

Acknowledgment vs. Jurat

The No-Guess Explainer

Georgia Notary Edition

1 The quick differences

- **Acknowledgment** = signer is acknowledging they signed willingly.
 - **Notary focus:** identity + willingness + document completeness + acknowledgment.
- **Jurat** = signer is swearing/affirming the content is true.
 - **Notary focus:** identity + willingness + document completeness + oath/affirmation + signing happens in front of you.



*Reminder: Notaries don't choose the act,
we confirm what's being requested and follow that process.*



2 "Which One Is It?" Quick Clues (Most Common Certificate Wording)

If the certificate language says:

- "acknowledged before me..." → usually **Acknowledgment**
- "sworn to / subscribed and sworn..." → usually **Jurat**
- "being duly sworn..." → usually **Jurat**
- Mentions an oath/affirmation → usually **Jurat**



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3 Acknowledgment Process

1. Quick completeness check (pages/attachments present + certificate present)
2. Verify identity
3. Confirm signer is willing + aware
4. Confirm the acknowledgment
 - a. If the document is already signed, you ask:
“Are you acknowledging that this is your signature and you signed willingly?”
5. Complete the certificate



Acknowledgments can be used whether the signer signs in front of you or before you arrive.

Your job is to confirm they're acknowledging the signature and signing willingly.



Jurat Process

1. Quick completeness check (pages/attachments present + certificate present)
2. Verify identity
3. Confirm signer is willing + aware
4. Administer the oath/affirmation
5. Witness the signature (signer signs in front of you)
6. Complete the certificate



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4 “No Notarial Certificate?” Script

Say this:

- “For us to complete today’s notarization, it does require a notarial certificate. Legally, I can’t choose one for you, but I can explain the difference between the two options, Acknowledgment or Jurat, so you can choose which one you’d like to go with.”

Bonus note: since people assume a Jurat is “more legal” than an Acknowledgment I also say this:

- “Just so you know, both carry the same legal weight. The difference is the process, not the level of ‘legalness.’”

Then explain in one sentence each:

- Acknowledgment: “This means you’re acknowledging this is your signature and that you signed voluntarily.”
- Jurat: “This means you’re swearing or affirming the contents are true and you’ll do a verbal oath or affirmation with me.”



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5 Final Quality Check (60-Second Wrap-Up)

Before you pack up and leave, do a quick Quality Assurance scan:

Signer Check

- All required signatures completed
- All required dates completed
- All required initials completed (if applicable)
- Any blanks that needed the signer's attention are handled

Notary Check

- Correct certificate is attached/used (Acknowledgment vs Jurat if needed)
- Notarial certificate is fully completed (no missing fields)
- Signature & Printed name info matches your commission
- Seal/stamp is clear and placed correctly
- Journal entry is complete (if you're using one)

Closer line you can say out loud before this process

- "We're nearly finished. Give me 30 seconds to do a final quality check so we know everything is complete before we wrap up today."



For deeper practice, Notary Academy has GA-specific training and scenarios to build confidence.

