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California Certificate of Acknowledgment — Notary Instructions

Loose Certificate in the Form Required by California Civil Code Section 1189

INSTRUCTIONS — KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS. DO NOT ATTACH THIS PAGE TO YOUR CALIFORNIA CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

About this form. This is a loose **California all-purpose certificate of acknowledgment** for California notaries public, worded exactly as Civil Code § 1189 requires, including the boxed notice at the top. Use it when a document has no acknowledgment wording, or when the printed wording does not comply with California law. Do not alter the wording. **This page is for the notary — do not attach it.**

1. **Confirm an acknowledgment is the right act**
   An acknowledgment verifies the signer's identity and that they signed willingly; the signer need not sign in front of you, but must **personally appear** and acknowledge the signature. If the document requires an oath (an affidavit), use a jurat instead.
2. **Identify the signer with satisfactory evidence**
   Use a current ID meeting Civil Code § 1185 or credible witnesses as that section allows. "Personally known" is no longer permitted in California.
3. **Complete your journal first**
   Record the entry in your sequential journal (Gov. Code § 8206). For deeds, deeds of trust, other documents affecting real property, and powers of attorney, obtain the signer's **right thumbprint**.
4. **Fill in the certificate**
   County = where the notarization takes place. Date = the date the signer appeared. Your name and title (e.g., "Jane Doe, Notary Public"). Signer names exactly as on the document and ID. Do not cross out "he/she/they" or other wording.
5. **Sign and seal**
   Sign exactly as on file with the Secretary of State and apply a clear, legible seal inside the seal area without covering any wording. Never pre-sign or pre-seal a blank certificate.
6. **Attach it securely**
   Complete the Optional Information, staple the certificate to the signature page or end of the document, and never attach it to a different document.

Good to Know

- For a document to be recorded or filed outside California, Civil Code § 1189(c) may allow other states' wording if it does not require you to determine capacity.
- The certificate is formatted for recording: 8-point minimum type and nothing inside the half-inch margin.
- Free for notaries and businesses to use. Do not remove the copyright notice. Need a mobile notary? Call (866) 828-6856.

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SCAN TO BOOK

Questions about this document? Talk to an attorney. Gavrilov & Brooks Law Firm has attorneys licensed in California, Nevada, and other states. Phone and video consultations are available. **(916) 504-0529** · **www.gavrilovlaw.com**

This form is provided as a free convenience. First Choice Mobile Notary & Apostille is not a law firm, and a notary public who is not an attorney cannot give legal advice or help you decide what to write on this form. These instructions are general information only and are not legal advice. If you have questions about your situation, consult a licensed California attorney. © 2027 First Choice Mobile Notary & Apostille. All rights

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CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

(California Civil Code Section 1189)

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.

State of California)

County of _____)

On _____ before me, _____

(date) (here insert name and title of the officer)

personally appeared _____ ,

who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

(Seal)

Signature _____

(Signature of Notary Public)

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Although this information is not required by law, it may prevent fraudulent removal and reattachment of this certificate to an unauthorized document.

_____ _____

Title or type of attached document Document date

_____ _____

Number of pages (including this certificate) Signer(s) other than named above

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