



7666 East 61st Street, Suite 315 | Tulsa, OK 74133 | 918.587.6828 | www.nala.org

Instructions Use of the Certification Mark



The following is intended to familiarize paralegals with the rules and regulations governing use of the certification mark of NALA for use by paralegals. The rules are based on federal law, which dictates certain restrictions on the use of all registered marks, and are intended to protect the integrity of the marks. Please consult this guide when promotional literature, business cards, letterhead and any other communication which may use this mark are being prepared for you.

The mark was developed to provide you with a recognizable visual symbol with which to gain differentiation in the marketplace. If the mark is used in a way that denotes generic use (to describe a broad group of individuals or services) it could eventually lose its certification mark status. Your full support and cooperation is necessary for the certification marks' effective implementation and the public's ultimate recognition of the high professional qualities for which the mark stands.

CP[®] is a certification mark duly registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Regis. No. 2864940). Any unauthorized use is strictly forbidden.



is a certification mark duly registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Regis. No.3048617). Any unauthorized use is strictly forbidden.

A word about firm letterhead, business and promotional material

The content and, to some extent, the design of firm letterhead, business cards, and promotional literature is governed by the rules and regulations governing attorneys in your state, as well as the firm's management team. The recommendations in these guidelines may or may not apply in your particular instance, please check with your firm administrator before changing your signature line or any other item on letterhead or a document that carries the firm name.

Use of the Certification Mark

The certification mark is a distinctive visual symbol that indicates an individual is qualified to provide paralegal services by virtue of having 1) completed the education, and examination requirements for certification by the National Association of Legal Assistants; 2) agreed to adhere to the Code of Ethics

and Professional Responsibility of the National Association of Legal Assistants; and 3) agreed to continuing education requirements to maintain the national certification. The certification marks cannot be used by individuals who have not met these requirements and its use may be revoked for failure to comply with ethical standards and recertification requirements.

CP[®] Description. The design of this mark was chosen because of its intended use in law firm promotional literature and letterhead. Its simple design is meant to be distinctive and noticeable but not to detract from other designs of the firm or corporation. It consists of block letters c and p in bold, black.



Use. The mark may not be altered, modified, hand-drawn or typeset. The mark may not be reproduced electronically scanned in such poor quality as to distort or significantly alter its appearance. All reproduction of the certification mark must be made from original reproduction artwork provided by NALA, and with these guidelines.

Always specify in a tag line at the end of an article, at the bottom of an advertisement, or at the bottom of the first page of a brochure or promotional literature that this certification mark belongs to the National Association of Legal Assistants. “**CP[®]** is a certification mark of the National Association of Legal Assistants.”

With the mark, **CP[®]** it is permissible to add (certified paralegal or) after the mark itself so that your non-lawyer status is clearly indicated on firm promotional literature and other documents that may carry the mark. However, your non-lawyer status must be clearly stated at the outset of any communications.

The certification mark may not be used as part of, incorporated in, the name of a firm or firm logo or imply that the firm is entitled to use the marks. This rule applies even in those cases where one or more firm members is authorized to use the marks in association with his or her own name. (This rule is most applicable to offices and businesses owned by paralegals that offer paralegal services to law firms.)

The mark must not be used on promotional items such as coffee mugs, t-shirts, jewelry, etc.

The mark cannot be used in a way that it appears to be part of an individual’s title or degree. It must always be used in connection with services provided by the individual who is entitled to use the mark.

Samples of Proper Use of the Mark

In firm brochures, firm resumes, or biographical information

Ms. Doe obtained her paralegal certificate from Anyschool, City, State. She is qualified by

the National Association of Legal Assistants to provide **CP**[®] (certified paralegal) services.

On business cards (mark cannot be used as a title). This language “**CP**[®] is a certification mark of the National Association of Legal Assistants. Its use is permitted only by those who have met and maintained national certification standards” may appear on the back of the business card if there is not enough room.

Firm logo City state	
	Sally Smith, CP Certified Paralegal Litigation
	Providing CP [®] Paralegal services

For companies owned by paralegals that provide paralegal services to lawyers (mark cannot be part of the company name). Please include this language on the face or back of the card, as shown on the next page.

Paralegal Services, Inc.	Address Address
Sally Smith, CP, President Certified Paralegal	
	[®] Providing Paralegal Services to Attorneys throughout the state
	[®] is a certification mark of the National Association of Legal Assistants.

Display advertisements (including web sites).

A firm or company may use display advertising and may use the certification mark following the rules set forth throughout these guidelines, provided that the advertisement is not false or misleading and permitted by state rules.

<p>Law firm Name Providing legal services in greater any city and or state</p> <p>Firm name Partner listing</p> <p>Paralegals: Sally Smith, CP, Certified Paralegal Jane Smith</p> <p>Providing CP[®] Paralegal services</p> <p>CP[®] is a registered certification mark of the National Association of Legal Assistants. Its use is permitted only by those who have met and maintained rigorous, national certification standards.</p>
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