

The Importance of the Venue on a Notarized Document

With a few exceptions, notarized documents contain five notary-specific elements: venue, the notary certificate, commission expiration date, notary signature, and notary seal. This article covers the venue.

Venue is the state and county where the notarization took place, in other words, where the signer appeared before the notary. It must be within the jurisdiction of the notary.

The venue is NOT where the document was drafted, where the property involved is located, where the signer lives now, or any other place besides where the notarization is taking place. The venue may appear at or near the top of the document, near the notary certificate, or in both locations.

The initials SS may appear next to the venue. These initials stand for the Latin word scilicet, which is a contraction of scire licet and is translated as "one may know" or "of course, evidently, certainly." In short, SS is there to emphasize that this is where the notary met with the signer -- of course, they met within the jurisdiction of the notary.

The venue usually takes the form of "State of X, County of Y." If it says "State/Commonwealth of X, County/Parrish of Y," the notary should correct the portion that does not apply. If the state or county are missing, the notary must add the correct information. If the state or county are wrong, the notary must correct them. Any corrections to the venue are made by putting one horizontal line (from left to right or right to left) through the incorrect wording, adding the correct wording by printing, and initialing the correction. A rubber stamp with the venue may be used instead of writing by hand.

The venue is entirely the responsibility of the notary. If any part of it is inaccurate or missing, the notary has the authority and the duty to correct it. Failing to complete or correct the venue is a serious error and could cause the document to be rejected by the receiving party. You should never sign and seal a document without first verifying that the venue is complete and correct.

This article is part of the series that began with [What Does a Notary Public Do?](#)

NOTE: This article serves as information purposes to broaden the knowledge of the notary public. The Delaware Notary Association is dedicated in keeping the Delaware Notary with working information in performing their duties to the best they can and to the fullest.