What is the purpose of Notarization?

One of the most common reasons to have a document notarized is that it is either being required by law or by the party that sent the document to you. But why, you may ask? What really is the purpose behind getting a document notarized?

Simply put, it is to raise the level of trust that everyone has in the signed document. Notarization is an assurance made by the Notary Public Official that a document's signature is genuine, that the signer acted freely and willingly and without duress, and that the signer intended for the terms of the document to be in full force and effect.

To do this, the Notary Public does several things:

- The Notary Public verifies the identity of each signer by the standards that are set in place by the state.

- The Notary Public determines that the signer is coherent at the time of the notarization.

- **The Notary Public confirms that the signer is choosing to sign the requested document of their own free will, and they understand the purpose that the document is intended to accomplish.**

- **The Notary Public will administer an oath or affirmation to each signer, if required by the body of the document or the notarial certificate attached, that states that the statements made in the document are true and/or will do what the document is requesting.**

- **The Notary Public certifies and puts in writing the facts of what they have personally witnessed the signer do in relation to the document by completing the notarial certificate. This is required before any stamp or seal can be placed on the document. This is also recorded as a journal entry in their notarial journal.**