

CREDITABLE WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

State of Texas)

County of Gregg)

On this _____ day of _____, 20_____, personally appeared before me _____ and satisfactorily proved to be the signer of the above document by the oath of _____, who is personally know to me and is a competent and credible witness for that purpose, by me duly sworn, and he/she acknowledged that he/she executed the same.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires

Note: A credible identifying witness must be an impartial person who personally knows both the notary and the document signer. The credible witness personally vouches for the identity of an unknown document signer without an ID card.

The notary must administer an oath to the credible identifying witness attesting to the signer's identity.

(Additional instructions for the notary are on the back of this form.)

Credible Witness Affidavit

The credible witness affidavit as a means of identification is for the client who is not personally known to the notary, has no form of identification and **cannot** be reasonably expected to obtain an acceptable ID card. These clients are frequently elderly people who live in a nursing home environment and have mobility issues. They haven't driven a car in years, and it would be unreasonable to expect the person to be taken to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a non-driver's identity card. Certain handicapped people may also fall into this category. Use your judgment when deciding if your client is eligible for identification by credible witness.

A credible witness or witnesses may NOT be used to identify a client for the sake of convenience. If the able-bodied client has let his driver's license expire, he/she must obtain a current license. If someone has left his ID card at home, he/she must return home and get the existing ID card. In addition, keep in mind that since the credible witness(es) will serve as positive identification for the document signer, the credible witness(es) sworn affidavit must be obtained before performance of the notarial act for the document signer.

One Credible Witness

All states that allow the notary to use one credible witness have the requirement that the credible witness must personally know the signer of the document, and the notary must personally know the credible witness. The purpose of this requirement is to maintain a chain of personal knowledge from the signer through the credible witness to the notary.

Upon signing the affidavit, the signer will swear an oath or affirmation to the notary that the contents of the affidavit are true. The notary may verbalize the short form of oath/affirmation ("Do you swear/affirm the contents of this document are true [so help you God]?"). Or, the notary may verbalize this more specific oath/affirmation:

"Do you solemnly (swear) (affirm) under penalties of perjury that you personally know this person as (name of person whose signature is to be notarized), that he/she is the person named in the document, that you believe that the person has no acceptable form of identification, that it would be very difficult or impossible for him/her to obtain acceptable identification, and that you have no financial interest in and are not a party to this transaction (so help you God)?"