

Original Paper

The Influence of Traditional Customs and Regional Cultures on the Development of China's Family Affairs Notarization Business

Shu Diao

Chengdu Lyuzheng Notary Public Office, Sichuan Province Chengdu, Sichuan, 610015, China

Abstract

Traditional Chinese customs and regional cultures have a profound impact on the modern process of the rule of law, which is particularly prominent in the practice of family affairs notarization business. Family affairs notarization, as the core of notarization business, plays a vital role. It penetrates into every corner of people's lives, so its development status has drawn close attention from all sectors of society. However, in recent years, new schemes and solutions such as "voluntary guardianship", "estate administrator" and "real estate inheritance" have emerged. Although they have been widely discussed, their promotion and implementation in different regions have shown an unbalanced state. With the decline of traditional notarization business, "notarization innovation" has become a hot topic. The innovative practices in some regions have achieved remarkable results, and some places have also achieved certain achievements by drawing on foreign models. However, these attempts have not formed a unified model across the country. Some family affairs businesses have difficulties in surviving and developing in the new environment, which has put notarization institutions in various places in a dilemma. How to integrate local characteristics into the innovation of family affairs notarization business has become an urgent problem to be solved in the notarization industry.

Keywords

Family affairs notarization, Traditional customs, Regional cultures, Localization, Practicability

1. Overview of Family Affairs Notarization

1.1 Definition of Family Affairs Notarization

When examining the connotation of family affairs notarization, the author holds the view that the concept of "family affairs notarization" should be broadened to refer to the comprehensive legal services provided by notary institutions for the legal acts, facts and relationships involving family members. It includes not only traditional notarization items but also notarization services specifically targeting family affairs. The scope of family affairs notarization should cover multiple aspects of

family life such as marriage, inheritance, child rearing, guardianship, elderly care, wills, and medical care. Its core purpose is to ensure that the legitimate rights and interests of each family member are fully protected and to establish the authority of the law in family life.

In fact, in Chinese laws and relevant regulations on notarization, family affairs notarization has not been clearly defined. The "Guide to Notarization Practice" published in 1993 only divided notarization into "notarization of economic affairs" and "notarization of civil affairs". This classification has had a profound impact on the notarization industry. Notary practitioners are usually accustomed to individually memorizing and applying specific notarization services under these two major categories of notarization matters, thus lacking a macroscopic understanding of the overall notarization matter of "family affairs notarization". Due to differences in the understanding standards of the scope of family affairs notarization within the notarization industry, in the long-term practice process, the definitions of "notarization of civil affairs" ["Notarization of civil affairs: refers to the activity in which the state notary organs, in accordance with legal provisions and the applications of the parties, prove the authenticity and legality of the civil legal acts, documents with legal significance and facts of citizens and legal persons." Written by Jiang Xiaoliang et al., "Guide to Notarization Practice" [M], Shen Zhaohui, China Social Sciences Press, June 1993] and "family affairs notarization" are often confused. However, it has been found in the long-term notarization practice that a clear definition of "family affairs notarization" is necessary for carrying out such business. Family affairs notarization in practice usually involves many affairs in family life. These notarization matters are closely related to family property distribution, protection of the rights and interests of family members and other family affairs categories. The intervention of notarization has played a positive role in maintaining the stability of family relations and reducing lawsuits. A clear definition has macroscopic guiding significance for practitioners and is convenient for cultivating their ability to comprehensively use multiple notarization matters to meet the needs of the parties.

1.2 Dimensions of Social Life in Which Family Affairs Notarization Can Participate

Based on notarization practice and the broad connotations of common civil affairs notarization items and family affairs notarization, the author believes that it is advisable to boldly expand the scope of family affairs notarization to truly cover the "family affairs field":

1.2.1 Dimension of Marital Relationship

The maintenance and dissolution of marital relationships, the definition and distribution of marital property, and the fulfillment of the rights and obligations of both parties constitute the core issues of family affairs notarization.

New family affairs notarization focuses on the above three aspects: issues such as the marriage conclusion procedures, divorce conditions and procedures, and marital property, such as determining the standards for the breakdown of marital affection, property division, and the determination of the custody of children, all belong to the family affairs category; the identification, management, and division of joint marital property as well as the definition of premarital property and post-marital

property, such as the handling of common property such as real estate and vehicles purchased after marriage and the salary and bonus income of both parties during the marriage period. Notarization items and services are carried out accordingly. The author believes that as long as they are notarization items and services surrounding such relationships, they should all be classified as family affairs notarization. According to this standard, common notarization types include premarital agreement notarization, marital agreement notarization, divorce agreement notarization, notarization related to the confirmation of joint property or personal property, and notarization of property inventory preparation and evidence preservation.

1.2.2 Dimension of Parent-Child Relationship

Issues such as the establishment, upbringing, guardianship, and adoption of parent-child relationships have given rise to a series of legal problems. With the increase in the phenomenon of children born out of wedlock, issues such as the sharing of children's upbringing, living, education, and medical expenses have become legal difficulties. There is a great demand for notarization to participate in many aspects such as paternity testing and guardianship confirmation. For example, in the sample collection for paternity testing, such notarization is not the family affairs notarization recognized in the traditional sense, but it is indeed related to such relationships.

1.2.3 Dimension of Inheritance Relationship

The inheritance relationship involves many traditional notarization items, such as inheritance notarization, wills and bequests, and agreements on support in return for bequests.

1.2.3.1 Inheritance

This is the most common traditional notarization item related to the relationship. For example, inheritance notarization. However, under the trend of the registration department promoting non-notarized registration of real estate inheritance, the notarization industry is being forced to transform into green inheritance and comprehensive services. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that such notarization and its evolved forms are still the solid business foundation of the notarization industry. The notary institutions have decades of rich experience in this field, which not only provides high-quality services to clients but also successfully avoids numerous inheritance disputes.

1.2.3.2 Wills and Bequests, Agreements on Support in Return for Bequests

After the implementation of the "Civil Code", significant changes have occurred in notarization items and services related to wills. The scope of notarization involving wills has expanded from the traditional notarization of wills to the formulation of various forms of wills such as holographic wills and wills written by others on behalf of the testator. At the same time, notarization items and services related to estate administrators, will execution, and will disclosure triggered by wills have become more diversified, greatly enriching the content of family affairs notarization. The notarization of estate administrators provides legal guarantees for the proper management of estates, ensuring that estates can be distributed and handled according to the wishes of the testators. The notarization of will execution clarifies the specific procedures and responsible persons for will execution, ensuring the smooth

execution of wills. The notarization of will disclosure enables wills to be presented in a fair and transparent manner at the appropriate time, avoiding family disputes caused by the concealment or controversy of wills. These diversified notarization items and services not only meet the different needs of the parties in will formulation and estate handling but also provide strong legal support for the stability of family relationships and the orderly inheritance of property.

