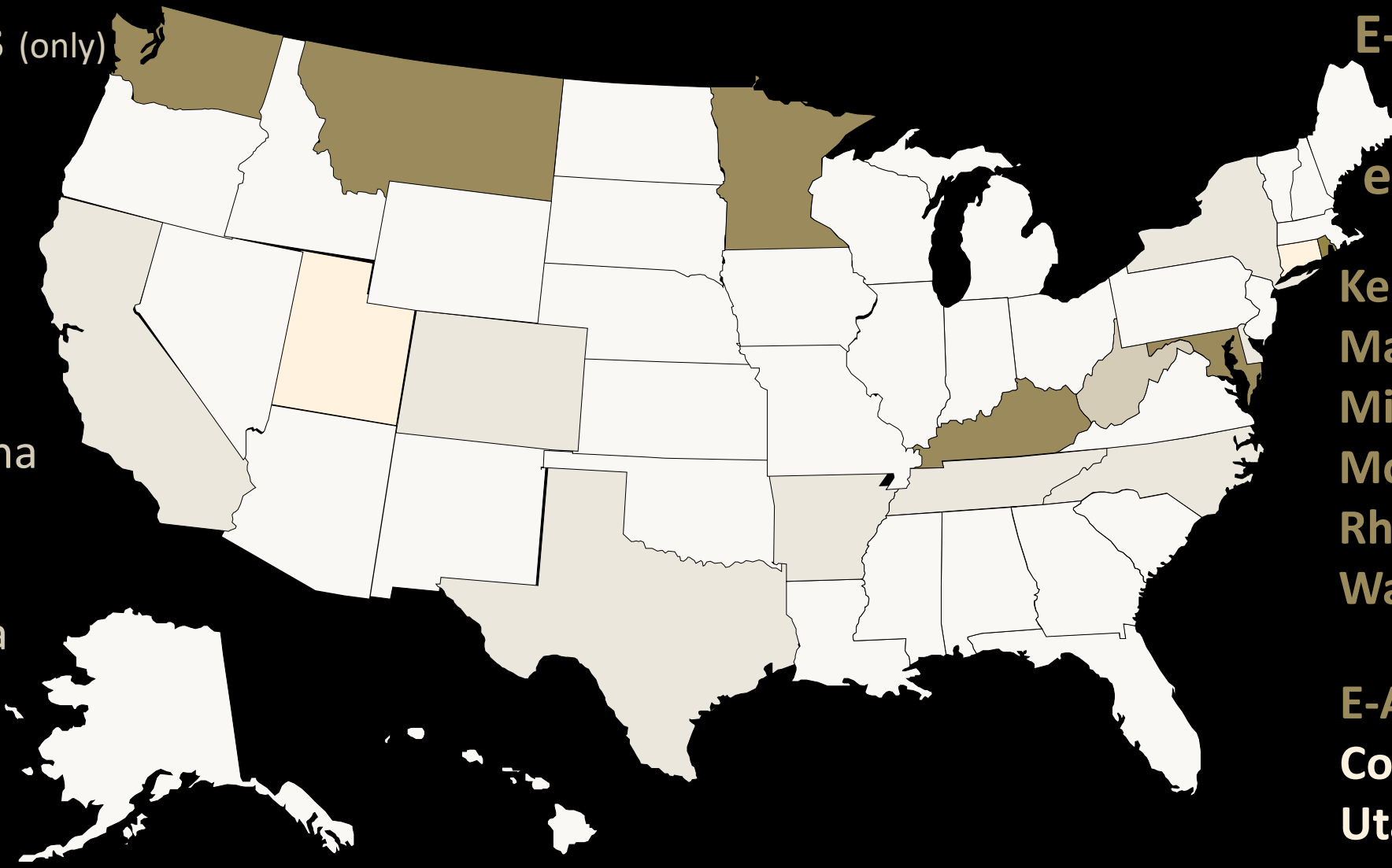
- Reduced processing time – **1.5 FTE > 1 FTE**
- Less paper = fewer paper hassles
- Easier to track by customer or CA

BENEFITS



E-Registers (only)

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Delaware
- New York
- North Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- West Virginia



**E-Apostilles
&
e-Registers**

- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Rhode Island
- Washington

E-Apostilles (only)
Connecticut
Utah



e-APOSTILLES



INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS
AT THE SPEED OF **LIFE!**

THANK YOU

Lori Hamm

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Montana Secretary of State's Office**

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