Notarization or Certification - Which do you need?

You are applying for a Visa to another country...
You need to renew your passport....
You want to open an account with Ameren to get electricity...
Your country’s government needs a copy of your grades....
Your new apartment’s management wants your signature on the lease notarized...

You need to sign a power of attorney document...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notarization</th>
<th>Certification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notary needs to see ID of person who is going to sign a document and record the ID in a log, and needs to see the UNSIGNED document.</td>
<td>Legal language is added to a photocopy of an original document, made by the law office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watches/Witnesses this person sign the document, then signs a section of legal language and stamps with official notary &quot;seal&quot;.</td>
<td>An attorney signs after comparing the original to the photocopy. The attorney's signature is then notarized.</td>
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<td>Example: Ameren (electric company) - generally requires 2 forms of ID -- passport ID page and U.S. Visa or U.S. driver license and other ID (not i-card) for first time account.</td>
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In the State of Illinois, a notary public CANNOT authenticate photocopies of or original documents. An attorney must do this; it is called "Certification."

In the state of Illinois, ONLY AN ATTORNEY can authenticate/certify a photocopy of an original document.

I-9 form for employment: Federal law requires the employer to complete the form when you present your identification documents. Student Legal service will not accept “authorization” to act in place of the employer under ANY circumstances. We cannot sign this form for you. We can provide you with certified photocopies of your IDs to send to the employer so THEY can complete the I-9 form.

***Certification services can take up to a week for up to 8 pages; longer for more pages. You must provide the ORIGINAL document(s), not copies, to SLS, which will keep the original until you pick up the certified copies.***

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE
324 Illini Union
Office Hours: 8:30-Noon & 1-4:30pm, M-F
www.odos.illinois.edu/sls
studentlegalservice@illinois.edu
facebook.com/illinois.sls

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www.facebook.com/illinois.sls