

HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE SERVICE ABROAD OF JUDICIAL AND EXTRAJUDICIAL DOCUMENTS IN CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS (THE “HAGUE SERVICE CONVENTION”)

TABLE OF CONTRACTING STATES AND THEIR REQUIREMENTS

DISCLAIMER: This table is provided for convenience only. It is not updated regularly and it does not constitute legal advice. It is your responsibility to confirm the information contained in this table, through the Hague Service Convention website or by other means.

The Hague Service Convention applies when a party needs to serve a commencement document in a foreign country that is a Contracting State to the Hague Service Convention and when the address of the person or business to be served is known. Rules 11.33 to 11.35 of the Alberta Rules of Court apply in Alberta regarding service in a Contracting State under the Hague Service Convention.

Each Contracting State has identified the ways that documents may be transmitted for service to people in that country. In countries that object to service under Article 8 or 10, commencement documents must be served through the foreign Central Authority.

Article 8 says:

Each Contracting State shall be free to effect service of judicial documents upon persons abroad, without application of any compulsion, directly through its diplomatic or consular agents.

Any State may declare that it is opposed to such service within its territory, *unless the document is to be served upon a national of the State in which the documents originate.*

Article 10 says:

Provided the State of destination does not object, the present Convention shall not interfere with -


- a) the freedom to send judicial documents, by postal channels, directly to persons abroad,
- b) the freedom of judicial officers, officials or other competent persons of the State of origin to effect service of judicial documents directly through the judicial officers, officials or other competent persons of the State of destination,
- c) the freedom of any person interested in a judicial proceeding to effect service of judicial documents directly through the judicial officers, officials or other competent persons of the State of destination.






“Yes” in the table below means the alternate modes of service set out in Articles 8 and 10 of the Hague Service Convention are available, in addition to service through the foreign Central Authority.








“No” means these alternate forms of service are not available. Thus, for those Contracting States rejecting Article 8, diplomatic or consular agents may serve documents only on their own nationals residing in the foreign jurisdiction. And for those Contracting States rejecting Articles 10(a), (b), and (c), the foreign Central Authority effectively will be the only route of transmission for service of commencement documents.






The most up-to-date information about each Contracting State and what it permits under Articles 8 and 10 can be found at: <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?cid=17>






A list of all the Central Authorities and their addresses and other contact information can be found at <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?cid=17>





Contracting State	Name of central authority	Article 8(2) [via diplomatic or consular agents on foreigners who are not nationals of originating country]	Article 10(a) [via postal channels directly to persons abroad]	Article 10(b) [from judicial officers here to judicial officers in foreign state]	Article 10(c) [from interested parties here to judicial officers in foreign state]	Translation requirements (documents to be served by Central Authority must be translated into...)
 Albania	Ministry of Justice Department of Foreign Jurisdictional Relations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Andorra	Ministry of Social Affairs, Justice and Interior	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Catalan







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 Antigua and Barbuda	The Governor General The Registrar of the High Court of Antigua and Barbuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Argentina	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, International Legal Assistance Department	Yes	No	No	No	Spanish
 Armenia	Ministry of Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Australia	Attorney-General's Departments	Yes	Yes, but must be sent through registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt.	Yes	Yes	
 Austria	Federal Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	German






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 Bahamas, The	Office of the Attorney General	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Barbados	The Registrar of the Supreme Court of Barbados	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Belarus	Ministry of Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Russian
 Belgium	Service Public Fédéral de la Justice	No	Yes	Yes, through the Chambre nationale des Huissiers de Justice	Yes	Dutch, French, or German depending on the postal code of the addressee
 Belize	Registrar of the Supreme Court of Belize at the Ministry of Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ministry of Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Botswana	The Minister of State in the Office of the President	Yes	Yes	No	No	





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 Brazil	Department of Assets Recovery and International Legal Cooperation	No	No	No	No	Portuguese [Request must use Portuguese (Brazil) trilingual model form]
 Bulgaria	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Bulgarian
 China, People's Republic of	International Legal Cooperation Center (ILCC) Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Chinese
 China (Hong Kong)	Chief Secretary for Administration, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government	No	Yes	Yes, but with restrictions (check Hague Service Convention website for details)	No	English or Chinese
 China (Macao)	Procuratorate of the Macao Special Administrative Region	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Chinese or Portuguese









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 Colombia	Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	[Request should use Spanish trilingual model form]
 Costa Rica	Legal Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Croatia	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Croatian
 Cyprus	Ministry of Justice and Public Order	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	An addressee who does not understand the language of the documents may refuse to accept them, at which point the Cyprus Central Authority will ask for a translation into Greek or Turkish.
 Czech Republic	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Czech








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 Denmark	Ministry of Justice, Procedural Law Division	Yes	Yes, but this may not be valid service in Denmark.	Yes	No	Translation is not required, but the addressee is advised that under Danish law s/he has no obligation to accept an untranslated document.
 Egypt	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	
 Estonia	Ministry of Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Estonian or English
 Finland	Ministry of Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes, but Finnish authorities are not obliged to assist in serving these documents.	Yes, but Finnish authorities are not obliged to assist in serving these documents.	Translation is not required, however, if the addressee does not accept the document in the foreign language, then it must be translated into Finnish or Swedish, unless the addressee is deemed to understand the foreign language








