

Top 5 Things to Look for when Choosing a Mobile Notary

Not all Notaries are created equal. Especially Mobile Notaries. There are literally hundreds of Notaries in Central Texas. It is critically important that you choose the right person for the job. Whether the service involves a Will, Power of Attorney, loan documents or any other forms that requires notarizing, you want to choose the Notary best suited for, but most importantly, best trained, and qualified to perform the requested signing correctly. If not done according to the statutes of the law as well as the office requiring the document, the requested act may be delayed.

#1) Convenience

We are all familiar with the almost instantaneous service we get with Amazon Prime, Instacart, Grubhub and DoorDash. This "service to your doorstep" is the new norm now due to Covid-19. It is difficult, if not impossible, to make an appointment at the bank to meet with a Notary or go to your insurance agent and hope their Notary is on-duty, and not working from home. Your time is VALUABLE! Besides, you took a risk of leaving the safety and comfort of your home, only to come back with an unsigned document. Most Mobile Notaries establish an area or zone they serve. If you are within that limit, they will come to you on YOUR time and at the location you feel comfortable.

#2) Qualifications

Check the Notary's qualifications to ensure they are a good fit for your needs. You can search the Texas Secretary of State website at <https://direct.sos.state.tx.us/notaries/NotarySearch.asp> to assure their commission is active. Don't be afraid to ask the Notary questions about the document(s) you are having notarized. While the Notary can **NOT** offer advice on the document, they can tell you ahead of time what will be required in addition to valid identification.

#3) Association Membership

Checking out Association membership is something else you should look for when selecting a Public Notary. Notaries often display their qualifications and any specialty training and fields on their website, social media or business cards. Many Notary associations require their members to meet certain criteria like background checks, extended education and training, proof of licensing and appropriate insurance. Being a member of the National Notary Association (NNA) is a basic industry standard. This organization conducts an extensive background check, requires minimum insurance, and is the first sign of a well vetted professional.

#4) Communication

As with most relationships, both personally and professionally, Communication is Key! A top star Notary can be easily reached by phone or email. If you find yourself in a bind and need to contact the Notary who performed a service on your document, or if you need them to perform a similar function in the future, you want them to be "at your fingertips." A good Notary acknowledges the importance of communication and customer satisfaction and places an emphasis on making themselves available to their clients.

#5) Fees

Although the State of Texas regulates what the Notary may charge for the actual notarization, they allow the Notary to set a "reasonable and customary" fee for their time and travel expense. Request a quote from the Notary and agree upon a fee up front. In order to provide an accurate quote, the Notary needs to be informed of the location, so distance in miles and time can be estimated, the type of document and the number of signatures, All of these items will be taken into consideration when a quote is given for services.

Service	Texas Fee
Taking the acknowledgment or proof of any deed or other instrument in writing, for registration, including certificate and seal:	
(1) for the first signature	6.00
(2) for each additional signature	1.00
Administering an oath or affirmation with certificate and seal	6.00
All certificates under seal not otherwise provided for	6.00
Copies of all records and papers in the Notary Public's office, for each page	.50
Taking the depositions of witnesses, for each 100 words	.50
Swearing a witness to a deposition, certificate, seal, and other business connected with taking the deposition	6.00
Protesting a bill or note for non-acceptance or non-payment, register and seal	4.00
Each notice of protest	1.00
Protesting in all other cases	4.00
All notarial acts not provided for	6.00

When you need a Notary who understands these qualifications and is ready to serve you, call now for a free quote at 512-846-7846 or email Notary@HillCountryMobileNotary.com!