1.2.4 Dimension of Family Property Management

Many notaries believe that such relationships belong to the category of marital property relationships. However, practice shows that the concept of a family goes far beyond the marital relationship and also involves parents, children, and even more family members. In recent years, numerous notarization demands have emerged due to the complex mixing of family property. Therefore, in such relationships, issues such as the planning and distribution of family property and the assumption and settlement of family debts all fall within the scope of family affairs notarization.

1.2.5 Dimensions of Family Relationship Maintenance, Medical and Personal Care, and Family and Community Relations

In modern society, in addition to traditional families, there are also many DINK families, solitary people, and cohabiting people. The legal issues arising from their residence and life should also fall within the scope of family law. Family affairs notarization surrounding these new issues may involve notarization participation in family dispute mediation, assistance in handling agreement notarization, notarization of support agreements signed between communities and solitary people, and notarization of adult voluntary guardianship agreements. Since the content of medical advance directives does not involve the disposal of property during one's lifetime, the author classifies this type of notarization into this category, and it is an important supplement to modern family affairs notarization.

2. The Impact of Traditional Chinese Customs on Family Affairs Law

2.1 *The Integration of Traditional Customs and Ancient Family Affairs Law*

China, a land with a history of five thousand years, has nurtured rich traditional customs. These customs, like blood vessels, run through all aspects of social life and play a vital role. In ancient times, family affairs law was deeply influenced by these traditional customs, and this influence permeated every aspect of daily life. For example, the deeply rooted concept of male superiority and female inferiority often led to unfair treatment of women in property inheritance and marriage rights. In addition, the extreme pursuit of family honor and the insistence on harmonious relationships among family members also subtly shaped the specific contents and provisions of family affairs law.

2.1.1 Traditional Imprint on the Marriage System

In ancient China, marriage was not only the union of two individuals but also an alliance between two families. The establishment of a marital relationship was often determined by family elders, emphasizing "the order of parents and the words of matchmakers" [It is mentioned in "Mencius • Teng Wen Gong Xia" that "If a man and a woman peep at each other through holes or climb over walls to be

together without the order of their parents and the words of matchmakers, their parents and fellow countrymen will despise them."]. This concept was clearly reflected in the law. For example, the "Tang Code with Commentaries • Households and Marriages" [The "Tang Code with Commentaries • Households and Marriages" stipulates that "If a junior is outside and the senior later arranges a marriage for him/her, but the junior marries on his/her own and the marriage has been completed, it shall be regarded as legal; if it has not been completed, it shall follow the senior's arrangement."] stipulated that the marriage of men and women must be presided over by their parents, and the act of getting married without the consent of parents was regarded as invalid. This family-centered concept of marriage greatly restricted the autonomy of individuals in marriage, and marriage laws focused more on the interests of families and clans.

2.1.2 Traditional Influence on the Inheritance System

The inheritance system in ancient China was deeply influenced by the "primogeniture system". The core of the primogeniture system was to maintain the continuation of the family and the integrity of property. The eldest son, as the representative of the family, enjoyed the priority of inheritance. This system was widely recognized in traditional customs and was also confirmed by ancient laws. For example, the "Great Qing Code" [The "Great Qing Code" stipulates that "For legitimate and illegitimate sons, except for those who inherit official positions and titles, which should first be given to the eldest legitimate grandson, when dividing family property and fields, regardless of whether they are born by wives, concubines or maidservants, it shall be divided equally among the sons according to the number of sons. Illegitimate sons shall be given half of the share according to the share of sons. If there is no son to establish an heir, they shall share equally with the illegitimate sons. If there is no heir, the illegitimate sons can inherit the whole share."] stipulated that the eldest son in the family inherited the ancestral property, while other children were allocated relatively less property. This inheritance method not only maintained the integrity of family property but also ensured the continuation of the family bloodline.

2.1.3 Inheritance of Family Responsibilities and Filial Piety

Filial piety, as an important part of traditional Chinese culture, had a profound impact on the formulation and implementation of ancient family affairs law. Respecting and supporting parents was regarded as the foundation of social ethics, and supporting parents became the legal obligation of family members. Ancient laws such as the "Tang Code" [The "Tang Code with Commentaries • General Principles" stipulates that "For those who commit capital crimes, except for the ten heinous crimes, if their grandparents or parents are old, sick and need to be taken care of, and there is no adult relative in the family to support them, they can apply for leniency."; The "Tang Code with Commentaries • Litigation" stipulates that "Those descendants who violate the teachings and orders of their parents or fail to provide support shall be sentenced to two years of imprisonment."] clearly stipulated the obligation of children to support their parents, and those who violated it would be punished by law. This filial piety culture was not only reflected in the law but also formed a strong binding force at the

social moral level, regulating the relationships among family members.

Under the influence of these traditional customs, family affairs law not only bore the mission of maintaining family order but also reflected the importance attached to family ethics in ancient society. Although the concept of male superiority and female inferiority once brought about gender inequality, it also reflected the ancient society's desire for family stability. The emphasis on family honor embodied the ancient society's respect for collective honor. The interweaving of these customs and laws jointly constructed the unique style of ancient family affairs law.

2.2 The Integration and Challenges of Traditional Customs and Modern Family Affairs Law

In the torrent of the times, traditional Chinese customs, like historical imprints, have a profound impact on the evolution of modern family affairs law. Faced with this phenomenon, we can't help but ask: How to find a balance between inheritance and change? How to lead family affairs law towards modernization while respecting traditions? This is undoubtedly a topic worthy of in-depth discussion.

The modern Chinese legal system is based on Western laws. Although family affairs law has gradually abandoned some outdated customs and bad habits, the shadow of traditional customs still lingers in the public's concept, and they play a hidden role in the practice and implementation of family affairs law.

2.2.1 Subtle Influence of Traditional Customs on Marriage Law

Although modern marriage law advocates marriage freedom and gender equality, traditional customs such as betrothal gifts and dowries are still prevalent in many regions, affecting property division and family responsibilities in marital relationships. Betrothal gifts, as a form of economic exchange in marriage, although there is no mandatory legal requirement, in actual operation, betrothal gift issues often lead to marriage disputes and even the breakdown of marriages. The dowry custom is also deeply influenced by traditional concepts. Although modern law no longer requires dowries compulsorily, in real life, dowries are still an important factor in measuring the family status of a marriage.

