

Practice note 18 – Notarial Applicants are not Clients

Members of the public requesting notarial services are not “clients”. If a notary elects to engage with a person requesting notarial services, in that person’s capacity as a client of the notary, then the *Rules of Conduct and Client Care for Lawyers* apply which means the requirements for providing information for clients and standard terms of engagement must be met.

For this reason, the Council recommends that notaries refer to people requesting notarial services as “applicants”, “appearers” or similar terms, so as to avoid a breach of the NZLS rules.