



## HISTORY OF NOTARY OFFICES IN UZBEKISTAN (1991-2024)

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**Abstract:** This article describes in detail the significant stages of development of notary offices in Uzbekistan during the period 1991-2024. The system, which was established on the basis of state notary services in the early years of independence, expanded with the introduction of private notaries in the 2000s, Uzbekistan plans to further improve the quality of services for citizens by further digitizing the notary system, adapting it to international standards, and improving the qualifications of notaries, and the fact that the notary system plays an important role in the legal and economic system of Uzbekistan, contributing to the sustainable development of the country, and that it is important to further develop this area.

**Keywords:** Republic of Uzbekistan, notary system, legal system, scientific literature, evolution, real estate, powers of attorney, wills, global, "E-notary", property contracts, powers of attorney, transaction, digitalization, international standards, legal relations, Law "On Notary".

**Introduction.** After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, the process of reshaping the legal system on a national basis began. The notarial system has found its place as an important institution in regulating legal relations between citizens and the state. This article analyzes the evolution of the activities of notary offices in Uzbekistan in 1991-2024, the legislative framework, organizational structures and modern reforms. The article is based on official documents, legislative sources and scientific literature.

After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence on August 31, 1991, the notarial system inherited from the former Union was adapted to the legal needs of the new state. In the early years, notary offices operated mainly as state structures. In 1994, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Notary" was adopted, which determined the legal status of notary offices, the qualification requirements for notaries, and their powers.

During this period, notary offices performed such basic functions as certifying property contracts, issuing powers of attorney and wills. In 1997, a special department for the management and control of notary offices was established by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which ensured centralized management of the system.

At the same time, the first steps were taken to transition to a private notary system, but this process was slow.

**Main part:** In the early 2000s, the transition to a market economy in Uzbekistan required the introduction of private notary offices into the notarial system. In 2004, amendments were made to the Law "On Notaries", which allowed private notaries to operate. Private notaries have increased the convenience of notarial services for citizens, but the issues of ensuring the level of qualification of notaries and monitoring their activities have become relevant.



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In 2008, the Notarial Chamber of Uzbekistan was established, which was an important step in coordinating the activities of notaries, organizing advanced training courses and streamlining the system. During this period, notary offices expanded their services, such as real estate contracts, inheritance issues and certification of documents of legal entities. At the same time, legislative requirements for ensuring the confidentiality of notarial acts and information security were strengthened.

Since the 2010s, digitalization processes have been rapidly entering the notary system in Uzbekistan. In 2017, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Organizational Measures to Further Improve the Activities of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted, which was aimed at the digitalization of notary services.

In 2019, the Ministry of Justice launched the "E-notarius" system, which simplified the electronic maintenance and archiving of notarial documents. This system allowed for online registration of real estate contracts and powers of attorney. At the same time, the integration of notary offices with cadastral authorities was strengthened, which accelerated the process of registering property rights.

In 2020, amendments were made to the Law "On Combating the Legalization of Proceeds from Criminal Activities, the Financing of Terrorism and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction." These amendments obliged notary offices to investigate suspicious transactions of clients and report them to special bodies.

**Results and discussion:** After 2020, a number of reforms were implemented in Uzbekistan to improve the efficiency of the notary system. In 2021, Resolution No. 402 of the Cabinet of Ministers (29.06.2021) improved the rules for regulating the activities of notary offices and internal control. This resolution served to ensure the transparency of notary services and protect the rights of citizens.

In 2023, the Notary Chamber of Uzbekistan expanded mandatory advanced training courses for notaries. At the same time, projects to coordinate the activities of notary offices through digital platforms continued at a rapid pace. For example, a system for full integration of real estate contracts with cadastral authorities was introduced.

By 2024, the number of notary offices in Uzbekistan reached 548, 29 of which were located in the Kashkadarya region. These figures indicate the wide coverage of notary services throughout the country. At the same time, work is ongoing to improve the quality of notary services and bring them into line with international standards.

Notary offices, as one of the most important institutions in the economy of Uzbekistan, play an important role in protecting property rights, ensuring the transparency of contracts, and preventing disputes between citizens. In particular, issues related to real estate, inheritance, and power of attorney are the central areas of the notarial system.

In addition, notary offices are actively involved in the fight against money laundering. Legislative amendments adopted in 2023 imposed additional obligations on notaries to identify suspicious transactions and report them to special bodies. This increased the role of the notary system in ensuring not only legal but also economic security.

Despite the development of the notarial system, a number of problems still remain relevant. For example, the issues of constantly improving the qualification level of notaries, expanding digital systems, and increasing the coverage of services in remote areas remain priorities. At the same time, studying international experience and adapting notarial services to global standards are important tasks for the future.

In 2024, projects to further digitize the activities of notary offices, including the introduction of blockchain technologies and work to ensure the international recognition of notarial documents, began. These reforms will serve to increase the efficiency of notarial services and strengthen the trust of citizens.

**Conclusion.** The activities of notary offices in Uzbekistan have undergone significant development stages during the years 1991-2024. The system, established in the early years of independence on the basis of state notaries, expanded in the 2000s with the introduction of private notaries. Since the 2010s, digitalization and modern reforms have increased the efficiency of the system. In 2020-2024, the issues of transparency of the activities of notary offices and protection of citizens' rights continue to be a priority.

In the future, it is planned to further improve the quality of services for citizens by further digitizing the notarial system, bringing it into line with international standards, and improving the qualifications of notaries. The notarial system plays an important role in the legal and economic system of Uzbekistan, contributing to the sustainable development of the country.

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