# **How to Get a Notarized Document**

How do you get something notarized? Simply sign it in front of a [notary public](https://www.thebalance.com/notary-public-definition-and-information-398361) (a person who is authorized to notarize documents).

1. The notary will ask for identification to verify that you really are who you say you are. You’ll need official identification with a photograph – a driver’s license, passport, or other government-issued ID will generally do the trick, although requirements vary from state to state. If the notary is not confident that you are the person in question, he or she can refuse to notarize your document – nobody is required to notarize anything.

2. Make sure to bring an unsigned document to the notary (don’t sign it ahead of time). The notary needs to *watch*you sign in most cases.

3. Depending where you go to get legal documents notarized, you may have to pay a modest fee. Notaries have to spend money to operate as a notary, they have to keep up with changing laws, and they have to keep records, so don’t be surprised if you’re asked to pay a fee. Typically you’ll pay less than $20, and it might be as low as $5. Learn [more about notary fees](https://www.thebalance.com/notary-fees-315710).

4. Depending on your state, notaries may be required to study, attend training sessions, and pass exams. However, some states have minimal requirements to become a notary public.