

## State requirements for Notary journal entries

The state of **California** requires you to keep a journal, make sure to include all mandated information for every entry. **California**, which has some of the most detailed notarization laws in the country, requires the following information be taken down in each journal entry:

1. The date and time the notarization took place
2. The type of notarization performed - such as, "Acknowledgment" or "Jurat"
3. The type of document being notarized - for example, "Deed of Trust" or "Power of Attorney"
4. The signature or mark of each person whose signature or mark is notarized, as well as the signature of any subscribing witness
5. What type of satisfactory evidence was used to identify the signer, such as "U.S. Passport" (California does not allow Notaries to identify signers through personal knowledge), along with the ID's issuing agency, ID serial number, and issuing or expiration date. If a credible witness is used to identify the signer, the credible witness must sign the journal entry.
6. The fee charged for the notarial act, or, if no fee was charged, "No Fee" or "0"
7. The right thumbprint of the signer if the document is a power of attorney, deed, quitclaim deed, deed of trust or other document affecting real property

**Please** note: California Notaries are not required to write the signer's address in their journal entry.

Sometimes there may be an unusual circumstance connected to the notarization. While it is not required, including or noting information like signer was bedridden but appeared alert and aware. This information could be helpful if you are questioned about the notarization at a later date.