However, traditional customs such as betrothal gifts and dowries are still deeply rooted in many regions and play a subtle role in family affairs. Betrothal gifts, as a form of economic exchange in marriage, although not legally compulsory, often become the trigger for marriage disputes and even lead to the breakdown of marriages. Dowries, as products of traditional concepts, although no longer required by law, are still an important standard for measuring the family status of a marriage.

2.2.2 Collision between Traditional Concepts and Modern Principles in Inheritance Law

Under the framework of modern inheritance law, children enjoy equal inheritance rights without being bound by gender and age. However, in some regions, the traditional concept of primogeniture is still deeply rooted, making the eldest son often have an advantage in the distribution of inheritance. This deeply rooted traditional concept poses a challenge to the implementation of the law. Especially when dealing with inheritance distribution disputes, how to reconcile traditional customs and modern legal principles has become a major problem in legal practice. This contradiction not only tests the fairness of the law but also reflects the changes and conflicts in social concepts.

2.2.3 The Interweaving of Filial Piety Culture and Legal Responsibilities in the Obligation of Support

Filial piety culture, as the essence of traditional Chinese culture, still occupies a significant position in modern China. Although modern law clearly stipulates the obligation of children to support their parents, in real life, this obligation has long exceeded the requirements at the legal level and has become a vivid manifestation of social morality. In the process of many families conducting notarization of support agreements, traditional filial piety concepts are often carefully considered and integrated into every detail of the notarization. Therefore, the formulation of agreement clauses needs to skillfully balance the dual needs of traditional ethics and modern law to ensure that the support agreement not only has a solid legal effect but also conforms to the general perception of social morality. This is not only a respect for the law but also an inheritance and promotion of traditional virtues.

2.3 The Influence of Traditional Customs in Notarization Practice: Cognitive Misunderstandings and the Path of Change

In the context of the integration of traditional Chinese customs and modern family affairs law, the public's understanding of notarization matters in notarization practice is often clouded. This misunderstanding not only distorts the public's correct understanding of the law but also brings considerable challenges to the popularization and actual operation of notarization. Just as customs have a profound impact on the legal system, this cognitive bias cannot be ignored and urgently needs to be gradually eliminated through meticulous legal popularization education and precise operation guidance.

Misconception 1: Daughters who are married off naturally have no right to inherit.

This concept originated from the old saying that "a married daughter is like water poured out", which implies that once a daughter gets married, she is like water poured out and no longer belongs to the family, thus losing the right to inherit family property. This is the influence of the concept of male superiority and female inferiority and the preference for sons over daughters that has persisted for thousands of years. In traditional society, family inheritance and property distribution often favored male descendants. In "The Book of Rites • Mourning Apparel", it is said that "A woman has the obligation to follow three persons. She has no independent way. She follows her father before marriage, her husband after marriage, and her son after her husband's death", emphasizing the subordinate status of women in different stages. In "The Book of Rites • Inner Rules", there are also regulations such as "Men should not talk about domestic affairs, and women should not talk about external affairs", reflecting the differences between men and women in family affairs and social roles, which in turn affect aspects such as property inheritance.

However, China's "Civil Code" clearly states that daughters enjoy equal inheritance rights with sons. But in actual problem-solving, ordinary people always tend to favor male heirs. This cognitive bias not only brings many troubles to notarization work but also makes some daughters have to spend more time and energy to prove their legitimate rights and interests when applying for inheritance notarization. In addition, in the process of will handling, the parties often conceal the existence of daughters from

notaries, or when applying for inheritance, the heirs conceal the daughters of the decedent, resulting in many cases of missing heirs.

Misconception 2: When making a will, all children should be gathered together.

In traditional Chinese culture, family harmony and unity are of vital importance. As it is said in "The Analects of Confucius", "In practicing the rules of propriety, harmony is to be prized." This pursuit of harmony is also reflected in family affairs. People hope to ensure the fairness of the will and avoid family conflicts by having all children present, which reflects the emphasis on the stability of family order in traditional thinking. Therefore, some ordinary people unconsciously imitate the practice of ancient emperors in TV dramas when they decide to make a will. They summon all their children and important family members who might be analogized to "empresses" in front of them and then orally state the content of their wills to demonstrate fairness. However, this practice has brought a lot of inconvenience to notaries when they accept will notarization.

From the perspective of protecting the testator's true will and ensuring the legality of the will, modern laws have stipulated specific procedures for making a will. According to the provisions of China's "Civil Code" and the "Notarization Procedure Rules", a will should be made in the presence of two notaries, and it is emphasized that no one else should be present except the testator. In actual operation, when making a notarized will, all will beneficiaries are required to avoid being present. The notary and the testator complete the will-making process in a private space. Therefore, there is no such situation as gathering all children to make a will in a public place at all.

Many parties do not understand this. Especially those elderly people who are pushed in wheelchairs by their children to the notary office. In such cases, notaries need to carefully examine the testator's true will and confirm whether he or she is induced by a certain child to make the will. Only in this way can the authenticity, legality and validity of the will be ensured, the legitimate rights and interests of the testator be protected, and family conflicts and disputes caused by will issues be avoided.

Misconception 3: When one spouse passes away, dealing with property inheritance is not urgent as the surviving spouse automatically enjoys the rights to the property.

Under the influence of traditional concepts, many people mistakenly think that after one spouse passes away, the property naturally belongs to the other spouse and there is no need to rush to handle inheritance matters. They continue to live in the house and don't bother about the fund passwords.

This reflects the profound influence of China's traditional patriarchal and family property concepts. Under the traditional patriarchal system, family affairs were usually dominated by the head of the family, and the distribution and inheritance of property were mainly decided by the head of the family. This concept makes people may default that the property is naturally controlled by the surviving spouse after one spouse passes away. Because in the traditional family structure, the head of the family usually had greater power to decide the whereabouts of property. From the perspective of the concept of family property, traditional society emphasized more on the overall interests and continuation of the family, and the division of property among individuals was relatively vague. After one spouse passes away,

people may think that the property is still within the family and there is no need to clarify the specific inheritance matters in a hurry. In ancient Chinese codes, such as the provisions in "Tang Code with Commentaries" ["Tang Code with Commentaries": "Those who should divide fields, houses and property shall divide equally among brothers."] and "The Great Ming Code", they all emphasized the order of property distribution within the family and focused on the overall inheritance of family property, without detailed regulations on the specific situation after one spouse passes away. This traditional patriarchal and family property concept has influenced people's understanding of modern property inheritance issues to some extent. Modern laws emphasize the equal inheritance rights of the decedent's legal heirs to the property and inheritance in accordance with legal procedures, which is different from traditional concepts.