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 France	Ministry of Justice, Directorate of Civil Affairs and Seal	No	Yes	Yes, by directly contacting a bailiff	Yes	An addressee who does not understand the language in which the document is written may refuse notice and request translation
 Germany	Numerous Central Authorities by region	No	No	No	No	German
 Greece	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Greek
 Hungary	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Hungarian
 Iceland	District Commissioner of Sudurnes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Icelandic
 India	Ministry of Law and Justice	No	No	No	No	






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 Ireland	Master of the High Court	Yes	Yes	No, unless through a solicitor in Ireland	No, unless through a solicitor in Ireland	
 Israel	Administration of Courts	Yes	Yes	Yes, but with restrictions (see Hague Service Convention website for details)	No	English, Hebrew, or Arabic
 Italy	Ufficio unico degli ufficiali giudiziari presso la corte di appello di Roma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Italian
 Japan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	No	No	No	No	Japanese
 Kazakhstan	Administrative Office of the Supreme Court	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Kazakh or Russian






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 Korea, South	Director of International Affairs, National Court Administration	No	No	No	No	Korean
 Kuwait	Ministry of Justice (International Relations Department)	No	No	No	No	Arabic
 Latvia	Council of Sworn Bailiffs	No	Yes, so long as document is translated into Latvian and is sent by registered mail with an acknowledgment of receipt.	No	No	If the addressee refuses to accept the document, then the documents must be translated into Latvian or into a language understandable to the addressee.
 Lithuania	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	





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 Luxembourg	The State Attorney General	No	Yes	Yes, but documents must be in French or German	Yes, but documents must be in French or German	French or German if a Luxembourg official will be involved in effecting service
 Macedonia	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Macedonian
 Malawi	Registrar of the High Court of Malawi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
*  Malta	Office of the State Advocate	No	No	No	No	English or Maltese
 Marshall Islands	Islands Attorney General	No	No	Yes	Yes	
 Mexico	Directorate-General for Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	No	No	No	No	Spanish [Request should use tri-lingual Spanish form]
 Moldova	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Romanian
 Monaco	Directorate of Judicial Services	No	No	Yes	Yes	

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 Montenegro	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	
 Morocco	Ministry of Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Netherlands	De Officier van Justitie	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Nicaragua	Corte Supreme de Justicia, Secretaria	No	No	No	No	
 Norway	Ministry of Justice and Public Security	No	No	No	No	Norwegian, Danish or Swedish, unless the addressee understands the language used in the document and accepts it voluntarily
 Pakistan	The Solicitor, Ministry of Law and Justice	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Philippines	Supreme Court of the Philippines, Office of the Court Administrator	No	No	Yes	No	English or Filipino

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 Poland	Ministry of Justice (Ministerstwo Sprawiedliwości)	No	No	No	No	Polish
 Portugal	Directorate-General of Justice Administration – Ministry of Justice	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Portuguese
 Romania	Ministry of Justice	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Russia	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Russian [Request should use the Russian tri-lingual form]
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Registrar of the High Court of Justice	Yes	Yes	No	No	
 San Marino	Tribunale Unico of the Republic of San Marino	No	No	No	No	Italian
 Serbia	Ministry of Justice	No	No	Yes	No	Serbian

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 Seychelles	Registrar of the Supreme Court	No	Yes	Yes, but only if service is carried out by a judicial officer	Yes, but only if service is carried out by a judicial officer	
 Slovakia	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Slovak
 Slovenia	Ministry of Justice	No	Yes, but service must be by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt and the documents must be translated into the Slovene language.	No	No	Slovenian
 Spain	Ministerio de Justicia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish
 Sri Lanka	Secretary to the Ministry of Justice	No	No	Yes	No	English, Sinhala, or Tamil

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 Sweden	County Administrative Board of Stockholm	Yes	Yes	Yes, but Swedish authorities are not obliged to assist	Yes, but Swedish authorities are not obliged to assist	Swedish, but Danish and Norwegian are also accepted
 Switzerland	Multiple authorities depending on region	No	No	No	No	German, French or Italian, depending on the part of Switzerland in which the document is to be served, unless addressee accepts voluntarily
 Tunisia	Ministry of Justice	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Turkey	Directorate General for Foreign Relations and EU Affairs, Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Turkish, unless the addressee accepts voluntarily
 Ukraine	Ministry of Justice	No	No	No	No	Ukrainian

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 United Kingdom	Senior Master, Royal Courts of Justice	Yes	Yes	Yes, but with restrictions (see Hague Service Convention website for details)	No, unless directly through a solicitor in the UK	
 United States	Office of International Judicial Assistance, Civil Division	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
 Venezuela	Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs	No	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish
 Vietnam	Ministry of Justice	No	Yes, but must be sent by registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt.	No	No	Vietnamese [Request should use Vietnamese tri-lingual form]