

California ID Requirements

(CA Civ. Code §1185[a]; CA Govt. Code §8202[a];
CA Court of Appeals: North American Title v. Gugasyan)

I. In California, only the name shown on the signer's acceptable ID is considered the legal name for notarization purposes:

a) Each signer must provide to notary public at least one acceptable original ID that is valid, unexpired, undamaged, with a clear photo of the signer, and with the signer's name matching his/her name on the paperwork.

b) Each name item shown on the paperwork must be listed on the signer's valid acceptable ID; no mix-and-match of IDs is allowed to verify name inconsistencies.

c) The face of the signer and other physical features must match his/her photo on the presented acceptable ID.

II. Examples of IDs *acceptable* in California (CA Civ. Code §1185[b][3 & 4]):

a) driver's license issued in the United States, Mexico, or Canada;

b) passport (incl. foreign) or passport card;

c) identification card (an alternative to a driver's license) issued by any state.

California Requirements For Credible Witnesses

(CA Civ. Code §1185[b][1 & 2])

I. Notary public must swear in credible witnesses who must make multiple related statements under penalty of perjury.

II. Credible witnesses *may only* be used if:

a) the signer's name on the paperwork matches the acceptable ID issued to the signer, *and*

b) that ID is actually missing, no other acceptable ID can be provided.

III. Credible witnesses *may not* be used simply as an alternative to the available acceptable ID in order to certify the name on the paperwork not matching that ID. In such a case, the witnesses, the signer(s), and the notary public will have to make sworn *false* statements under penalty of perjury, a crime punishable by imprisonment for two-to-four years (CA Penal Code §118[a] & §126).

IV. Credible witnesses *may not* be used to establish the signer's identity if notary public has a reason to believe that the signer hasn't had an acceptable ID issued with the name on it matching the name on the paperwork.