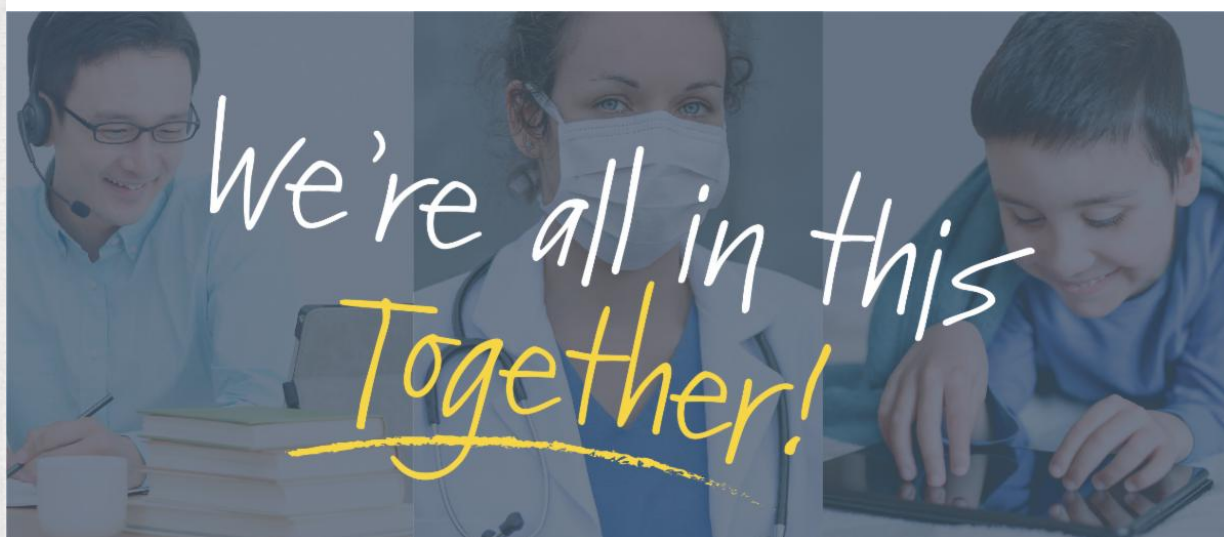


The Notary news



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

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER



* * North Carolina Notaries * *

Fellow Notaries,

Over the last two weeks, we have been working closely with legislative staff to ensure a temporary emergency video notarization bill is ready to go when lawmakers return.

I have personally spoken with Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore, and they understand the need for the General Assembly to take up this matter as quickly as possible. We are closely working with legislative committees and other members to be sure a solution is ready for consideration. In addition, over the last several weeks we have sought input from crucial stakeholders. Currently, the General Assembly is set to convene for session on April 28th.

When I last wrote you two weeks ago, we were updating you on the steps we had been taking to give Notaries Public more flexibility through a form of emergency video notarization. We informed you that legal counsel in the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office concluded that under the North Carolina Constitution, only the General Assembly has the legal authority to provide a comprehensive solution, despite all parties agreeing about the urgent need for this action.

Because all the COVID-19 related issues may be combined into an omnibus bill, the Secretary of State's Office has not offered opinions or input on many of the other elements. However, we are specifically addressing the urgency of temporary video notarization in addition to flexibility related to business filings with the agency.

I will continue to keep you updated as soon as we have additional news to report.

Elaine F. Marshall

As always, if you are unsure of anything as we try and navigate through this together, please reach out to the Department at notary@sosnc.gov. We are always happy to help.

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