

# Strange, Bizarre and Unusual Notarizations

---

**Susi Sivkov**

National Notary Association









# Today's topics

- Strange and unusual notarizations
- How to handle these uncommon requests
- Share your story

# Can I notarize my friend's tattoo?

**NO.**

- HOW?!
  - How do I attach a certificate form?
  - How do I affix my seal?
- You can't just stamp and sign an image or document.
- Notarization does not provide copyright protection.
- A signer could write a statement about his tattoo, and you could notarize his signature on his statement.



# Can I certify a copy of the birth certificate of a horse?

**YES.**

- Texas Notaries can certify copies of documents that are not public or vital records.
- A signer may write a statement and the Notary could notarize the signer's signature on the statement.

# How do I notarize for someone with no hands?

- Ask how they usually sign
- Signature by Mark
- Signature by Proxy
- Power of Attorney
- Note in journal/record book



# I tried to notarize for someone bedridden, but her ID had expired and there was no witness. What now?

## **STOP**

- If they can't provide a proper ID, you must refuse.
- Talk to your signer before the appointment to let them know what counts as valid identification.

# I was asked to notarize foreign-language documents. I requested English documents and two forms of ID.

## **OOPS.**

- You could have notarized the foreign-language document. As Notaries, we don't notarize documents; we notarize signatures.
- The Notary certificate should be in English or a language the Notary understands.
- Only one valid, unexpired ID issued by the federal government or any state government with a photo and signature is required (§311.05). (For real estate transactions, a foreign passport is acceptable.)

# Do I need a signature in my journal from a person I know when doing a notarization by mail?

**UH OH.**

- The signer must always be face to face with the Notary!
- TX SOS' website provides an FAQ that says, "The person for whom a notarization is performed is not required to sign the record book."
- Other important details about the signer must be recorded.

# Can I use a death certificate to identify a dead person?

**NO.**

- First question: How will this person sign? You can't notarize the signature of a dead person.
- A vital record is not a proper identification.
- If you are notarizing for the executor, you must only identify the executor.
- 'Executor' not to be mistaken with 'executer'



# Can I use police documents, a birth certificate or a Social Security card as ID for a homeless signer?

**NO.**

- These documents are not acceptable IDs.
- TX requires a federal or state issued ID with a photo and signature.
- A credible witness might be an option.

Kelly Charpenet, CA  
2016 Notary of the Year  
Honoree



Phyllis Traylor, TX  
2018 Notary of the Year  
Honoree



Tracee Jordan, TX  
2017  
Notary of the Year



# Bizarre to Beautiful



# Strange Stories to Success Stories

# Your turn...

What are some strange, bizarre  
or unusual requests you've experienced?  
How did you handle the situation?



# Don't go it alone!

## **NNA SUPPORT**

- NNA Hotline
- Access to online tools and resources
  - *Sorry, No Can Do!*
  - *Complete How-To-Guide for Notaries*
- Exclusive member publications and emails including new law alerts
- Knowledge Center at [nationalnotary.org](http://nationalnotary.org) with webinars and tutorials

Bizarre to Beautiful

*Thank You!*

Strange Stories to Success Stories