# **How Do I Get a Document Notarized?**

1. The first step in getting a document notarized is to make sure notarization is required. If it is not required, you will save time and money tracking down a notary. Another easy way to get a document notarized is to see if there is a notary available in the office that is requiring you to have a document notarized.
2. It is important to understand that getting a document notarized only verifies that you are the one signing the document. Notaries cannot give legal advice or help people understand what the document means. Notaries only verify your identity.
3. The purpose of having a document notarized is to prevent fraud or [identity theft](http://thelawdictionary.org/identity-theft/). A common [explanation](http://thelawdictionary.org/explanation/) of why a document needs to be notarized is when property is transferred. Examples include signing over stock, selling a home or business, or transferring property through a will. Powers of attorneys also need to be notarized.
4. When you get your document notarized, you must provide proof of [identification](http://thelawdictionary.org/identification/) or ID. A driver's license or passport is two commonly used forms of ID. The notary will review your ID to make sure you are who you claim to be. If the notary has any doubts about your identify, he or she will not notarize the document. You must sign the document in the presence of the notary. This is the only way a notary can verify it is you who signs the document.
5. When looking for a notary, start with your bank as most banks employ notaries. Attorneys can act as notaries. Try going down to your local court house as they almost always have notaries available.
6. If you cannot find a notary on your own, try the website www.notaryrotary.com. Here you can fill in your city and state or zip code and the website will find notaries close to you.

A new way of getting documents notarized is by using the website www.notarynow.com. Here, you can have your documents notarized online. All you need is a webcam, your ID, and the document that needs to be signed. You upload the document, show your ID over the webcam, and answer questions to verify your identity. The notary will e-mail you the electronically [notarized document](http://thelawdictionary.org/notarized-document/).