

Notary fees

As a notary, I offer a personal service and each document that needs notarisation will be unique. The information below is set out by way of guidance for notary clients. There is a wide range of different work which a notary may be asked to assist with and factors such as the value, importance, speed (urgency), complexity and specialised skills needed may be taken into account when providing an estimate of fees for a particular notarial matter in addition to the time involved. Therefore the fees will vary depending on the individual circumstances. Please get in touch with me with details of what you need and I would be please to provide you with an estimate of my notarial fee and any anticipated additional costs for legalisation or other likely costs and an estimated timescale.

My current hourly rate for notary work is £300. My minimum fee is £80.

Examples of fees for notarial work where I may charge a fixed fee include:-

1. Notarising one copy of your photo card driving licence (or other proof of address) and one copy of your photograph page of your passport: £80
2. Extra notarised copies of identification: £10 per extra copy required
3. Notarising a full passport (all pages): £150 for up to 24 pages, including cover, (based on ½ an hour of my time), £225 for longer passports (based on 45 minutes of my time)
4. Pension letters or forms confirming you are alive: £80 (and a discount for subsequent years is usually applied at my discretion).

Examples of fees for notarial work where the fee would be based on the time involved and for which I would provide an estimate once I know what you would like to do and I have seen the draft documentation to be notarised include:-

5. Affidavit pre-prepared and ready to be sworn before me as a notary: minimum £80.
6. Affidavit of facts prepared by me in a notarial certificate eg. freedom to marry: from £225 (from 45 minutes)
7. Powers of attorney: from £300 (minimum 1 hour)
8. Company documents –from £300 (minimum 1 hour)
9. Verification of qualifications – from £300 (minimum 1 hour), but the time involved very much depends on how many qualifications need to be notarised and how many organisations I will need to get in touch with to verify them. For example, if you have 3 A Levels and a degree to be verified, the time involved to verify that they are genuine might be around 2 hours, and my fee would therefore be £600.

Additional costs

In addition to my notarial fee, any extra costs which have to be paid to other companies or organisations as part of the notarisation process, such as legalisation fees, company house searches, translations, the cost of verification of qualifications and courier charges, all of which would be in addition to my fee. These can vary, so I can provide an up to date estimate of these extra costs at the time you ask me for details about the fees and these costs.

The most common type of authentication of my signature and seal is legalisation by Apostille which is affixed by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. They offer a standard and a premium service. If you would like me to arrange for an apostille to be affixed, I would usually use a consular agent to assist with this. The document could then be returned to me or to you by special delivery post, or it could be couriered to a different country, for example to the lawyer who had prepared the document which has been notarised.

Currently the usual cost from the consular agent for obtaining the Apostille using the standard service with the document being returned by special delivery to a UK address is £57, and with the document being sent by courier to an overseas address is £108; using the premium service with the document being returned by special delivery to a UK address is £132 and with the document being sent by courier to an overseas address is £183.

Alternatively, you may wish to apply for the Apostille yourself. (The FCO charge £30 for the standard Apostille and £75 for the Premium Apostille.)

Timescales

I can give you an estimated timescale for completing the notary work when I hear from you with details of what you need to have notarised. This can vary depending on the type of document that needs notarisation, whether legalisation is required (see below), my existing work commitments and availability (currently my usual working days are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) and currently the impact of Covid-19.

It will help me to know how urgently you need the document to be notarised.

If I am unable to assist with the notarisation of your document, or if I am unable to help in the timescale that you need, then I will usually suggest an alternative notary who may be able to assist you instead, or you may wish to look at the Find a Notary page on the Faculty Office website:-

<https://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/notaries/find-a-notary/>

For some types of notary work, I may be able to see you on the same day to notarise the document, for example if you would like a notarised copy of your identification document. In other cases, there may be preparatory work needed, for example, if I need to verify a qualification such as a degree awarded to you from the UK University, it can take some time for a reply to be received from the university or through the HEDD (Higher Education Degree Datacheck) service when I make an enquiry.

Legalisation timescales

If legalisation by Apostille is needed then you will have a choice as to whether you would prefer to arrange this yourself, or whether you would like me to arrange this through a consular agent on your

behalf. The consular agent can arrange for the Apostille to be affixed to a document using the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's standard or premium service, which is faster than the standard service.

The timescales can vary depending on the service which the Foreign & Commonwealth Office is providing. The usual timescale for the standard service using a consular agent for an apostille is 2-4 days. The usual timescale for the premium service is a 24 hour turnaround, if the document can be sent to the consular agent by special delivery before 9am the next day, which realistically means that I would need to have met with you and notarised your document before 1pm on the day that it is to be sent out by special delivery to the consular agent, for the apostille to be affixed on the next day and for the document to be collected the day after. Thereafter it can be couriered out to the destination that the document needs to get to (or returned to you or to me by special delivery post). Whilst the above timescales cannot be guaranteed, these are the usual timescales.

Some documents may require consular legalisation in addition to or alternatively to the Apostille being affixed. I would usually check with a consular agent what the current costs (or estimated costs) and approximate timescales for this legalisation would be and then advise you accordingly.

Please note that at the moment with the current Covid-19 restrictions, there may be times when I am not holding face to face meetings, and therefore I may not be able to assist you with notarising a document which requires you to appear personally before me.