

# Electronic Journal (e-Journal) for Iowa notaries

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

✔ An electronic journal may be used exclusively.

*Source: Although Iowa law does not require a notary public to keep a journal, it is STRONGLY recommended. A journal serves as a record of notarizations you perform.*

Looking for info on a different state/province?

Country

United States



State/Region

Iowa



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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