

NOTARIZING DOCUMENTS FOR USA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**AT VANNER PEREZ NOTARIES,
WE AIM TO MAKE IT EASY TO
GET A DOCUMENT NOTARIZED
IN THE UK FOR USE IN THE
UNITED STATES.**



FAQs



If you can't find the answer to your question, don't hesitate to get in touch. The team at Vanner Perez will be happy to help.

Q1. Are you a US notary?

The Legal Services Act 2007 makes it an offence for foreign notaries to practise in the UK. Nevertheless, documents signed by an English notary are perfectly acceptable in the United States. For some states, however, it is necessary to complete an additional step after notarization. This involves submitting the document to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office so that they can attach an 'Apostille' (additional fees apply). See Q4 for more details about whether you need this.

N.B. You may be able to use the notary service offered by the US Embassy in London. However, there is often a long wait to obtain an appointment.

Q2. Do I need an appointment?

We advise you to book an appointment to ensure that you are not kept waiting. There are three notaries in our firm, so we can generally offer appointments at short notice during the week between 9.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. We can also visit you if more convenient, but call-out fees will apply (these vary depending on time/distance).

Q3. How long does it take?

Generally, we allow 30 minutes for the appointment. If you have several documents, we would allow more time. If you do not need an Apostille, you can take the notarized documents with you. If we need to send them to be apostilled, then the Foreign & Commonwealth offers two services: approx. 3-5 working days or 24 hours. We can also arrange a DHL courier for you, if you are facing a tight deadline (additional fees apply, see Q6).

FAQs



(continued)

Q4. Do I need an Apostille?

An Apostille is a certificate confirming the signature and seal of the notary. Although a document notarized and apostilled in the UK must be accepted in the USA owing to the Hague Convention of October 1961, some states, such as Florida, Colorado, Arizona or Nevada have passed laws that mean a UK notarization is enough. N.B. Certain states, such as California, always need an Apostille. We advise, though, that you check with the recipient whether you need an Apostille.

Q5. What do I need to bring with me?

Aside from the documents to be notarized, you will also need an original government-issued identity document bearing a photograph, as well as a proof of address; this could be your driving licence, a council tax bill, a bank statement, a utility bill or a tenancy agreement. If you use your driving licence as your ID, you will need a separate proof of address (and vice versa).

Q6. How much does it cost?

For personal documents, we charge £70 inc. VAT for the first notarization, £30 inc. VAT for the second notarization and £25 inc. VAT for each notarization thereafter. If you need an Apostille, we can arrange this for a fixed fee of £45 inc. VAT plus the Foreign & Commonwealth Office charges (either £30 or £75 per Apostille, depending on the service – see Q3 for timings). A DHL courier to the US costs £60 inc. VAT.

CALL TO BOOK
020 3668 6626

Get in touch



"Excellent service! Fast, efficient and professional. I called and was given an appointment on the same day."

— Google Reviewer

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