

Procedures for Use of Taiwanese Documents in Mainland China

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The SEF is authorized by the government to handle verification and authentication of cross-Strait documents. In order to fulfill this function, in April 1993, the SEF and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) signed the "Agreement on Use and Verification of Certificates of Authentication Across the Taiwan Straits," which went into effect on May 29 of that year. Under the Agreement, the two organizations agreed to send each other copies of notarized documents and to establish a systematic mechanism for cross-Strait document authentication.

When members of the public conducting any affairs in mainland China are required to submit documents issued in Taiwan, they are recommended to follow these procedures:

1. Confirm with the relevant mainland Chinese agency (e.g. a marriage registration agency, a local property registration bureau, etc.) which documents from Taiwan will be required.
2. Bring the original documents to the notary office of the relevant district court in Taiwan, or any private notary office under the jurisdiction of the court, for notarization. Be sure to note where on the Mainland the document will be used (i.e. the province, autonomous region, or municipality). After notarization, the court or private notary office will return the original notarized document to the applicant to bring to the Mainland, and it will also send a copy of the notarized document to the SEF. The SEF will then, in accordance with the above mentioned Agreement, send the copy to the provincial-level branch of the China Notary Association for verification. Normally this process takes about one month from the date of notarization.
3. If the mainland Chinese agency requires the original document to be authenticated, the applicant should bring the original to the relevant provincial-level branch of the China Notary Association. After the association has completed authentication, the document may be submitted to the relevant agency.

* For a listing of private notary agencies registered with each District Court in Taiwan, please consult the website of the Judicial Yuan:
<https://www.judicial.gov.tw/tw/lp-152-1.html> (available only in Chinese).

** For a directory of provincial-level branches of the China Notary Association, please consult the SEF's website,
<https://www.sef.org.tw/category-1-17>(available only in Chinese).