

How to Get Your Document Notarized

1. **Determine the Notarization Type You Need:** Understand whether you need an acknowledgment, a jurat, or a copy certification. A notary can explain these types but isn't permitted to recommend one over another unless they're also a licensed attorney.
2. **Ensure Your Document is Fully Completed:** Check that your document is complete with no blank sections, as notaries typically cannot notarize documents with missing information.
3. **Bring Valid Identification:** Make sure you have a valid form of ID, such as a driver's license or passport, that meets your state's requirements. If your name on the ID doesn't match the document due to a recent name change, you may need alternative acceptable identification.
4. **Ensure All Signers Are Present:** Every person who needs to sign must be physically present with the notary. Notarization cannot be done over the phone or via video chat, unless using a state-approved remote notarization service.
5. **Be Willing and Aware When Signing:** The notary will confirm that you are signing voluntarily and that you are mentally aware and alert. If you're unsure about the details or don't fully understand the document, address these concerns before meeting with the notary.
6. **Understand the Fees:** Notary fees are usually regulated by state law, and additional charges may apply for mobile services. Confirm any costs in advance to avoid surprises.

Items to Bring for Notarization

- The complete document you need notarized.
- A valid photo ID that satisfies state guidelines.
- All other signers with their IDs.
- Payment for notarial services.

Additional Tips

- Most documents can be notarized, but notaries cannot handle vital records such as birth, marriage, or death certificates. For copies of these documents, you must contact the issuing government agency.

Following these guidelines will help ensure a smooth and efficient notarization process.