# How to Notarize a Power of Attorney Document



Granting someone the authority to act on your behalf through a **Power of Attorney** (POA) is a significant legal step. To ensure the document is legally binding and enforceable, it often needs to be notarized. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you navigate the notarization process.

## 1. Understand the Purpose of Notarizing a POA

A notarized POA is required to verify the authenticity of the document and the identities of the parties involved. This adds a layer of protection against fraud and ensures that the principal (the person granting authority) has willingly signed the document. Many states, including California, require notarization for certain types of POAs, such as those related to financial or healthcare decisions.

## 2. Gather Necessary Documents

Before scheduling a notary appointment, ensure you have the following:

- **The Power of Attorney document:** This must be completed but not signed beforehand.

- **Government-issued identification:** Both the principal and the agent (if required) must present valid photo IDs, such as a driver's license, passport, or state-issued ID.

- **Additional forms (if applicable):** Some states may require witnesses in addition to the notary, so confirm your state's requirements.

## 3. Choose a Notary Public

There are several options for finding a notary public:

- **Mobile notary services:** These are convenient if you prefer a notary to come to your location.

- **Notary offices:** Visit local banks, UPS stores, or notary offices near you.

- **Online notarization:** If permitted in your state, remote online notarization (RON) is a fast and secure alternative.

For residents of San Diego and Mira Mesa, **Eleven Dollar Notary** offers mobile notary services, ensuring a hassle-free experience for your POA notarization.

## 4. Prepare for the Appointment

- **Don't sign the document beforehand:** The principal must sign the POA in the notary's presence to ensure validity.

- **Verify the notary's credentials:** Check that the notary is licensed and authorized to perform notarizations in your state.

- **Bring witnesses, if required:** Confirm whether your state requires witnesses and, if so, ensure they meet the eligibility criteria (e.g., not named in the POA).

## 5. Complete the Notarization Process

During the appointment, the notary will:

1. **Verify identities:** The notary will check the IDs of all signing parties to confirm their identity.

2. **Assess willingness and competence:** The notary will ensure the principal is signing willingly and is of sound mind.

3. **Witness the signing:** The principal signs the POA in the notary's presence, along with any required witnesses.

4. **Apply the notary seal:** The notary will affix their seal or stamp and complete the notarial certificate, making the document official.

## 6. Retain and Use the Notarized Document

Once notarized, keep the POA in a secure location and provide copies to the agent and any relevant parties, such as banks, healthcare providers, or attorneys. Ensure you understand how and when the agent can use the authority granted in the POA.

## Tips for a Smooth Notarization Process

- **Double-check requirements:** Laws vary by state, so confirm any specific notarization rules for POAs in your jurisdiction.

- **Use a mobile notary:** If you or the principal have mobility issues, a mobile notary offers added convenience.

- **Plan ahead:** Schedule your notarization appointment early to avoid delays, especially if the POA is time-sensitive.

## Conclusion

Notarizing a Power of Attorney document is a simple yet vital step to ensure its legal validity. By following these steps and working with a reliable notary public, you can confidently finalize your POA and protect your interests. For convenient and professional notary services in San Diego and Mira Mesa, contact Eleven Dollar Notary today!