This misconception has led some families to be slack in dealing with the decedent's estate. As time passes, when the legal heirs also pass away one after another, originally simple inheritance cases may evolve into complicated cases of successive inheritance, subrogation inheritance or even cases where there is no one to inherit. For small families, the inheritance of property is blocked. The estate that was supposed to be smoothly transferred becomes uncertain due to delay, and family disputes may intensify, destroying harmony and stability. Meanwhile, property for specific purposes may not be able to play its value, bringing losses to the family. For the country, such situations are a huge waste of public resources. Handling complicated inheritance cases requires a lot of judicial efforts, time and costs. From investigation and evidence collection to the progress of legal procedures, all consume manpower and material resources. Long-unresolved cases are more likely to become historical problems left over from the past, laying hidden dangers for social stability.

Misconception 4: The mystery of property - inheritance.

Among the people, passing on property to children is regarded by many as a traditional virtue. Even if children don't take good care of the elderly on weekdays or haven't contacted them for many years, many elderly people still insist on leaving their property to their children. However, this concept sometimes makes some elderly people fall into difficulties in their old age.

The root of this thinking mainly lies in the concept of family blood relationship and the traditional concept of property inheritance. In traditional Chinese society, family blood relationships were highly valued. It is mentioned in "The Record of Rites - Da Zhuan" that "Respecting relatives, respecting the elders, distinguishing between men and women. These are things that cannot be changed with the common people." It emphasizes the importance of kinship. This concept makes people think that property should be inherited within the family, especially among children. Even if children fail to fulfill their care obligations, the elderly often follow this traditional concept and leave their property to their children. From the perspective of the traditional concept of property inheritance, there has always been the saying of "the son inherits the father's business". In ancient times, family property was mainly inherited by male descendants to ensure the continuation and stability of the family. This concept has

influenced modern people's views on property inheritance to some extent. Even though times have changed, many elderly people still adhere to leaving their property to their children.

In our actual cases, there is such an elderly person whose children haven't taken care of him for many years and have had no news for more than a decade. The person who really took care of him was his nephew. The nephew not only contributed money and efforts but also took the elderly person to live with him in his own home. However, the elderly person was always reluctant to donate his house to his nephew. He only gave part of his deposits to his nephew when making a notarized will and left the house to his children.

From a rational and fair perspective, we might think that the person who has contributed more should receive corresponding rewards. But in real life, traditional concepts and obsessions often prevail over reason. This kind of situation is common in our actual cases, which leads to the fact that when many elderly people are in difficulties, warm-hearted people cannot persist in their efforts without expectations for the future. As a result, fewer and fewer non-relatives are willing to take care of the elderly, and the elderly have no choice but to choose nursing homes.

However, the caregivers in nursing homes are just doing their jobs and it is difficult for them to form deep emotional bonds with the elderly. Therefore, when handling such notarizations, notaries should pay attention to the actual needs of the elderly and guide them to allocate property reasonably. Notaries can communicate patiently with the elderly, let them understand the impact of their property allocation on their old age life and the people around them. Help the elderly realize that reasonable property allocation can not only guarantee their own quality of life but also encourage those who really care about them to continue to contribute. At the same time, notaries can also explain to the elderly the legal provisions and the validity of wills to ensure that the elderly fully consider various factors when making decisions, so that property allocation is more fair and reasonable, bringing more warmth and guarantee to the elderly's old age life.

Misconception 4: Worries about parents' remarriage: The mystery of property ownership.

Under the shackles of traditional concepts, children often strongly oppose their parents' remarriage, mainly due to the fear of property mixing. In their minds, their parents' property seems to be naturally inherited within the original family. Once their parents remarry, the new family relationship may make the ownership of property become complicated and even threaten the shares they should get.

The root of this thinking mainly lies in the concept of family property inheritance and the pursuit of family structure stability. In traditional Chinese society, there were strict rules and orders for the inheritance of family property. People generally believed that property should be inherited orderly within the family to ensure the continuation and stability of the family. This concept makes children think that their parents' property should naturally be inherited within the original family. Once their parents remarry, the new family relationship may disrupt this inheritance order, resulting in unclear property ownership and thus causing their concerns. From the perspective of the pursuit of family structure stability, traditional society emphasized the stability and order of the family. As it is said in

"The Great Learning", "Cultivate oneself, regulate the family, govern the state, and bring peace to the world", where "regulate the family" reflects the emphasis on family stability. In traditional concepts, the family structure composed of parents and children is regarded as a relatively stable model, and parents' remarriage may break this stability and bring uncertainty. This traditional concept of family property inheritance has influenced modern people's views on property issues when their parents remarry to some extent.

Children's such opposition often brings great troubles to parents. In the twilight years of life, children's busy work may make it difficult for them to give their parents full care and personal attention. And parents' choosing to remarry in their old age is actually a way of mutual support in addition to the pursuit of a happy emotional life.

Facing this situation, when handling relevant notarizations, notaries must pay attention to children's reasonable demands. Children's concerns about property are not unfounded. Notaries can explain to them in detail the legal provisions on property and the effectiveness of notarization, so that they understand that through legal means, property ownership can be clarified and unnecessary disputes can be avoided. At the same time, notaries should also guide parents to handle family relationships rationally, encourage them to have sincere communication with their children, clarify the reasons for remarriage and their plans for property, in the hope of obtaining children's understanding and support. Notaries can suggest that parents conduct property notarization before remarriage to clarify the scope and ownership of their respective properties, so as to avoid the mixing of property after marriage. This can not only reassure children but also provide a solid guarantee for parents' remarriage life. In addition, notaries can also assist parents and children to jointly formulate a family property agreement to make clear provisions on the inheritance and distribution of property, so as to reduce possible conflicts in the future. In short, children's concerns about their parents' remarriage, especially the fear of property mixing, is a complex social phenomenon. When handling such notarizations, notaries need to fully consider the interests and demands of all parties, and through reasonable guidance and notarization means, help families resolve conflicts and promote the harmony and stability of family relationships.

Misconception 6: When life has no biological meaning, when doctors ask whether to rescue or not, the answer is often "Yes".

