



August 2015 Tip of the Month

Notarized Signatures No Longer Required for Most Court Documents

Submitted by Tom Walsh
Resource Attorney, Volunteer Lawyers Network

Effective July 1, 2015, most documents filed with the Minnesota Judicial Branch (i.e. the courts) will no longer require a notarized signature. Unless specifically required by court rule, a pleading, motion, affidavit, or other document filed with a court of the Minnesota judicial branch is not required to be notarized. ([Minn. Stat. § 358.116](#)). Instead of a notarized signature, documents may be signed beneath a declaration stating that: "I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct." In addition to the signature, the document must also state the date of signing and the county and state where the document was signed.

[Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 15](#) clarifies that an affidavit includes a document that has been signed under penalty of perjury pursuant to [Minn. Stat. §358.116](#), provided that the signature is affixed immediately below the above referenced declaration.

As a result of the changes to the statute and court rules, most documents signed by clients represented by VLN volunteers no longer need to be notarized. This includes fee waiver applications, affidavits of service, petitions for dissolution or custody, and client affidavits. The Judicial Branch's website has [updated forms](#) containing the new language.

Please note that some documents filed with the court still require notarization. For example, admissions and settlements in adoption and CHIPS cases still require notarization. In addition, this change only relates to documents filed with the court. Documents submitted to agencies and third parties may still require a notarized signature.