

The Mobile Notary Safety Blueprint

Best practices for staying aware, prepared, and confident in the field

Most customer interactions are completely safe and uneventful. Preparation is not about fear - it is about making thoughtful choices before a problem ever begins.

1. Before You Leave

- ✓ Confirm the client's name, phone number, address, appointment type, and who is expected to be present.
- ✓ Plan your route before leaving and check the area, parking options, and expected travel time.
- ✓ Keep your phone charged and easy to reach.
- ✓ When appropriate, share your appointment location or schedule with someone you trust.
- ✓ Avoid carrying unnecessary valuables or large amounts of cash.

2. Parking and Arrival

- Park on the street whenever possible instead of pulling into a customer's driveway.
- Choose a position that allows you to leave without being blocked in by another vehicle.
- Observe the property and surrounding area before getting out of your car.
- Keep your keys accessible rather than buried at the bottom of a bag.
- If the location or situation looks significantly different from what was described, pause and reassess before entering.

FIELD RULE: Never allow the customer to position themselves between you and the exit.

3. Position Yourself Safely

- Choose a seat or standing position with a clear, unobstructed path to the door.
- Avoid being led into an isolated room when a reasonable common area is available.
- Keep your supplies organized so you are not distracted while searching through bags.
- Stay aware of who is entering or leaving the room during the appointment.
- Do not ignore controlling, aggressive, intoxicated, or unpredictable behavior.

4. Meeting Clients in Public

When a home appointment does not feel appropriate, suggest a well-lit, populated location during normal operating hours.

Better Choices	Avoid When Possible
Busy gas station or travel center	Empty or poorly lit parking lot
Open restaurant or coffee shop	Closed business after hours
Library or community center	Remote roadside pull-off
Hotel lobby or staffed business	Any location with little foot traffic

A location can be public without being safe. Population, lighting, staffing, and visibility matter.

5. Stay Aware and Trust Your Gut

Watch for changes or behavior that make the appointment feel different from what you expected:

- Unexpected people are present or continue arriving.
- The appointment location suddenly changes.
- Someone pressures you to enter another room, vehicle, or location.
- A person appears angry, intoxicated, aggressive, or controlling.
- The signer appears frightened, confused, or unable to speak freely.
- Someone blocks your movement or access to the exit.
- You simply feel that something is wrong.

You do not need proof that something is dangerous before you leave. Feeling unsafe is enough.

6. Personal Safety Tools

If you are comfortable carrying a personal-safety device, choose only an option that is lawful where you live and work, and learn how to use it properly. Examples may include:

- A personal alarm
- A bright flashlight
- A lawful defensive spray or other legal self-defense option
- Emergency features already available on your phone or smartwatch

Important: A safety tool is not a substitute for awareness, distance, positioning, and leaving early. Always research current state and local laws and seek appropriate training.

7. Leaving an Unsafe Situation

You are allowed to end an appointment immediately. You do not owe anyone a long explanation or a debate.

"I'm sorry, but I'm unable to continue with this appointment. I need to leave now."

- Move toward the exit without arguing.
- Get to a safe, populated place.
- Call law enforcement or emergency services if necessary.
- Document the incident after you are safe.
- Do not return simply because the customer apologizes or pressures you.

Stephanie's Perspective

In all my years as a mobile notary, the overwhelming majority of my appointments were completely safe and uneventful. Most people are kind, appreciative, and simply need your help.

But mobile notary work is unique. We walk into unfamiliar homes, neighborhoods, hospitals, facilities, and situations. That is why I have always believed your instincts are one of the most valuable tools you carry.

Stay aware of your surroundings. Make choices that keep an exit available. And when something feels off, give yourself permission to leave. There will always be another appointment. There will never be another you.

NO NOTARIZATION IS EVER MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR SAFETY.

Educational resource only. This guide is not legal, law-enforcement, or self-defense training. Follow current laws and use your best judgment.