



**Mexico:
Divorce Decrees
Granted in the United States:
Their Validity in Mexico**

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MEXICO

DIVORCE DECREES GRANTED IN THE UNITED STATES: THEIR VALIDITY IN MEXICO

Under Mexican federal law, divorce decrees issued in the United States are recognized in Mexico, provided the decree is also valid in the United States.¹ A divorce decree obtained in the United States must have a certification called an "apostille" for use in Mexico.² There are three levels of competent authorities to issue the apostille certificate in the United States: Federal agencies, U.S. (federal) courts, and state authentication authorities.³

The United States Department of State website provides information on the requirements and procedures to certify documents issued in the United States that are intended for use in foreign countries, at:

http://travel.state.gov/hague_foreign_docs.html

It should be noted that, as in the United States, each state in Mexico has its own regulations on divorce and marriage procedures.⁴ Therefore, the rules pertaining to the recognition of divorce decrees granted in a foreign country may vary from state to state in Mexico.

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¹ *Codigo Civil Federal, 13 (I & II), Diario Oficial (D.O.), May 26, 1928.*

² *Decreto de Promulgacion de la Convencion por la que se Suprime el Requisito de Legalizacion de los Documentos Publicos Extranjeros, D.O., Aug. 14, 1995.*

³ *Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents, U.S. Department of State website, at http://travel.state.gov/hague_foreign_docs.html*

⁴ *Constitucion Politica de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, 130, D.O., Feb. 5, 1917.*