

The Notary news



The North Carolina Department of
The Secretary of State, Elaine F. Marshall

STAY SAFE + HEALTHY,
NC NOTARIES!



Thanks for Being Flexible NC Notaries
Thank You Notaries & Stakeholders

Message to Notaries

Summer 2020 is coming to a close, and it seems like it went by really quickly. Next week, we will be celebrating Labor Day and the holidays are almost...never mind.

Labor Day celebrates the contributions, sacrifices and social and economic achievements of the American worker including our notaries.

The spirit of the American worker has not been dampened by COVID-19. In fact, it's been shining brighter than ever before. As American workers, you all have been creative, innovative and willing to find better ways to do your jobs in a safe and healthy manner. Our office encourages you to continue to move forward no matter how long this pandemic will be with us.

We also want you to know that the changes that you've made haven't gone unnoticed. As a notary, you have had to make huge adjustments in the way you perform your notarial acts. We've asked those of you who don't feel comfortable performing in-person notarizations to perform Emergency Video Notarizations.

Our office wants to know how many of you are taking advantage of the Emergency Video Notarizations opportunities and what your own experiences have been like. Look for a poll in your inboxes later this week. We would appreciate any feedback you would be willing to provide.

Finally, Secretary Marshall wants to thank everyone who sent in guesses about GARDEN-ZILLA that is growing in the canopy corner of her and Tommy's yard.

Here are a few of the guesses from you all and suggestions on what to do with it:

"...a walking stick or curly willow."

"Really, have no idea, but I think you should definitely decorate it like a spider, maybe put lights on the legs in addition to the googly eyes and painting it black."

"...it is remnants of a blown over tree."

"The dead vines in Sec. Marshall's yard was a KUDZU vine. It could be cut into small slices for beautiful flat art into a shape of any frame or abstract wall art."

The answer is it's actually a wisteria vine.

Let us know how we can continue to be helpful to you in performing emergency video notarizations or anything else.

Please send in your tips, practice ideas, and questions for us
at notarynews@sosnc.gov.



Fast Five Q &A

Q: From our Facebook group: I am resigning my notary commission. What do we do with the old notary stamp. Do we turn it in, or can we destroy it?

When a notary resigns, he or she is required to turn the seal in to the Office of the Secretary of State within 45 days of your resignation. Our office will be responsible for destroying the notary seal to ensure that it will not be used again.

Please mail it to our office at the following address:
NC Department of the Secretary of State
Notary Division
Post Office Box 29622
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0622

Q: Another North Carolina notary asked on our Facebook group: Is the on-demand electronic notary class offered by your office still available.

No. The community colleges are back up and running and offering in-person and virtual electronic notary classes, so we ended ours. Please check with your local community colleges for available classes.

Q: Another Facebook group question: I always stumble when asking about swearing on the bible versus affirming. Do you have a smooth way to ask this question?

It is best to just keep it simple and ask the signer if he or she wants you to perform an oath or an affirmation or an oath.

If a signer wants you to perform an "affirmation", then the notary certifies that he or she made a vow of truthfulness without invoking a deity or using any form with the word "swear". You do not use a Bible.

If a signer wants you to perform an "oath", then the notary certifies that he or she made a vow of truthfulness while invoking a deity (so help you God) or by using any form with the word "swear".

Q: Another question came to us via email: Are we allowed to notarize a minor's signature.

Yes. You treat a minor the same way that you would any adult. You need to make sure that you can positively identify him or her. If you do not personally know the minor, they will need to present identification such as a passport or driver's license.

If they do not have an acceptable form of identification, you can use a credible witness to establish their identity (an individual who is personally known to both you and the minor).

Q: From Facebook again: I need to renew my commission. Do I need to take the class again?

Don't worry. We get this question all the time. As a notary, you can start your re-commissioning process 10 weeks before your commission's expiration date. The fee for the re-commissioning application is \$50, but this time you don't need to take the notary class.

You will, however, need to take the online examination found on the Secretary of State's website: https://www.sosnc.gov/Online_Services/Account/Sign_In?ReturnUrl=%2Fonline_services%2Fnotary%2Freappointment.

You will need your notary number and your password to continue this process. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to us at notary@sosnc.gov.

Do you have a question you'd like us to answer for the **Fast Five**? Let us know. Email us your question at notarynews@sosnc.gov.



Expired Forms Of Identification

As we find ourselves still in the midst of this international health crisis, there's one question that comes up on a regular basis from the notaries: Are we allowed to accept expired driver's licenses as acceptable ID since the NC Department of Motor Vehicles is offering extensions due to COVID-19.

The answer is yes.

DMV credentials that expired after March 1, 2020 and before August 1, 2020 automatically received a **five (5) month extension** of the expiration date according to [Senate Bill 704](#) signed in May. They are acceptable forms of satisfactory evidence of ID for national purposes.

For example, if you are asked to notarize a document and the signer's license expired on July 31, 2020, you as a notary will be allowed to accept that as proper identification because their ID won't expire until December 31, 2020 based on the five month extension of the expiration date.

Secondly, you may also accept expired Uniformed Services Identification Cards (USID) through September 30, 2020. USID cards are issued to retired and reserve members and dependent family members of Uniformed Services members.

Reminder to all NC notaries: **active** duty military identification cards do NOT meet the requirements for satisfactory evidence and cannot be used as forms of identification. That's because the signature and physical description are embedded in a computer chip that you as a notary won't be able to see.

If you have more detailed questions about accepting North Carolina driver's licenses, we suggest you contact your local Department of Motor Vehicles.



COVID-19 + Notaries

Sunset for Emergency Video Notarizations Has Been Extended:

The sunset date for conducting emergency video notarizations is now March 1, 2021.

Notary Oath Extensions:

Notaries still have 90 days to take their oaths at the Register of Deeds Office in their county of residence. This length of time was extended from the traditional 45 days that notaries typically have to appear before the Register of Deeds. The 90 day period starts on the issue date found at the top of the oath notification letter that you receive from our office. The 90-day extension deadline is also March 1, 2021.

Register of Deeds Offices:

Notaries need to contact the Register of Deeds Office in their county of residence about their hours of operation during the coronavirus pandemic. Some of these offices are accepting walk-ins while others are requiring appointments.

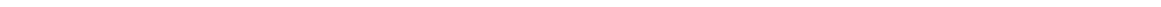


NC Notary Facebook Group

Have you joined our notary Facebook group *The North Carolina Notary Network* yet? Well, what are you waiting for? More than 5,817 notaries around the state have signed up to join us. If you haven't yet, come join!

The purpose of the group is to connect notaries across the state as well as to share information.

Click [here](#) to join today!





America's Top 10 Ice Cream Flavors

"I Scream. You Scream. We all Scream for ICE CREAM!"

Last month, we asked all you ice-cream lovers to take a guess about what the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) said are America's Top Ten Ice Cream Flavors.

We got soooo many guesses. Thanks for the submissions.

Here is the correct ranking in order:

vanilla
chocolate
cookies and cream
mint chocolate chip
chocolate chip cookie dough
buttered pecan
birthday cake
strawberry
moose tracks
neapolitan

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