

## INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING SCENARIOS

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING 2025

1 Maria calls in to see you with a declaration to allow her pet to travel to Australia. The Customs Department have asked that a copy of Maria's passport be attached to the document and provide the specific wording they require. In their instructions they say that the certification must be completed on the back of the passport copy What issues do you see here and how could you help Maria?

2 You are woken at 1-00am by a group of 5 men requiring documentation to be signed urgently as it is required to be presented to airport officials before their flight leaves Auckland Airport at 5-30am. They have been told they cannot board without this documentation. What is your response?

3 Sam presents you with an affidavit with several alterations including several words and sentences which have been whited out. How should you handle this document?

4 We have noticed that a common reason given for failure to complete a Dissolution of Marriage form properly is that the Justice felt under pressure, whether because of a lengthy queue at the Service Desk or a demanding and pushy client. What tips can members give to help others handle such pressure and complete the documentation properly?

5 Johnny calls with an affidavit which was completed by his lawyer and pre-typed with the word "Affirmed" as the means of taking the oath. Johnny prefers to swear as his faith is very important to him so you amend the wording and you and he both initial the alterations and you complete the affidavit in the normal manner.

A week later he calls to see you again with a note from the lawyer asking you to cross out the word "Sworn" and replace it with the word "Affirm" because otherwise "The judge will throw it out of court". You refuse to amend the wording as this would not correctly identify the manner of taking the oath and you ask your client to have the lawyer contact you to discuss the situation. Subsequently you get an email from the lawyer saying that affidavits can only be affirmed. What are your thoughts on this real-life situation and what action should you take?

6 Cliff phones you. He has an urgent affidavit to be signed. As he is wheelchair bound you offer to visit him at home. Subsequently you visit him three times over the next month to sign supplementary affidavits.

You later become aware of rumours on social media saying that an unnamed JP has been seen frequenting the home of the local meth dealer and comments to the fact that this is not what they would have expected of a JP. From the postings and accompanying photo of the house you realise to your horror that the JP referred to is you and shortly after you receive a call from a reporter at the BOP Times requesting an interview. What do you do?

7 A client presents you with an affidavit and tells you this is the third time he has had to have the document signed off as two previous JPs “stuffed it up”. Because of this he has told you he intends to video the process you undertake. Are you happy to accede to this demand?

8 A client calls to see you with a Statutory Declaration relating to release of funds held in a bank account. The form requires the JP to sight either a NZ Drivers Licence or Passport to verify identity. The client is not prepared to provide such ID claiming it is an infringement of his human rights. You recall attending a JP training session recently where you learned that simply not having a form of photo ID is not a valid reason to refuse to help a client. What is your response?

9 Lucy calls in to see you. She needs a copy of her passport certified and presents you with a photocopy of her passport which unfortunately was mangled in her washing machine and dryer this morning. You can still read the passport number and some of the personal details and know that the photocopy is a true copy of the document before it was damaged. Can you certify the copy and is there another way you can help Lucy?

10 Surinder arrives accompanied by Ravi. Surinder is selling shares in his company to Ravi and brings a contract of sale and purchase for you to witness both of their signatures. Ravi has very poor English and is relying on Surinder to interpret for him. Can you and should you witness both signatures?

11 You have declined to witness a document for Jason as it relates to division of assets between he and his wife who are in the process of divorcing. He has become belligerent and starts threatening you. You are home alone what can you do? What measures could you take to secure your safety when dealing with future clients?

12 You are presented with a Kiwi Saver withdrawal form. The client, Walter, has brought copies of his driver’s licence for identification purposes and has a printout of his bank transactions showing his address.

On being requested to show you the original copy of the bank printout he goes to the relevant website on his phone. This indeed shows the transactions and the address but is in a completely different format to the page presented to you.

You know that the information provided is correct but also that the copy presented to you is not an exact copy of the original. Can you still accept this document as a true copy?