

## *What is a certified copy*

Here's one of the most frequently asked questions new clients have: "What is a certified copy?"

During the immigration process, original or certified copies of important documents like birth certificate are required.

A certified copy of a document is a copy of an original document that contains an endorsement or certificate that it is a true copy of the original document. A certified copy can only be made by the authority that has the original document.

Notarized copies, Embassy prepared copies, and copies certified by attorneys are not certified copies.

When gathering your documents, review your checklist carefully. Certified copies may or may not be required. If a certified copy is required and you don't have one, it may have to be ordered from the issuing authority online, by mail or by relatives in your home country. This can take time and slow down the preparation of your case.