

## SIGILLUM NOTARY PUBLIC



**1. Why does one need a notary?** In England and Wales, where I am authorised to act as a notary, this activity is normally related to an undertaking abroad. A client will usually come to see a notary with an idea of what they need, or what they have been asked to provide. A notary will align the idea with the standard acceptable abroad, as well as in England and Wales. This is called the duty of care, and it is aimed at all the parties potentially interested in the case, so not only the client, but all the officials, and counterparties that the document may be referring to. All of them will assume that a Notary has ensured full compliance with the due requirements in England and Wales, as well as abroad. The Notary's register and records will serve to corroborate this.

Sigillum Notary Public operates by appointment only, but is also flexible so as to the hours and locations of dealing with clients. Home visits, as well as visits to corporate clients are possible too. Travelling will include an additional fee. On rare occasions I may not be able to attend you as speedily as you may require, or the case might be that I should not be able to offer the best service possible. In these instances, I will provide you with the relevant information to locate an alternative notary.

**2. Signatures:** As a Notary, I will normally have to witness your signing a document, therefore please do not sign the documents in question prior to our appointment.

**3. Papers to be sent to Sigillum Notary Public in advance:** It will save time, expense and mistakes if, you can let me have the originals or photocopies of:

- The documents to be notarised;
- Any letter or other form of instruction which you have received about what has to be done with the documents;
- Your proof of identification

As much in advance as possible, and definitely before our appointment.

**4. Identification:** I will need you to produce by way of formal identification the original of (in preferred order):

- Your current passport (or, if not available);
- A current new driving licence (with photo) or national identity card

If neither of the above are available, at least two of the following:

- A current government or police issue certificate bearing a photo or other formal means of

identification;

- A utility bill, credit card or bank statement showing your current address. These should not be more than 3 months old or council tax bill;

You must also bring any other means of ID which may be referred to in the papers sent to you as being required, such as a foreign Identity Card. Further evidence of identity such as marriage certificates etc may be needed as well. I will advise you of this if necessary.

**5. Proof of names:** In a case where the name on the document is different from the name you are currently using, or there has been a variation in the form of spelling of the name over the years, please provide me as appropriate with Certificates of Birth, Marriage or Divorce Decree or Change of Name Deed showing all the different names that you use. If there has been a change of name, then I will need to see a copy of the Deed Poll or Statutory Declaration which has dealt with it.

**6. Advice on the document:** If you bring a document to me for authorisation as a Notary, I will advise you as to the formalities required for completing it. However, I will not be attempting to advise you about the transaction itself.

**7. Written Translations:** It is essential that you understand what you are signing.

- If the document is in a foreign language which you do not understand sufficiently, I may have to insist that a translation be obtained. If I arrange for a translation, a further fee will be payable and I will provide you with details of this.

- If you arrange for a professional translation, the translator should add their name, address, relevant qualification, and a certificate stating: "Document X is a true and complete translation of document Y, to which this translation is attached."

**8. Oral Interpreter:** If you and I cannot understand each other because of a language difficulty, we may have to make arrangements for a competent interpreter to be available during your appointment and this may involve a further fee.

**9. Companies, Partnerships etc:** If a document is to be signed by you on behalf of a company, a partnership, a charity, club or other incorporated body, there are further requirements on which I may have to insist. Please be prepared for these and communicate any issue that may arise in obtaining them to me in advance.

In each case:

1. Evidence of identity of the authorised signatory (as listed above).
2. A copy of the current letterhead (showing the registered office if it is a company).
3. A Letter of Authority, Minute, Resolution or Power of Attorney, authorising you to sign the document.

Additionally, companies: Certificate of Incorporation and of any Change of Name, a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Details of Directors and Secretaries. In all instances I will be carrying out various company searches, which may have an effect on the level of fees charged.

Additionally, partnerships, clubs, etc: A Partnership Agreement; or relevant Trust Deed; or Charter; or Constitution/Rules.

**10. Notarial charges and expenses:** Details of my charges are set out in my fees table on my website or in the client letter I will send to you before our appointment. Please note that if I have to make payments on your behalf such as legalisation fees, translator or interpreter fees, or other costs such as travelling expenses, your approval to these will be obtained and you are normally required to make payment in advance of any such amounts.

**Charges:**

If the matter is a straight forward one, I will aim to charge a fixed fee to include disbursements such as legalisation fees, postage, consular agent fees, courier fees, travelling expenses, translating costs and so on. I do not charge VAT.

For more complicated or time-consuming matters the fee will be based on my hourly rate plus disbursements. The fee charged may include time spent on preliminary advice, drafting and preparation time, making and receiving telephone calls, correspondence written and received in all formats, arranging legalisation and record keeping.

