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# Notario Fraud

## A notario is not an attorney!

* Fill in with your state-specific information.
* A notario is someone who provides legal immigration services without license or authorization, and without the knowledge to represent you.
* A notario may try to steal your money and can harm your case because they do not understand the law. A notario may put you at risk of deportation.
* Filing taxes incorrectly could harm your immigration application.
  + A notario may also try to prepare your taxes. Always make sure that your tax preparer is qualified. A notario may commit fraud on your tax return. This will give you a bigger refund, but they will also charge very high fees. When the IRS finds out, you will have to pay additional taxes, interest, and penalties.

## A “notary public” in the United States is not the same as a “notario publico” in Mexico or other countries.

* While the literal translation is the same, they mean different things. A notario publico in Mexico (and many other countries) is a special kind of lawyer. In the US, a notary public is only allowed to witness the signing of certain documents and perform other certain tasks. They do not have any special authority or influence and are not attorneys.
* A notary public is not allowed to call themselves a “notario.”

## Tips to obtain the best help possible for your legal case:

* Only go to providers that have physical offices. Never use someone you can only reach by phone or email.
* Do not believe any provider that claims to have special influence with judges or other authorities.
* Do not sign any blank or incomplete forms.
* Ask where your legal services provider is an attorney or if they are accredited by the State Bar Association.

## Tips to obtain the best help possible to prepare your tax return:

* Be careful of tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than others can.
* Avoid tax preparers who base their fees on a percentage of the refund. Do not let them deposit your refund into an account that is not yours.
* Always use a preparer with a PTIN (Preparer Tax Identification Number). Paid tax return preparers must have a PTIN. They must put their PTIN on any tax returns they prepare.
* Check their credentials. Keep a copy of the preparer’s business card and of your tax return.

Placeholder for organization contact info – phone number – [website](http://www.google.com/)