In some Spanish speaking countries, a Notario Público is a trained legal advisor. But in the United States, a Notary Public is not a trained legal advisor.

In the U.S. a Notary Public is a public officer and is authorized to perform only the following two services for you:

• certify that you have acknowledged that you signed a document, called “notarizing” a document.

• administer and certify an oath in which you swear to the truth of the statements you make on a document.

In the State of New York, it is illegal for a Notary Public to:

• give you legal advice.

• help you complete government forms or applications.

• assist you with immigration applications or filings.

• certify the accuracy of a copy of any document, such as a birth certificate, passport, visa, marriage license, etc.