In traditional Chinese culture, filial piety is regarded as one of the core values. It is recorded in "The Classic of Filial Piety" that "Filial piety is the constant way of heaven, the righteousness of the earth, and the conduct of the people." It emphasizes the importance and universality of filial piety. The traditional concept of filial piety requires children to fulfill their filial duties to their parents, including making every effort to rescue them when they are sick, regardless of the cost. This concept is deeply rooted in people's hearts, so many families often choose to rescue without hesitation when facing doctors' inquiries about meaningless rescues, believing that this is a manifestation of filial piety.

However, in the context of modern medicine, this traditional concept of filial piety may put families in a dilemma in medical decisions. On the one hand, blind rescue may bring a heavy economic burden,

affecting the normal life and future development of the family; on the other hand, for patients, excessive rescue may only prolong pain and cannot really improve the quality of life.

In this context, when handling relevant notarizations, notaries should pay attention to the actual needs of the parties and guide them to face medical issues rationally. For example, promote the notarization of advance medical directives. Notaries can explain in detail its significance and functions to the parties, help them understand their rights and choices in medical decisions. Through communication and exchanges, guide the parties to correctly view life and death and respect the natural laws of life. In this way, when facing medical decisions, the parties can make more rational decisions that conform to their personal wishes according to their own values and attitudes towards life.

In short, in the face of difficult medical decisions for serious illnesses, we should abandon blindly following the traditional concept of filial piety and instead guide the parties to rationally handle medical issues based on their actual needs, so as to ensure that everyone can get due respect and care in the last stage of life.

Misconception 7: Bias in dealing with issues of legitimate and illegitimate children.

In traditional Chinese society, marriage was regarded as a crucial cornerstone, and its legality and stability were highly emphasized. As it is said in "The Record of Rites - Hun Yi", "The wedding ceremony is to combine the good of two families, to serve the ancestral temple above and to continue the descendants below." Under this concept, legitimate children were regarded as the continuation of the family bloodline and enjoyed higher rights and status. In contrast, illegitimate children were often regarded as illegal and disgraceful, and their birth was often despised by traditional concepts. This bias has led to unfair treatment of illegitimate children in issues such as family property distribution. Although there were no clear provisions on illegitimate children in ancient codes, from the provisions on family inheritance and marriage systems, it can be seen that traditional concepts neglected illegitimate children.

In notarization activities, we often encounter parties who are influenced by traditional concepts and hold biases against legitimate and illegitimate children, thinking that the father's responsibility for illegitimate children can be ignored. In the process of drawing up wills, the existence of illegitimate children is often deliberately concealed by the testator. When legal heirs distribute the estate, the legal heirs collude collectively to provide false statements and conceal illegitimate children, which has triggered many disputes. Facing this situation, notaries pay high attention to the legitimate rights and interests of illegitimate children and actively guide parties to handle family relationships in a more reasonable and fair way, hoping to eliminate the unfairness and biases brought by traditional concepts and build a harmonious family and society.

Misconception 8: Strong resistance to the distribution of property to non-immediate relatives.

In traditional Chinese society, the family was the basic unit of society, and people attached great importance to the continuation and stability of the family. Property was usually regarded as the common wealth of the family and mainly inherited among immediate relatives to ensure the prosperity

and development of the family. As mentioned earlier in "The Record of Rites - Da Zhuan" ["The Record of Rites - Da Zhuan": "Respecting relatives, respecting the elders, distinguishing between men and women. These are things that cannot be changed with the common people."], it emphasized the importance of kinship. In ancient times, the distribution and inheritance of property often followed strict family rules. For example, in the family precepts and family regulations of some families, it was clearly stipulated that property could only be inherited among immediate relatives, and non-immediate relatives were excluded. This traditional concept makes people have strong resistance to the distribution of property to non-immediate relatives, thinking that it is an abnormal behavior, or even fraud or being deceived. It is difficult for the interpersonal trust established by non-blood relationships to gain their trust. Taking the case of the donation of a house in Luzhou to a cohabitant as an example, this event aroused widespread public dissatisfaction and doubts in the context of that era. The will was not adopted by the court and was finally judged to be invalid for "violating public order and good customs". This case was also hailed as "the first case of public order and good customs in China". [People's Court of Naxi District, Luzhou City, Sichuan Province (2001) Naxi Min Chu Zi No. 561, known as "the first case of public order and good customs in China"] In the current context where the stability of traditional marriage is declining day by day, similar cases may have completely different outcomes.

As notaries face more and more such problems, in addition to dealing with legal provisions, they need to guide parties to think deeply about the emotional entanglements and social responsibilities behind property distribution. Encourage them to face the issue of property distribution to non-immediate relatives with a more open and rational attitude under the premise of following the law and morality. This is not only a manifestation of personal emotions but also a reflection of social harmony and progress.

Therefore, the differences between China's traditional customs and legal cognition have brought many challenges to notary work. When handling notary affairs, notaries need to dig deeply into the cultural roots behind these cognitive misunderstandings, guide parties to handle family relationships rationally, and protect their legitimate rights and interests from being infringed. At the same time, strengthening the popularization and education of legal knowledge and improving the public's legal awareness will effectively reduce the frequency of the occurrence of such misunderstandings. This is not only a powerful support for notary work but also a key link in building a society ruled by law.

3. The Influence of Regional Cultural Differences on China's Family Affairs Notarization

3.1 Regional Characteristics and Differences of Family Affairs Notarization Services in Different Regions

China has a vast territory and remarkable regional cultural diversity. The development of family affairs notarization services also presents distinct regional characteristics. These characteristics are manifested

not only in the demands and contents of family affairs notarization but also undoubtedly in the pace of business development and the breadth of popularization.

3.1.1 Differences between the North and the South

In China's vast land, differences are reflected not only in natural landscapes but also more profoundly in culture, economy and social customs. Such regional characteristics are equally prominent in the field of family affairs notarization. In the south, especially in the economically developed coastal areas, citizens generally have a relatively high legal awareness and a strong demand for family affairs notarization, so the notarization business has developed quite maturely. Notarization services such as premarital property agreements and agreements on marital property have become common in these places. In contrast, although the legal awareness in the northern regions is on the rise, the traditional concept of family property ownership is still deeply rooted, and the demand for notarization of marital property agreements is relatively low.

Differences in regional customs have also given rise to numerous unique notarization projects that are often difficult to promote in other regions. Taking Shanxi and Henan regions as examples, the traditional thinking there is relatively conservative. When a woman remarries and her children go with her, the local custom requires the children to change their surnames to that of their stepfather. Therefore, the notary institutions in these regions have been handling the notarization of statements of consent for children to change their surnames all year round, which has become a regular business.

Notary institutions in coastal areas, due to their geographical convenience, handle more cases involving inheritance from Taiwan, and intellectual property rights related to Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, while inland notary institutions rarely have such business. Zhejiang, Jiangsu and other places, as hometowns of overseas Chinese, have a strong demand for foreign-related notary legal services, covering a wide range of contents, while areas outside coastal cities are less involved in such matters.

Heilongjiang, as a province directly involved in Sino-Russian trade, has attracted many Russians to live there. Therefore, the demand for family affairs notarization involving Russians, such as inheritance and wills, is increasing day by day. Similarly, with the increase in the African population in Guangdong region, foreign-related family affairs notarization matters also show a diversified trend. All these phenomena demonstrate the unique charm of regional characteristics in the field of legal services.

The significant differences between the north and the south directly affect the development of family affairs business in the notary industry, and each region presents distinct local characteristics. Although the types of family affairs business seem to be largely the same across the country, there is actually a dynamic balance of ebb and flow in terms of business volume. Such regional differences not only reflect the flexibility of notary services in adapting to local needs but also mirror the imbalance in the development of the industry.

3.1.2 Differences between Urban and Rural Areas

The differences between urban and rural areas in China are significant in the field of family affairs notarization. In cities, with higher legal awareness and economic levels, the demand for and application

range of family affairs notarization are wide, including not only traditional marriage and inheritance notarization but also emerging family affairs notarization services such as intended guardianship, estate management and advance medical directives are becoming increasingly popular. In contrast, the popularization degree of family affairs notarization in rural areas is relatively low. Many families still rely on the traditional internal family mediation mechanism to resolve disputes, making the development of notary business relatively lagging behind.

Taking cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu as examples, these regions have gathered a relatively large number of LGBTQ people. Disputes and legal demands arising from issues such as cohabitation are increasing day by day, and the development of notary services such as intended guardianship in these regions is significantly better than that in other cities. The notaries in these regions also show obvious differences between inclusiveness and conservatism in their awareness.

For another example, due to the urban-rural economic differences, small and medium-sized enterprises are concentrated in cities, and most of the financial notarization services for endowing enforcement power to creditor's rights documents are concentrated in cities. In the notary institutions of big cities, the business of endowing enforcement power to creditor's rights documents constitutes an important part of their business, and these financial notary demands further promote the demand for family affairs business. However, in the notary institutions in other regions, their business is still mainly based on traditional family affairs notarization.

3.1.3 The Particularity of Minority Inhabited Areas

In many minority-inhabited areas, the expansion of family affairs notarization services is deeply restricted by both regional customs and legal cognition. Taking marriage and inheritance as examples, the traditional customary laws in these fields still have a significant influence in some minority areas, which in turn affects the popularization of modern family affairs notarization. In this context, when promoting business, notary institutions have to respect and adapt to the local cultural characteristics more.

Taking the Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures of Garze and Aba in Sichuan as examples, the notary institutions in these regions rarely handle inheritance-related notarization. The reason is that the residents in these prefectures are mainly Tibetans. Property inheritance mostly relies on production materials such as yaks, and the inheritance method is mainly through delivery. Customary inheritance has become the mainstream. Although the problem of daughters' rights being infringed occurs from time to time, due to local customs, when notaries handle such problems, the difficulty of legal interpretation and application is far greater than that of their counterparts in cities.

3.2 Analysis of Case Phenomena in Notary Practice: Reasons for the Unbalanced Development of Family Affairs Notarization Services in Various Regions

The development of family affairs notarization services in different regions of China shows a significant unbalanced state. This imbalance is reflected not only in the development level of traditional notary services but also in the popularization and application of emerging notary services. The

following will discuss this imbalance from the aspects of intended guardianship notarization, estate administrator notarization and advance medical directive notarization.

3.2.1 The Current Development Status of Intended Guardianship Notarization in Different Regions of China

Intended guardianship notarization, an emerging family affairs notary service, has gradually attracted attention in major cities in recent years. With the intensification of the aging population, the elderly's awareness of life arrangements and property protection has been increasing day by day, and the demand for intended guardianship notarization has also grown accordingly. However, in economically underdeveloped regions, due to weak legal awareness and deeply rooted traditional concepts, the development of intended guardianship notarization has encountered numerous obstacles, resulting in a relatively slow pace of its promotion across the country.

In terms of the annual number of intended guardianship cases handled by notary institutions across the country, the annual average number of such cases handled by notary institutions in Sichuan Province is only dozens of pieces, and these cases are basically concentrated in the notary institutions in the Chengdu area. In contrast, Shanghai handles hundreds of cases each year. Although the number is not large compared with other notary matters, it is already a relatively large scale in terms of the demand for intended guardianship. Meanwhile, the number of intended guardianship cases in the Guangzhou area has risen sharply in recent years, which is not unrelated to the active promotion of this notarization by the LGBTQ population in Guangzhou.

These phenomena reflect that the development of intended guardianship notarization is deeply influenced by the intertwined effects of multiple factors such as the economy, social awareness and resident structure, and is closely linked to the traditional cultural concepts in different parts of China. Taking Shanghai as an example, the Shanghai-style culture has a high acceptance of new things, and residents are willing to learn and try the new intended guardianship system. In addition, there are many left-behind elderly people in Shanghai, whose children are mostly overseas. They hold the independent ideas of Western elderly people and tend to make independent decisions. Therefore, it is relatively easy to promote such notarization in Shanghai. Moreover, influenced by the Shanghai-style culture, Shanghai residents are more willing to pay for knowledge and legal services. On the contrary, the promotion of intended guardianship notarization in the inland areas appears to be lagging behind. Taking the Chengdu area as an example, before 2018, the government once endorsed the house-for-pension project, but the promotion effect was minimal and almost no one tried it. The reason is that most people still think that property should be left to their children and they should solve the pension problem by themselves. Therefore, it is extremely difficult for this generation of traditional elderly people living in Sichuan to choose someone other than the legal heir as the guardian according to their own wishes.

When facing intended guardianship, the LGBTQ population does not fully accept it but shows a more rational attitude. Although the intended guardianship agreement provides a way to protect their own

rights and interests and plan future lives to a certain extent, since it can be revoked at any time, this weakens the mandatory nature of the agreement to some extent and makes it similar to the binding of a two-person relationship.

Therefore, although intended guardianship notarization has sparked heated discussions across China, its promotion effect is "loud in noise but weak in results".

3.2.2 The Current Development Status of Estate Administrator Notarization in Different Regions of China

In China, although the estate administrator system is still in the initial stage of development, in economically prosperous cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hangzhou and Chengdu, this concept has gradually been accepted by society, accompanied by the emergence of a series of pilot cases. Notably, notary practitioners in these regions have begun to actively explore the intervention of notarization in estate management cases.

However, in other regions, notary institutions and the real estate registration departments in their practice areas are still rather cautious about accepting this emerging notary matter. The lack of understanding of new notary services makes these institutions hesitant when attempting innovation. The risk of innovation lies in the fact that the parties may encounter returns because the notarial certificates are not recognized by the certificate-using departments, which may then lead to complaints and disputes.

In addition, since notary practitioners in different regions mostly limit their understanding of the acceptance standards to the limited provisions in the Inheritance Chapter of the Civil Code and fail to start from the overall creditor's rights and debt situation of the decedent and fully consider factors such as benefits and costs, they often follow the traditional inheritance notarization process when handling applications for inheritance cases. This undoubtedly sets obstacles to the promotion of estate administrator notarization.

Currently, with the large-scale intervention of other legal industries and real estate registration departments, in the fields where notary institutions should originally play a role, notary institutions in different regions have failed to form an effective joint force. The current situation of unbalanced development undoubtedly limits the wide promotion and popularization of the estate administrator system across the country. In this context, how to stimulate the innovation vitality of notary institutions and enhance their professional capabilities has become an important issue for promoting the healthy development of the estate administrator system.

3.2.3 The Current Development Status of Advance Medical Directive Notarization in Different Regions of China

Advance medical directive, a family affairs notary service related to end-of-life decisions, carries profound significance. In China, although it is currently in a critical stage of active exploration, its overall development trend is still rather immature. In economically developed cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, with the progress of society and the improvement of the public education level,

people's awareness of life rights and their consciousness of making independent decisions are increasing day by day. Against this background, advance medical directive notarization has gradually received widespread attention and has been applied in real life.

However, from a legal perspective, China's regulations on advance medical directives are still imperfect, lacking clear operating guidelines and supervision mechanisms, which brings uncertainties for notary institutions to handle related businesses. Issues such as the validity of advance medical directives, family members' compliance with them and the supervision mechanism have all become the focus of public attention. Although it has been promoted in some places like Shenzhen, there are not many effective cases of advance medical directives, and the feedback on the usage level is not yet concentrated.

In regions with relatively conservative cultural traditions, the public's acceptance of advance medical directive is relatively low. People in these regions are more inclined to follow traditional family concepts and medical models and have psychological barriers to planning the end-of-life mode. The conservative cultural atmosphere also makes people slower to accept new things and be more cautious about advance medical directives involving major life decisions. Therefore, how to improve the public's awareness and acceptance of advance medical directives has become an urgent task.

4. Exploring the Path for the Development of Localized Family Affairs Notarization in China

4.1 Drawing on the Experience of the Development of Foreign Family Affairs Notarization

In the context of globalization, drawing on the experience of the development of foreign family affairs notarization is of great significance for promoting the innovation and development of China's family affairs notarization services. Many foreign countries have accumulated rich experience in the field of family affairs notarization. Especially in new notary services such as intended guardianship, estate management, and advance medical directives, there are many successful cases and practices worthy of China's reference.

4.1.1 The Impact of Foreign Notary Systems on Chinese Notarization

In the current era of globalization, foreign notary systems, especially those of developed countries, have had a profound and important impact on the development of Chinese notarization. After long-term development and practice, the notary systems of developed foreign countries have become relatively complete and play a crucial role in various fields, with their performance in the field of family affairs notarization being particularly outstanding. In continental law system countries represented by Germany and France, notarization occupies a pivotal position in family affairs such as marriage, inheritance, and guardianship. In these countries, the notary system has systematic legal norms and rigorous operational procedures. For example, in marriage affairs, German notary institutions will conduct detailed notarization on prenuptial property agreements and agreements on property between spouses to ensure that the rights and interests of both parties are clearly defined and guaranteed. In inheritance affairs, French notaries will strictly follow legal procedures to examine the authenticity and

legality of wills to ensure that the distribution of estates complies with the wishes of the testators. In guardianship affairs, the notary institutions in these countries will conduct strict examinations on the qualifications of guardians to ensure that the rights and interests of the wards are protected to the greatest extent. The mature notary systems of these countries provide valuable experience and references for the development of China's notary services.

In the process of constructing a modern notary system, China has fully absorbed and drawn on the advanced experience of these countries. On the one hand, in the formulation of legal norms, China has drawn on the advanced concepts and practices of foreign notary systems in the field of family affairs notarization, clarified the responsibilities and authorities of notary institutions in matters such as marriage, inheritance, and guardianship, and standardized notary procedures and operational processes, providing a solid legal basis for the development of notary services. On the other hand, in business practice, China's notary institutions have actively learned from foreign advanced experience and continuously improved their business levels and service qualities. For example, they have introduced advanced foreign notary technologies and equipment, strengthened the training and education of notary personnel, and improved their professional qualities and business capabilities.

With the continuous development and progress of society, people's demands for notary services are constantly evolving. Foreign developed countries' notary systems have accumulated rich experience and successful cases in adapting to social changes. China can draw on this experience to continuously explore and innovate notary service models and expand the fields of notary services to meet people's increasingly diverse notary needs. It is worth noting that the notarial documents in foreign notary systems are not simply proofs but carry deeper meanings. Therefore, when promoting and developing China's family affairs notarization services, we should start from the overall situation and integrate individual notary matters scattered in notary business guidance into the whole of family affairs notarization, which includes not only traditional notary matters but also innovative notary services.

4.1.2 Drawing on the Development Experience of Foreign Family Affairs Notarization

Foreign countries have accumulated many successful cases in the development of family affairs notarization, especially in handling complex family affairs and balancing the rights and obligations among family members.

Taking the trust system in the United States as an example, it plays a key role in family property planning and inheritance. By setting up a trust, the settlor can entrust property to a professional trust institution for management and operation to ensure that the property can be distributed to designated beneficiaries in a specific time and manner according to his or her own wishes. This system can not only effectively guarantee the inheritance and stability of family wealth but also avoid family disputes caused by property distribution issues to a certain extent. For example, some wealthy families have set up family trusts to provide long-term and stable financial support for the education and life of future generations and have also avoided disputes among family members over property. China's practice of civil trusts is still in its infancy. However, the notary industry can skillfully use diverse family affairs

notary services such as escrow and wills to build a framework similar to civil trusts for the parties. In the current situation where the legal system is not yet perfect, this measure can not only effectively deal with various problems but also demonstrate the innovation and responsibility of the notary industry.

