

WHAT IS A NOTARY PUBLIC?

A notary public is a practicing attorney who has completed a notarial specialization study programme, passed a practical exam set by the Law Society/Legal Practice Council and has been duly admitted by a court as a fit, proper and skilled attorney to notarially authenticate and execute important documents.

These can be for example, antenuptial contracts, long term leases, notarial bonds over movable property, wills, trusts and documents executed in South African for international use in terms of the The Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 and known as Apostille.

A notary public fulfils a different, more specialized function than a commissioner of oaths in that it involves more than rubber stamping a document to show it is a true copy of the original.

A notary may be required to verify person's identities, capacity and understanding of the relevant documents. In the case of notarising professional qualifications, she has to satisfy herself as to the authenticity of the original documents and the copies thereof.

Some notarial documents are also recorded in a protocol register as required by law and stored under "lock and key" indefinitely.

With Covid-19 we have also extended our services to identifying and witnessing documents signed anywhere else in the world for use in South Africa by video conferencing. The conference call is recorded and stored in accordance with notarial protocol prescriptions.

OUR NOTARISING SERVICES

Dalita Ramwell is an admitted notary public of more than 30 years' experience. We charge per hour or portion thereof, with a minimum fee of R1 000. The average notarial work (such as notarising qualifications, etc) typically takes 20 minutes. Antenuptial contracts, notarial bonds and commercial agreements naturally take longer.