

## Question of the Quarter

### A question recently asked: 'What is the difference between Certificate, Registration and Licensed?'

According to Merriam Webster's Dictionary: Certificate: 1) a document containing a [certified](#) statement especially as to the truth of something; *specifically*: a document [certifying](#) that one has fulfilled the requirements of and may practice in a field. *Registered or Registration*: 1) having the owner's name entered in an official list or register; 2) having your name entered in an official list or register. *Licensed*: 1) formal permission from a governmental or other constituted authority to do something, as to carry on some business or profession; 2) a certificate, tag, plate, etc., giving proof of such permission; official permit: a driver's license; 3) permission to do or not to do something.

These definitions may seem simple enough. In fact most of us use the terms interchangeably without knowing the difference. For this question, besides reviewing the dictionary, here is what the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) governing Landscape Architecture has to say on the definitions: NRS 623A.033 "Certificate of registration" defined. "Certificate of registration" means a certificate of registration issued by the Board to a landscape architect pursuant to the provisions of this chapter." NAC 623A.055 "Registrant" defined. ([NRS 623A.130](#)) "Registrant" means a landscape architect who holds a certificate of registration issued by the Board.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Landscape Arch., eff. 11-1-95)

NAC 623A.032 "Certificate holder" defined. ([NRS 623A.130](#)) "Certificate holder" means a person who has been issued: 1) A certificate of registration; or 2) A certificate to practice as a landscape architect intern.

Other Statutes governing regulatory boards also define the term "license".

Nevada Revised Statutes 233B, 622 and 622A.

NRS 233B.034 "License" and "licensing" defined. "License" means the whole or part of any agency permit, certificate, approval, registration, charter or similar form of permission required by law. "Licensing" means the agency procedure whereby the license is granted, denied, revoked, suspended, annulled, withdrawn or amended.

According to NRS 622.030 "License" defined. "License" means any license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization issued by a regulatory body.

(Added to NRS by [2003](#), [1185](#), [3416](#))

NRS 622A.040 License" defined. "License" means any license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization issued by a regulatory body.

With these definitions, one can see why the wording is used interchangeably. As Nevada has a Practice and Title Act, having a "Certificate" to practice Landscape Architecture gives a person the ability to work in the profession and use the title Landscape Architect. So whether you use the term "Certificate, License, Registration" in Nevada it means you have a license to practice.