

NNA, County Recorders Alert California Notaries Of Important Certificate Changes

Beginning January 1, 2008, sweeping changes to California Notary statutes take effect. One of the most dramatic changes is the elimination of “personal knowledge” as an acceptable method of identifying document signers and, as a result, the words “personally known to me” will be permanently removed from all statutory acknowledgment and jurat certificates.

The National Notary Association, along with county and state officials, is alerting all Notaries of the impending changes and warning that documents notarized after January 1 face rejection if the new prescribed California acknowledgment and jurat wording is not used. Note that the current statutory certificate wording must be used through December 31, and the new wording must be used on and after January 1, 2008.

In October, Riverside County Recorder Larry Ward distributed a notice to Notaries, title companies and others in his county explaining the changes and providing the wording for the new certificates. This notice can be read below.

The NNA is now offering the new California certificates [here](#) or by calling (800) US-NOTARY.

For more information on California’s Notary law changes (AB 886), please click [here](#).

FROM THE OFFICE OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY RECORDER LARRY WARD

Subject: New Requirements for California Acknowledgments and Jurats

On October 10th, 2007, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 886 that becomes effective January 1st, 2008. This bill makes significant changes to the notary form prescribed in Civil Code 1189 and the jurat form found in Government Code 8202. In order to reduce the number of documents being rejected for incorrect acknowledgments and jurats, we are sending this notice to you.

The new code sections will read as follows:

California Civil Code 1189

(a) (1) Any certificate of acknowledgment taken within this state shall be in the following form:

State of California)
County of _____)

On _____ before me, (here insert name and title of the officer), personally appeared _____, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s)

on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature _____ (Seal)

California Government Code 8202

(a) When executing a jurat, a notary shall administer an oath or affirmation to the affiant and shall determine, from satisfactory evidence as described in Section 1185 of the Civil Code, that the affiant is the person executing the document. The affiant shall sign the document in the presence of the notary.

(b) To any affidavit subscribed and sworn to before a notary, there shall be attached a jurat in the following form:

State of California
County of _____

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this _____ day of _____, 20____, by _____, proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

Signature _____ (Seal)

Please note the primary differences include:

- 1) The removal of "personally known to me" from both the acknowledgment and jurat.
- 2) The addition of a Penalty of Perjury statement to the acknowledgment.

If you have any questions you may contact me at (951) 486-7030 or by E-mail at Drifilat@co.riverside.ca.us.

Sincerely,
Danielle Rifilato
Research and Policy Analyst
Riverside County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder