

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE - PROCESS SERVER VERSUS SHERIFF

### **Professional Process Servers:**

Serving legal documents is their primary focus. They often offer flexible hours, including evenings and weekends, to accommodate recipients' schedules.

### **Sheriff Departments:**

Sheriffs have numerous responsibilities beyond serving papers, such as law enforcement duties. Consequently, serving legal documents may not be prioritized, potentially leading to delays. For instance we have one Sheriff's office that only serves paper Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Fridays.

## SPEED OF SERVICE

### **Professional Process Servers:**

These professionals typically provide faster service due to their specialized focus and flexibility. They can often make multiple attempts in a short period.

### **Sheriff Departments:**

Sheriffs may have limited availability and stricter schedules, which can result in longer service times. If there is a big event happening in a local town, frequently the deputies responsible for serving legal papers will be diverted to the larger event.

## KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

### **Professional Process Servers:**

They possess in-depth knowledge of the legal requirements and nuances involved in serving documents, ensuring compliance with all regulations. In Wyoming this means that they must have in depth knowledge of Rule 4 of the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure.

### **Sheriff Departments:**

While trained in law enforcement, they may not have the same expertise in the specific procedures and legalities of process serving.

## **SUCCESS RATE**

### **Professional Process Servers:**

They often have higher success rates due to their dedication and specialized techniques. In addition, they enjoy the element of surprise. The individuals being served on not expecting the process server, and the process server does not show up in a uniform with a police/sheriff's car.

### **Sheriff Departments:**

Success rates can vary, and their broader responsibilities may impact their effectiveness in serving documents. In addition, there are many people who are getting served with legal papers that will not open the door to law enforcement. Because Sheriff's Deputies serve papers in uniform, they do not have the element of surprise.

## **PROCESS SERVER VERSUS CERTIFIED MAIL**

Certified mail is another alternative for serving legal documents. Here's how it compares to using a professional process server:

## **RELIABILITY**

### **Professional Process Servers:**

They ensure personal delivery and can verify the recipient's identity, providing a higher level of reliability. In many cases not only are the process servers delivering legal papers, but they can often be the attorneys/collection agency's eyes and ears as to what is actually going on.

### **Certified Mail:**

Because certified mail requires the recipient to sign upon delivery, if they refuse or are unavailable, service may be unsuccessful, leading to delays.

## **LEGAL ACCEPTANCE**

### **Professional Process Servers:**

Their proof of service is widely accepted in courts and provides strong evidence that the documents were delivered appropriately.

**Certified Mail:**

While accepted in some cases, it may not be sufficient when personal service is required or if the recipient disputes receipt.

## HANDLING DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

**Professional Process Servers:**

They are trained to handle evasive or uncooperative recipients, they can employ various strategies to ensure successful service. In cases where a subject intentionally avoids service, process servers may work alongside private investigator services to locate hard-to-find individuals and complete the legal service.

**Certified Mail:**

This method cannot address issues where recipients avoid or refuse delivery, potentially hindering the legal process.

## ADVANTAGES OF PROFESSIONAL PROCESS

**Timely Delivery:**

Their focused approach ensures documents are served promptly, keeping legal proceedings on schedule.

**Advanced Tracking:**

Many professional servers utilize GPS verification and provide real-time updates, offering transparency throughout the process. Many times the server wears a Go-Pro or other recording device which can be helpful in Court.

**Nationwide Coverage:**

Professionals have extensive reach, accommodating clients across various jurisdictions through the United States.

**Compliance Assurance:**

They stay informed about legal requirements and ensure all services are conducted within the bounds of the law.