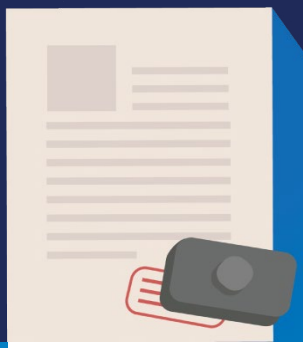
California
Secretary of State

NOTARY NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2026

Dear California Notaries,

This Notary Newsletter highlights the 2027 notarial law changes that will impact your notary commission and provides guidance on common issues that may occur during your notary commission.

In this Issue:

- Notary Fee Changes
- Electronic Seal, Signature and Seal Manufacturing Application
- When and How to Notify the CA Secretary of State
- Avoiding Notary Public Pitfalls

Fee Changes for 2027

Great news for California notaries! Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1597 into law which raises the fees for services rendered by California notaries. Remember you should always record the fee charged for each act in your journal. If no fee is charged, write "$0" or "no fee." **Never charge more than the legal maximum.** *(Government Code section 8211)*

Beginning January 1, 2027, the maximum fees a notary may charge have been raised to the following:

SERVICE*	OLD FEE	NEW FEE FOR 2027
Acknowledgment Acknowledgment or proof of deed or other instrument, to include the seal and the writing of the certificate	$15.00	$20.00 per each signature
Oaths/Affirmation Administering an oath or affirmation to one person	$15.00	$20.00
Jurat Executing a jurat including the seal	$15.00	$20.00
Deposition Services All services rendered in connection with taking a deposition	$30.00	$35.00
• Administering the oath to the witness	$7.00	$12.00
• Certificate to the deposition	$7.00	$12.00
Powers of Attorney Certifying a copy of a power of attorney under Probate Code section 4307	$15.00	$20.00

STAY CONNECTED!
Visit sos.ca.gov/notary for more information on California notaries and apostilles.

*This legislation did not impact notarial fees associated with Voting Materials, Veteran's Benefits or Immigration Forms.

Electronic Seal, Signature and Seal Manufacturing Application

Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1977 into law. This California Secretary of State sponsored bill cleans up legislation in anticipation of the remote online notarization implementation in 2030. The parts of AB 1977 that are effective January 1, 2027, include the new guidance for securely maintaining your existing electronic seal and electronic signature when performing official notarial duties. Under AB 1977, the electronic signature must include an image of the notary's handwritten signature. It must also be kept on a storage device or online media under the notary's direct and exclusive control that is protected by secure multifactor authentication. *(Government Code sections 8205, 8207)*

This bill includes an increase in the application fee to become an approved Seal Manufacturer Vendor. Effective January 1, 2027, the new application fee for a Seal Manufacturer Vendor will be $100. *(Government Code section 8207.2(c))*

Your Responsibilities: When and How to Notify the CA Secretary of State

California law requires you to notify the California Secretary of State's office when any of the following occur:

- You change your name
- You change your mailing address, home address, or business address
- Your notary seal is lost, stolen, misplaced, destroyed, damaged, or otherwise rendered unusable
- Your notary journal is lost, stolen, misplaced, destroyed, damaged, or otherwise rendered unusable
- You surrender your journal to a peace officer
- You wish to resign your commission
- You need a new Certificate of Authorization to obtain a new seal

Forms are available on the California Secretary of State's website for each of the above situations. Make sure you mail the form with proof of delivery and sign the form the way you signed your Oath of Office so it can be processed without delay.

Important: If your commission ends or you resign, do not send your journal(s) to the California Secretary of State. Deliver your journal(s) to the county clerk's office where you filed your oath and remember to destroy your notary seal. (Government Code section 8209)

Reminder: There is no provision in the law that provides for correcting a notarial act. If you make a mistake on the notarial certificate, even if it is something minor, you need to complete an entirely new notarial certificate. Once a notary public completes a notarial act, it cannot be altered in any way.

Avoiding Notary Public Pitfalls

As sworn public officials, notaries public serve an important role in the prevention of fraud and protection of the parties involved by acting as an official, unbiased witness for certain documents. The Certificates of Acknowledgment and Jurats that you complete and document in your notary public journal are instrumental in the business practices of hundreds of thousands of individuals in California. Common errors that occur when completing a Certificate of Acknowledgment or Jurat include:

- Using an Acknowledgement or Jurat that does not contain the current California statutory wording or inserts unapproved language into the body of the certificate
- Issuing a certificate that does not have the disclaimer box or statement
- Certifying vital records
- Issuing a certificate on an incomplete document
- Using a certificate stamp with small or blurred writing so the language of the certificate cannot be read
- Signing documents differently than your Oath of Office, which causes documents to be rejected for Apostille

Common errors that occur in a notary journal include:

- Use of ditto marks on sequential line-items with the same signer
- Not capturing the issuing agency for the identification used to establish identity
- Not capturing the expiration date of the identification used to establish identity
- Not capturing the time and type of each official act (e.g. acknowledgment or jurat)

Remember your notary journal is the official record of your work. Keeping clear and thorough records protects you both professionally and legally. By law, you must record every notarial act at the time it occurs. *(Government Code section 8206)*

It is best practice to create a separate journal entry for each document you notarize. This ensures you have a clear, distinct record for every single document. However, it is acceptable to complete a single journal entry for multiple documents, as long as you write in all the required legal information for each individual document as required by Government Code section 8206. If your journal has preprinted checkboxes, you may check the correct boxes for type of notarial act, such as an acknowledgment or jurat, and the type of document, such as a deed of trust or power of attorney. If your journal lacks a specific checkbox, you must write out the exact document and type of notarial act by hand.

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