**Disbursements:** Some documents require legalisation before they be accepted for use in the receiving jurisdiction by obtaining an apostille through the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and, for some countries, additional legalisation is required through the relevant embassy or consulate. I will invoice you for these disbursements, after having informed you of them in advance.

Payment can be made by bank transfer. Payment of my fee and disbursements is due when the document has been prepared which I may retain pending payment in full. Occasionally unforeseen or unusual issues arise during the course of the matter which may result in a revision of my fee estimate. These could instances where additional documents are required to be notarised, additional translations or legalisations are needed to meet the requirements of the receiving jurisdiction, third party fees are adjusted to reflect external factors such as fuel price changes and so on. I will notify you of any changes in the fee estimate as soon as possible.

**11. Typical Stages of a notarial transaction:** Each notarial matter is different and the requirements and timescales will vary greatly according to whether the client is a private individual or a company and in particular according to the processing times of third parties such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, legalisation agents, translating agencies and couriers, etc .

Some of the typical key stages are likely to include:

- Receiving and reviewing the documents to be notarised together with any instructions you may have received
- Liaising with your legal advisors or other bodies to obtain the necessary documentation to deal with the document (e.g. information from Companies House or foreign registries, powers of attorney etc)
- Checking the identity, capacity and authority of the person who is to sign the document
- If a document is to be certified, checking with the issuing authorities that the document/award is genuine. In the case of academic awards, this would entail checking with the appropriate academic institutions.
- Meeting with the signatory to verify their identity and to ascertain that they understand what they are signing and that they are doing so of their own free will and ensuring that the document is executed correctly
- Drafting and affixing or endorsing a notarial certificate to the document

- Arranging for the legalisation of the document as appropriate
- Arranging for the storage of copies of all notarised documents in accordance with the requirements of the Notarial Practice Rules 2019

**12. Notarial Records and Data Protection:** When I carry out my work for you, I am required to make an entry in a formal register, which is kept by me as a permanent record. I will retain a copy of the notarised documentation with that record. My practice is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. Personal data received from clients is held securely and not capable of being accessed externally. Data collected as part of notarial records is used solely for the purposes of meeting our professional legal responsibilities as Notaries Public. For full details of my PRIVACY POLICY and data processing terms please see an attachment in my email to you, or visit my website: [www.sigillum-notary.co.uk](http://www.sigillum-notary.co.uk)

**13. Insurance and Liability:** In the interests of the clients, I maintain professional indemnity insurance at a level of at least £1,000,000.00 per claim. If I make a mistake and breach my duty to you and am liable to compensate you, you agree that my liability is limited in the following respects:

- i. my maximum liability for any mistake (except for fraud) is £1 million including contractual and statutory interest (unless I agree a different amount with you in writing);
- ii. this overall limit applies whether the mistake affects just one piece of work I do for you or several, so long as it is the same or a similar mistake;
- iii. I have no liability for any indirect or consequential loss or loss of anticipated profit or other benefit;
- iv. I am not liable to the extent that my mistake results from something you or someone else does or fails to do (such as giving the wrong information, or not giving information at the time I ask for it). I believe the limitations on liability set out in this section are reasonable having regard to my assessment of the amount of any likely liability to you if I make a mistake and the availability and cost of professional indemnity insurance. These limits apply to the extent that they are permitted by law. If any part of this section of my terms which seeks to limit liability is found by a court to be void or ineffective on the grounds that it is unreasonable or does not accord with any professional obligation, the remaining provisions shall continue to be effective.

**14. Termination/ Your Right to Cancel:** You may terminate your instructions to me at any time by giving me reasonable written notice. All fees and disbursements incurred up to the date of termination will be charged.

Consumer Cooling Off Cancellation Period –Consumer Contracts Regulations 2013 (“CCR”):

Where the CCR apply (typically where you are an individual consumer and my contract with you was concluded either at or following a meeting with you or by a form of distance communication) you have a cancellation period of 14 days after the date you sign my retainer letter or the date on which you continue to give me instructions, whichever is earlier.

You can cancel your contract within the cancellation period by giving me a clear statement and I will reimburse all payments received from you by the same method that you used, at no cost to you, without undue delay, and not later than 14 days after the day on which you inform me of the cancellation.

If you ask us to begin work during the cancellation period, you can still cancel but you must pay me an amount in proportion to the work which I have performed and this proportion will not be reimbursed to you.

**15. Termination by me:** I reserve the right to terminate my engagement by you if I have good reason to do so, for example, if you do not pay a bill or comply with my request for a payment on account or you fail to give me the co-operation which I am reasonably entitled to expect.

**16. Complaints:** My Complaints Policy is on my website