

Montana Identification & Credible

Witness Quick Guide

Personal knowledge

Use only when prior dealings provide reasonable certainty that the individual has the identity claimed.

Common satisfactory identification credentials

A passport, driver's license, or government-issued nondriver identification credential may be accepted if it satisfies MCA § 1-5-603. If expired, the credential generally may not be expired more than three years before the notarial act.

Another government identification credential may qualify if it meets Montana's statutory requirements, including required signature or photograph and the notary's satisfaction.

Credible witness

A credible witness may establish identity when the witness appears as required and is either personally known to the notary or satisfactorily identified under Montana law.

Additional identification

The notary may request additional information or credentials whenever necessary to assure identity.

Never

- Use a photocopy or emailed image as a substitute for lawful identity evidence merely because it “looks right.”
- Record a driver's-license number, passport number, Social Security number, or birth

date in the Montana journal.

- Proceed when identity is not satisfactorily established.

Montana Notary Center — Independent education provider. Verify current requirements with official Montana sources.