



Identifying a Signer in a Multicultural World

A special webinar presentation by the

NATIONAL NOTARY ASSOCIATION



Common situations

Signer has legally changed name as reflected on the document but has not yet changed ID card.

Signer signed with old name many years ago and is acknowledging signature but can't be identified under that old name.

Signer is named on ID with hyphenated name but the document only contains part of that name.

Signer is named on the ID as 'Junior' or 'II'... but the document lacks that indication.



Questions we will address today

What happens when the name on a document does not match the ID?

What would be the alternative when the identification document is not acceptable?

What are the Notary's responsibilities in these situations?



General Requirements

- In order to screen a signer and verify the signer's identity, you must always require personal appearance.
- Check your state's laws regarding the acceptable identification documents and processes for satisfactory evidence
 - Personal knowledge (not allowed in all states)
 - Identification documents
 - Credible witnesses, a human ID



ID Variations

Marriage or divorce

Citizenship name change

Nicknames

Multiple last names and hyphenations



ID Card vs. Name on Document

(Note: We will not address signatures. A legal signature is the option of the signer to be whatever represents his/her name.)



Notary's Responsibility

Compare ID with document name to determine if difference is acceptable



If necessary, seek identification alternatives allowed by law



When no other option is available, signer would check with receiving agency



Signer may be able to sign with AKA as prescribed by receiving agency



Notary's responsibility is limited



Comparing Rules

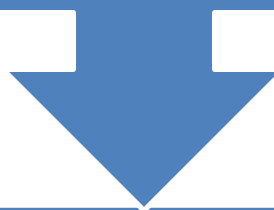
ID must be able to verify what is on the document with more or the same info.

Document Name	ID Name	OK/Not OK
T Randall Jones	Thomas Randall Jones	OK
Patti Carson	Patricia J. Carson	Possibly
Mi Sug Park	Misug Kim Park	Not OK
Mike Turner	John Michael Turner	Not OK
John Alan Smith	John A. Smith, Jr.	Not OK
Suzanne Kelly	Sue Kelly	Not OK



Alternative or Additional ID Options

Another form of acceptable ID that DOES match the document name



If no other acceptable ID is available, use a credible witness as described by your state laws



Signing with AKA/PKA/FKA

- Signer signs both names
- Links the two names with AKA (“also known as”)
- Notary notarizes only name that appears on ID and indicates that name on notarial certificate
- It is the SIGNER’s responsibility to check with receiving agency for acceptable options
- Typical signature format:
 - Mi Sug Park, also known as Misug Kim Park
 - John Alan Smith AKA John A. Smith, Jr.
 - Maria Garcia Lopez, who took title to property in the name of Maria Garcia



Conclusion

Notary's main role is to verify signer's identity

This certifies that the signature can be TRUSTED

Signer must always personally appear to be screened

ID's must verify name on the document with more or the same information

The Notary may seek other lawful identification options

AKA signatures are sometimes acceptable

Signer's responsibility to check with the receiving agency

Documentation in journal will protect Notary from liability



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Q & A

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