

## California Notary Law Update Senate Bill 1050 Seeks to Reduce Fraud

**A Notary Seal does NOT constitute an official endorsement of authenticity!**

Effective Date January 1, 2015

Senate Bill 1050 is the latest change to the form and wording of the statutory certificates of **acknowledgment, jurat and proof of execution** prescribed under California law in recent years. SB 1050, which amends Sections 1189 and 1195 of the Civil Code and Section 8202 of the Government Code, adds a prescribed consumer disclosure to each of these certificates. The wording of the disclosure, which is identical for each of the three certificates, reads:

**“A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.”**

This disclosure must appear in a box at the top of the certificate. The purpose of this new law is to cut down on fraud. According to the author in the bill analysis presented to the California Legislature, “When people are unfamiliar with the meaning and effect of a notary’s seal and signature, there is an opportunity for criminals to pass deceptive legal documents claiming a false right to money, authority, or real property by inferring, suggesting, or stating that the notary’s seal and signature constitute an official endorsement of authenticity. SB 1050 seeks to reduce fraud by including a clear consumer notification statement as to the limited effect of a notary’s seal and signature. People unfamiliar with notary seals who are studying a fraudulent document presented to them will not give undue consideration to a notary seal as an official endorsement of authenticity and legal correctness.”

<http://www.nationalnotary.org/knowledge-center/news/law-updates/ca-senate-bill-1050>

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