Name: _____ Date: _____

The Notary Who Watches You Sign

Circle group

Some papers are too important to fake. A paper that gives a car or a house to a new owner is one. If someone could sign another person's name, people could lose things that are theirs. A notary public helps stop that.

A notary is a person the state has approved to be a trusted witness. You can often find one at a bank, a shipping store or a town office. A notary does a few things in order.

First, the notary asks for your photo ID, like a driver's license. The notary looks at the picture and at your face. This makes sure you are the person named on the paper.

Second, the notary watches you sign. You must sign while the notary is looking.

Third, the notary signs the paper and adds a stamp or seal. Many notaries also write it in a record book with the date.

A notary does not say if the paper is a good idea or a good deal. The only job is to check who you are and see that you signed. That gives other people a reason to trust the paper later.

Questions

1. Who approves a notary public?

_____

_____

2. What does a notary check first?

_____

_____

3. When must you sign the paper?

_____

_____

4. What does the notary add after signing?

_____

_____

5. Why does the notary look at the picture and at your face?

_____

_____

6. Does a notary say if a paper is a good deal? How do you know?

_____

_____

Words to know

notary: a person approved to watch people sign important papers
witness: a person who sees something happen
seal: a special mark pressed on a paper to show it is official
approved: given permission by someone in charge

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Notary Who Watches You Sign

Triangle group

Some papers are too important to fake. A paper that moves a car or a house to a new owner is one example. If someone could sign another person's name and get away with it, people could lose things that belong to them. A notary public helps stop that.

A notary is a person approved by the state to be a trusted witness. You can often find one at a bank, a shipping store or a town office. When you bring a paper to a notary, the notary does a few things in order.

First, the notary asks to see your photo identification, such as a driver's license. The notary looks at the picture and compares it to your face. This makes sure you are the person named on the paper.

Second, the notary watches you sign. You must sign the paper while the notary is looking, not before.

Third, the notary signs it and adds a stamp or seal. Many notaries also write the event in a record book, with the date.

A notary does not decide whether the paper is a good idea or a good deal. The only job is to check who you are and see that you signed. That job gives other people reason to trust the paper later.

Questions

1. Who approves a notary public?

_____

_____

2. What does a notary check first?

_____

_____

3. When must you sign the paper?

_____

_____

4. What does the notary add after signing?

_____

_____

5. Why does the notary compare the photo to your face?

_____

_____

6. Does a notary say whether a paper is a good deal? How do you know?

_____

_____

Words to know

notary: a person approved to watch people sign important papers
witness: a person who sees something happen
identification: a card or paper that shows who you are
seal: a special mark pressed on a paper to show it is official
approved: given permission by someone in charge

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Notary Who Watches You Sign

Square group

Certain documents are too important to risk being forged. A paper that transfers a car or a house to a new owner is one example. If someone could sign another person's name and get away with it, people might lose property that rightfully belongs to them. A notary public helps prevent this.

A notary is a person approved by the state to serve as a trusted witness. You can frequently find one at a bank, a shipping store or a town office. When you bring a document to a notary, the notary carries out several steps in a particular order.

First, the notary asks to see your photo identification, such as a driver's license. The notary studies the picture and compares it with your face, which confirms that you are the person named on the paper.

Second, the notary watches you sign. You are required to sign the paper in the notary's presence, not beforehand.

Third, the notary signs the document and adds a stamp or seal. Many notaries also record the event in a log book, along with the date.

A notary does not judge whether the paper is a wise decision or a fair deal. The sole responsibility is to verify who you are and to see that you signed, and that gives other people good reason to trust the document in the future.

Questions

1. Which authority approves a notary public?

_____

_____

2. What does a notary ask to see first?

_____

_____

3. When must you sign the paper?

_____

_____

4. What does the notary add after signing the document?

_____

_____

5. Why does the notary compare the photo on your identification with your face?

_____

_____

6. Does a notary judge whether a paper is a fair deal? What in the passage tells you?

_____

_____

Words to know

notary: a person approved to watch people sign important papers
witness: a person who sees something happen
identification: a card or paper that shows who you are
seal: a special mark pressed on a paper to show it is official
approved: given permission by someone in charge

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Notary Who Watches You Sign

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Notary Who Watches You Sign

Easier · 191 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. The state.
2. Your photo ID.
3. While the notary is watching.
4. A stamp or seal.
5. To make sure you are the person named on the paper.
6. No. The only job is to check who you are and see that you signed.

Triangle: The Notary Who Watches You Sign

This passage · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. The state.
2. Your photo identification.
3. While the notary is watching.
4. A stamp or seal.
5. To make sure you are the person named on the paper.
6. No. The passage says the only job is to check who you are and see that you signed.

Square: The Notary Who Watches You Sign

Harder · 226 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. The state.
2. Your photo identification.
3. In the notary's presence, while the notary watches.
4. A stamp or seal.
5. To confirm that you are the person named on the paper.
6. No. The sole responsibility is to verify who you are and see that you signed.