

Death Certificate Issued from a Foreign Country

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If you are using a Death Certificate in a foreign language, or even a Death Certificate in English but issued from a foreign entity, you will most certainly have a recording issue. In order to be able to use this Death Certificate as an attachment to the Affidavit of Death and have it recorded with the County, there will be additional steps and costs associated with the Death Certificate. The County Recorder's Office will require that the foreign language contained in the document be translated by an approved translator. It doesn't matter if the Death Certificate is written 90% in English; as long as it has some foreign language on it, the County Recorder will require the translation.

So what do you need? Here are the steps:

1. Obtain the services of an official court interpreter versed in the foreign language to translate the document. You can go to <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/interpreters#roster> for a list. (see **Note** below)
2. The interpreter/ translator will then attach his "Declaration and Certification of Interpreter/Translator" to the translation. This form has to be signed by the interpreter in front of a Notary Public.
3. The forms are submitted to the Superior Court which has jurisdiction where the property is located. A presiding Judge will sign a Certificate acknowledging the official capacity of the interpreter/translator and certifying all pages of the form.

OR

The forms are submitted to the County Clerk/Registrar Recorder's office, where the County Clerk can issue the Translation Certification.

4. Finally, the original Death Certificate, the translation, the declaration/certification and the translation certification are attached to the original Affidavit of Death for recordation.

Note: The translator must be either a Certified/Registered Court Interpreter or an Accredited Translator registered with the American Translators Association.

Tip: Some translators will run to the Superior Court or the County Clerk's office and get the necessary certifications as part of the package. It will cost more, of course, but if they offer that, then they normally know what they are doing and it is good to take advantage of their expertise.