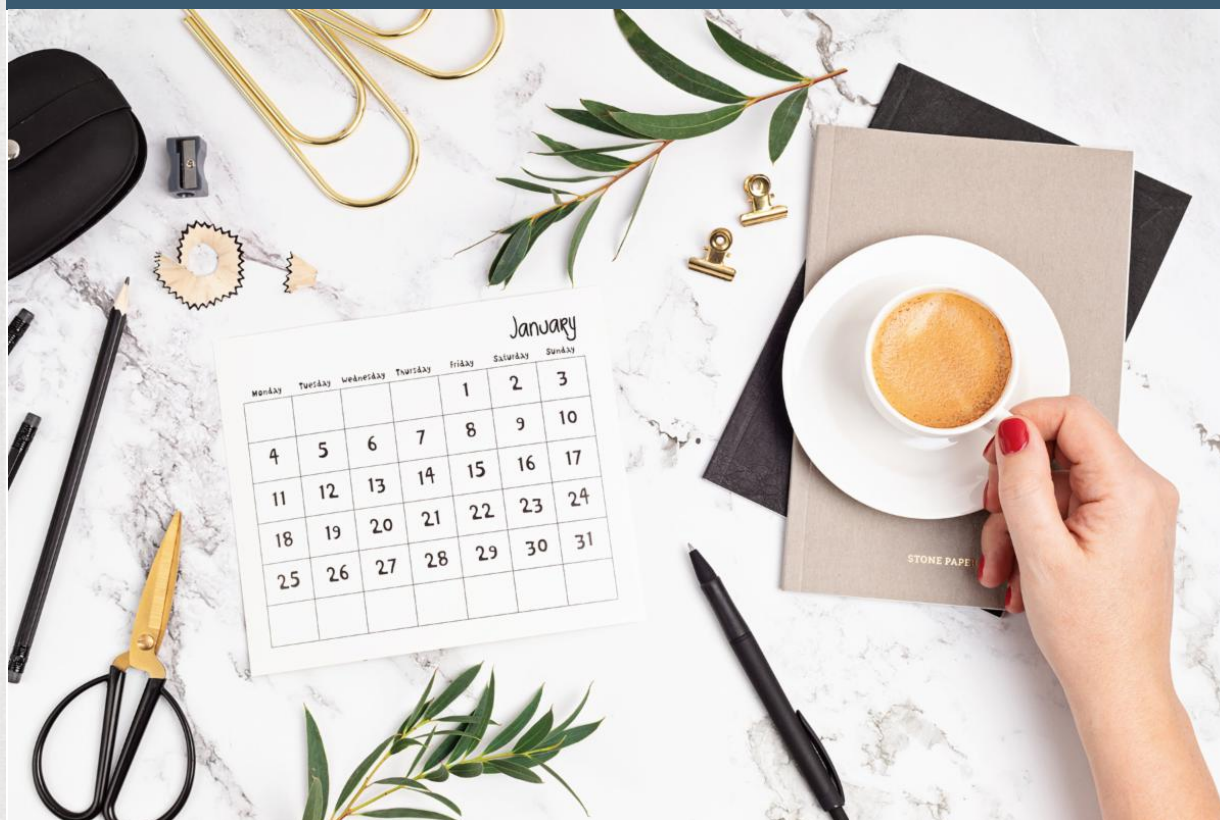


The Notary news



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

STAY SAFE + HEALTHY, NC NOTARIES!



Starting the Notary New Year Off Right

We made it through the first month of the New Year! Pop the bubbly, ya'll.

Who among us isn't thinking of setting new goals both personally and professionally to make it a better 2021. Now's the perfect time to think about sharpening your skills in all things notary public.

As public officials, we know you want to perform your notarial responsibilities in the most professional and accurate way possible. Our office is here to offer a variety of resources each of you may need. We encourage you to take advantage of them:

- the monthly notary newsletter
- archived monthly newsletters found here: https://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/notary/newsletter_archive
- special email correspondence about important and timely notary topics
- tips shared on our [Facebook group](#)
- our website <https://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/notary> (we will be making some changes to the notary section of the Secretary of State's website this year to make it more user-friendly)
- and of course, you may also email us at atnotary@sosnc.gov or call us at 919.814.5400, option #2

Please continue to refer to your 2016 NC Notary Public Manual as it's a treasure trove of information about how to perform notarial acts.

