

## What's the Difference between an Acknowledgement and a Jurat?

### Acknowledgements:

- The act of a notary acknowledgment will include a statement with the words, “acknowledged before me.”
- An acknowledgement is used to verify the identity of the signer and to confirm that they signed the document. They are not swearing to the truthfulness or validity of the document, *they are simply acknowledging that they signed the document.*
- A signer is not required to sign the document in the presence of the notary public, but they are required to personally appear in front of the notary to confirm their signature.

### Jurats:

- The act of a notary jurat will include a statement with the words, “Subscribed and sworn to before me...”
  - “subscribed” meaning signed
  - “sworn” meaning that an oral oath or affirmation was given
  - “before me” meaning that both were done in the presence of the notary public.
- A jurat is used when the signer is swearing to the truthfulness of the contents of the document. The notary public must administer an oath or affirmation to the signer in order to complete the jurat. A jurat also requires that the signer signs in the presence of the notary.

**\*\*Note\*\*** The Notary Public is not allowed to determine the type of certificate a signer uses. This would be considered practicing law without a license. A Notary can only ask the signer which form they prefer; if they don't know, the notary will refer them to the originator of the document for an answer.