

Recently, changes have been made in the checklist for NSW residents concerning attestation of documents that are in accordance with the guidelines received from NSW authorities. NSW Public Notaries are the only authorised entities to authenticate, certify and witness foreign documents under the relevant Act. The guidelines prescribe:

"NSW Justices of the Peace (JPs) are not authorised to witness oaths required by the laws of other countries to validate a document to be used in those countries, such as passport applications. This means that NSW JPs cannot legally witness documents, including passport and other applications, for use in India.

Instead, NSW Public Notaries are authorised under the Public Notaries Act 1997 to authenticate, certify, and witness foreign documents. A list of Public Notaries is available at the NSW Society of Notaries website: http://notarynsw.org.au/find-a-notary"