Notaries, also remember that you must keep your notary number confidential as it, along with your password, grants you access to your notary profile through our website. Your number is found at the bottom of your oath notification letter: https://www.sosnc.gov/Online_Services/Account/Sign_In?ReturnUrl=%2Fonline_services%2Fnotary%2Fname_address_change.



eNotary Classes Available at Community Colleges

Notaries, many of you have inquired about opportunities to become electronic notaries. Here's a list of the educational institutions in North Carolina currently offering eNotary classes:

AB Tech CC
Alamance CC
Beaufort CC
Blue Ridge CC
Brunswick CC
Cape Fear CC
Catawba CC
Central Carolina CC
Central Piedmont CC

Coastal Carolina CC
Craven CC
Davidson County CC
Fayetteville CC
Forsyth Tech CC
Gaston CC
Guilford CC
Johnston Tech CC
Lenoir CC

Mitchell CC
Pitt CC
Rockingham CC
Rowan Cabarrus CC
Sandhills CC
Surry CC
Wake Tech CC



Fast Five Q & A

Q: This question was sent to us via email: I just got married and changed my last name. I need to turn in my old stamp. Where do I send it, and how do I get a new stamp?

Congratulations on your marriage! Reminder: you will need to submit a notification of your name change to the Department within 45 days after you legally change your name.

As far as your old seal is concerned, you are required to mail it to the Secretary of State's office within 45 days for destruction. Send it by certified mail, return receipt requested.

You may get a new North Carolina seal at any office supply store or seal manufacturer.

Q. Another question sent to us via email: My commission expired June 2020. If I were to renew my commission now, do I have to take the class again?

If your commission has been expired for more than one year, you will be required to attend the six-hour notary public course that is required for first time applicants.

If your commission has been expired for less than one year, you will only need to take the online examination.

Q: From the Facebook group: how are mobile notaries able to make money in North Carolina? Convenience fee. Processing fee. Clerical fee. Administrative fee. Technology fee. Are any of those fees prohibited in the statutes?

Another great question. A mobile notary is a notary public who travels to people's homes or businesses to notarize signatures. They must adhere to all of the notary laws.

The maximum fees that may be charged by a notary for notarial acts are \$5 per principal signature for acknowledgments, jurats, verifications or proofs and \$5 per person for oaths or affirmations without a signature. [G.S. 10B-31].

Charging fees in excess of that which is set by law, including fees for mileage or travel is prohibited. NCAC 07B.0904(b)(10). Therefore, notaries are prohibited from charging all fees listed in this question.

Q: From the Facebook group again: is there a way to be commissioned in multiple states?

Yes and No. Yes, if you are living in bordering states. For example, to be a notary in our state, you must live or work in North Carolina. If you live in a border state like South Carolina, Tennessee or Virginia, and work in North Carolina this could be a viable option.

You will need to check other states to see their requirements if you want to become a notary outside of North Carolina.

Q: Are eNotary and RON transactions one in the same?

No. RON stands for Remote Online Notarization and allows the notary to perform electronic notarial acts over an audio-video connection. An electronic notarization still requires in-person notarizations (the notary and the principal must be in close physical proximity) but the forms are electronic instead of paper documents.

North Carolina's temporary Emergency Video Notarization law authorizes both electronic notarizations (which would be considered a RON) and traditional wet-ink notarizations to be performed while using video conference technology.

Click on this link for the Emergency Video Notarization Training Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFU2P1pnK4s&feature=youtu.be>

Do you have a question that you'd like for us to answer for the **Fast Five**? Please send in your tips, practice ideas, and questions for us at notarynews@sosnc.gov.



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 must 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 yet?
The North Carolina Notary Network

Well, what are you waiting for? More than 7,307 notaries around the state are in the group. If you haven't joined yet, click the link and come on in!

The purpose of the group is to connect NC notaries as well as give notaries an opportunity to share information, tips and ideas with one another.

When answering questions for fellow notaries, we encourage sharing page numbers, statutes or even pictures of citations from the 2016 NC Notary Public Manual.

Click [here](#) to join today!





In the December newsletter, we shared a fun New Year's trivia quiz to get you ready for 2021.

Thanks to all who emailed us their guesses. Here are the correct answers:

When did the New Year's Eve Ball first drop in Times Square?

- 1949
- 1907 (correct)
- 1922

How large is the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball in diameter?

- 24 Feet
- 12 Feet (correct)
- 100 Feet

On average, how many babies are born each January 1 in the United States?

- 86,790
- 240,000
- 11,293 (correct)

Who was the first broadcast host of Times Square New Year's Eve celebrations?

- Dick Clark
- Guy Lombardo (correct)
- Burl Ives

According to the International Date Line, where on Earth is New Year's celebrated first each year?

- The Kiritimati Atoll in Kiribati (correct)
- Botswana, South Africa
- The North Pole