



Notary Bulletin

Nebraska Secretary of State John A. Gale

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Notary signatures need to be consistent

Secretary of State John Gale reminds Nebraska notaries of the importance of signing their names consistently when notarizing documents.

Notaries should sign their signature as it appears on their notary application. Do not add or delete middle initials or suffixes. Do not alter the appearance of the signature in a material way.

Signature consistency is necessary because there are times when the Secretary of State's Office needs to verify a notary signature on a document, Gale said. The office verifies the signature against the notary's signature on file with the office.

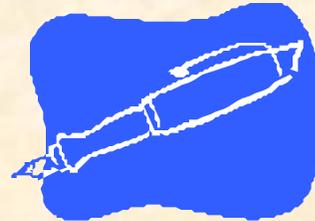
A prime need for verification occurs when the office handles requests to issue apostilles and authentications on documents that need to go to foreign countries.

"It is imperative that notaries complete the attestation clause accurately and sign their names properly to avoid delays for documents needed to be processed and sent to another country," Gale noted.

The Secretary of State's Office is the official authority in Nebraska designated to issue apostilles and authentications for documents originating in the state, he said. Notaries do not issue apostilles and authentications.

Apostilles and authentications do not make the document legal in the foreign country. The purpose of an apostille or authentication is to certify the authenticity of the signature of the official signing the document and the capacity in which the signer has acted.

For more information on apostilles and authentications, [click here](#).



Notary associations not required in Nebraska

Applicants are not required to use a notary association when applying to be a Nebraska notary, according to Secretary of State John Gale.

These associations may offer training on Nebraska notary law and ways to help notaries perform their duties. These associations often charge a fee for their training.

This training is not necessary for becoming a Nebraska notary. Testing to obtain a new notary commission must be completed through the Secretary of State's Office, Gale said.

"Please be advised that the Secretary of State's Office does not endorse these notary associations, nor are the associations affiliated with our office in any way," he said.

Notary associations may offer notary supplies for sale. The only required notary supply needed to lawfully notarize in Nebraska is an inked stamp seal, which can be purchased from any office supply store. Journals are optional under Nebraska law but are recommended by the Secretary of State's Office.

A notary may obtain the required notary bond from any surety company or most full-service insurance agencies.

There is no fee to take the written examination to obtain a new Nebraska notary commission. The test is not available online but is sent by regular mail to the applicant's home address.

This is a publication of the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office, P.O. Box 94608, Lincoln, NE 68509-4608. If you have questions or comments, e-mail us at so.s.notary@nebraska.gov or call (402) 471-2558. To view the notary section of our website, [click here](#).