The probate system in the UK is exemplary in its rigor and standardization and is worthy of our in-depth study and reference. In the UK, the probate process of wills is not only strict but also standardized and orderly. Notary institutions play a crucial role in it, and their professionalism and authority are reflected in every aspect from the making, execution to supervision of wills. This system not only ensures the authenticity, legality and validity of wills but also builds a solid safeguard for the smooth distribution of estates. In addition, this system also attaches great importance to the protection of the rights and interests of vulnerable groups such as minor children and elderly parents to ensure that they receive due care and attention in the process of estate distribution. Drawing on the experience of the UK, China's estate administrator notarization system can also actively explore a new path for notary participation in estate management under the condition that the law is not yet clear. This exploration is not only a supplement to the existing legal framework but also an innovation and improvement of the estate management system. By introducing the notary mechanism, it is expected to improve the transparency and fairness of estate management and contribute to the harmony and stability of estate distribution in China.

4.1.3 Case Analysis of Drawing on Foreign Family Affairs Notarization

In-depth analysis of specific cases of foreign family affairs notarization can bring extremely valuable practical experience and profound enlightenment to China's family affairs notarization services. For example, in the important field of intended guardianship notarization, the rich experience of foreign countries fully shows that by clearly defining the responsibilities and rights of guardians in detail, it can effectively ensure that the parties can still enjoy proper and considerate life care and scientific and reasonable property management after unfortunately losing their capacity for conduct. In some developed countries, the law has extremely strict qualifications for intended guardians, requiring them not only to have good moral character and integrity records but also to possess certain professional knowledge and skills to ensure that they can be competent for the duties of guardians. At the same time, the rights of guardians are also clearly defined so that they can have laws to follow and regulations to abide by when fulfilling their duties. By drawing on the successful experience of foreign countries, China's notary institutions can continuously explore and innovate in practice, improve the handling process and institutional norms of intended guardianship notarization. For example, they can strengthen the examination of the qualifications of guardians, establish and improve the supervision mechanism for guardians, and ensure that guardians can truly fulfill their duties. At the same time, they can also raise public awareness and understanding of intended guardianship notarization through publicity and education and encourage more people to use this legal tool to protect their rights and interests.

4.2 Finding the Development Path of Family Affairs Notarization by Combining Traditional Customs and Regional Cultures

While drawing on foreign experience, the development of China's family affairs notarization also needs to combine the characteristics of China's traditional customs and regional cultures and explore a notarization development path that conforms to China's national conditions. Family affairs notarization is not only a manifestation at the legal level but also deeply reflects the connotations of social culture, ethics, and morality. In view of this, in the process of vigorously promoting the continuous development of family affairs notarization services, it is necessary to fully consider the profound impact of traditional customs and regional cultures on notary services.

4.2.1 Respecting Traditional Customs and Promoting the Social Recognition of Family Affairs Notarization

China's traditional customs have a profound influence on family affairs. Therefore, when promoting family affairs notarization services, these traditional customs must be respected and considered. For example, in marriage notarization, although betrothal gifts and dowries are not legally mandatory requirements, they have important social significance in some regions. When handling marriage notarization services, notary institutions should moderately consider the influence of these traditional customs under the premise of strictly following legal principles. By combining traditional customs and legal regulations in a reasonable way, it can not only ensure the legality and fairness of notary services but also improve the social recognition of notary services. In this way, it can not only better meet the needs of the parties but also make notary services closer to people's lives and enhance the social credibility of notarization.

4.2.2 Combining Regional Cultures and Formulating Differentiated Notarization Development Strategies

China has a vast territory, and there are significant differences in cultures and social customs in different regions. Therefore, the development of family affairs notarization needs to adapt to local conditions and formulate differentiated development strategies according to the actual situations in different regions. For example, in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, the promotion of family affairs notarization services must fully consider the local customs and cultural characteristics. Ethnic minority areas often have unique family concepts, marriage systems, and property inheritance methods. When carrying out business, notary institutions should adopt more flexible notarization models, respect local cultural traditions, and integrate with local customs. They can cooperate with local ethnic affairs departments, community organizations, etc. to jointly carry out notary publicity and service activities to improve ethnic minority people's awareness and acceptance of family affairs notarization. In economically developed regions, with the improvement of people's living standards and the enhancement of legal awareness, the demand for notary services is more diversified and specialized. In these regions, emphasis should be placed on developing emerging notary services such as intended guardianship and advance medical directives to meet the growing legal needs. At the same time, it is

also possible to combine the local economic characteristics and social development trends, innovate notary service models, and expand the fields of notary services to provide more efficient and convenient notary services for the parties.

4.2.3 Combining Law and Tradition to Explore a Family Affairs Notarization System with Chinese Characteristics

In the development process of China's family affairs notarization, how to organically combine the modern legal system with traditional customs and explore a development path with Chinese characteristics is an important issue currently faced. As the executors and service providers of the law, notary institutions should actively explore how to integrate traditional customs into notary practice on the basis of respecting legal principles. This requires notary institutions to have an in-depth understanding of China's traditional culture and customs, master the cultural characteristics and needs of different regions, combine modern legal concepts and technical means, and formulate notary business norms that not only meet the requirements of modern law but also can be widely accepted by society. For example, in will notarization, full consideration can be given to traditional family concepts and property inheritance methods, respecting the wishes of the parties while ensuring the legality and validity of wills. In marriage notarization, it is possible to combine traditional wedding customs and provide more personalized notary services for the parties. This combination not only helps to enhance the social influence of notary services but also promotes the popularization and development of family affairs notarization on a larger scale. At the same time, it is also possible to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with academia and the legal community, jointly study and discuss the theoretical and practical issues of the family affairs notarization system with Chinese characteristics, and provide a more solid theoretical support and practical experience for the development of family affairs notarization.

5. Conclusion

The development of family affairs notarization in China should draw on international advanced experience and also integrate the characteristics of local traditional customs and regional cultures. Based on the modern legal system, family affairs notarization, as a key tool for family affairs management, plays a dual role of ensuring the legality of legal acts and preventing family disputes. Looking to the future, family affairs notarization needs to seek a balance between following legal principles and respecting social culture and explore a growth path that conforms to China's national conditions. This will not only promote the wide promotion and application of family affairs notarization services across the country but also help to improve the quality of family and social services and contribute to maintaining social harmony and stability.

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