

Electronic Journal (e-Journal) for California notaries

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Can an e-journal be used as the sole journal for in-person notarizations in California?

✔ An electronic journal may be used exclusively.

Source: A notary public shall keep one active sequential journal at a time, of all official acts performed as a notary public.

Looking for info on a different state/province?

Country

United States



State/Region

California



Introduction to the NotaryCentral Electronic Journal



Where can I get an e-Journal?

You can get an e-Journal right here on NotaryCentral! Our e-Journal provides a secure, guided, and affordable solution. [See pricing.](#)

How does Notary Central's e-Journal compare to other options?

Feature	NotaryCentral	Other e-Journals	Hard cover bound book
Extensive safeguards to prevent mistakes	✅ The app is meticulously configured to have state-specific validations and features in place	❌ Minimal amount of guardrails	❌ No guardrails
Non-messy thumbprint capture	✅ It's digital	✅ It's digital	❌ Stains happen
Affordable price	✅ \$20 / year, unlimited entries	❌ \$168 / year, unlimited entries	✅ \$30 per 300 entries
Works without an internet connection	✅ Works even if you're signed out of the app	🟡 You need to be signed in to the app and the app consistently logs you out	✅

Feature	NotaryCentral	Other e-Journals	Hard cover bound book
Enables hiding sensitive info	✓	✓	✗ How you protect sensitive info is up to you
Lets you register interpreters	✓	✗ You can workaround by adding them under "Additional notes" but it looks messy and is editable after finalizing	✓
Lets you register witnesses	✓	✓	✓
Lets you create daily backups that get stored directly on your device	✓	✗ Not applicable	
Lets you extract ID info with a picture	✓	✓	✗
Lets you set an "on decease" note	✓	✗	✓
Creates receipts	✓	✓	🟡 Some do
Easy to prove authenticity of journal entry	✓ Tamper-evident hash strategy plus automatic timestamps enables high confidence	🟡 Depends on the tool	✗ Entries can be quietly erased, raising suspicion

<!--WORKS_ON_DEVICES-->

Can I capture thumbprints?

✓ Yes. [Learn more.](#)

Is there training material to get started?

✓ Yes. [Find it here.](#)

FAQ

- **Can I use this e-Journal for my Remote Online Notarization appointments?**

✓ Yes. The app lets you indicate the platform used and a unique identifier to the signing session.

- **Are e-Journal entries tamper-evident?**

Yes, entries in NotaryCentral's e-Journal are tamper-evident. Once an entry is saved, a secure tamper-evident hash is created, locking the record. If any part of the entry is altered later, the hash will no longer match, clearly indicating tampering.

- **How does NotaryCentral make sure my journal data doesn't get lost?**

NotaryCentral offers several lines of defense. First, all data is automatically backed up in a second cloud provider in case an (unlikely) disaster happens to the first one. Second, we offer a "Backup" button that exports all the journal data in its original form to your device. We highly encourage you to use it for added protection.

- **How long does NotaryCentral host my journal?**

Indefinitely. We will only remove journals upon written request.

- **What happens if I don't have internet connection?**

You can create journal entries without an internet connection and even when you are signed out. Once you regain access to the internet you can sync your entries.

Disclaimer

Always consult your state's guidelines before proceeding as rules and regulations may change at any time.

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