

The Notary news



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

STAY SAFE + HEALTHY,
NC NOTARIES!



NC Secretary of State
Elaine F Marshall

Play Video



Welcomes NC Notaries
to a brighter new year **2021**



* * North Carolina Notaries * *

Notaries,

The General Assembly has not finalized action on the extension of the temporary emergency video notarization law, and will not do so before the law sunsets on Monday. We anticipate the General Assembly will be supportive of the extension and we expect it to be part of the upcoming COVID-related budget bill to be rolled out next week. However, other items in the bill are still being negotiated and the temporary emergency remote notarization will expire, even if it is for a short time.

The law will expire at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021. After this time, all notarial acts will revert to the original law requiring in-person presence by the principal signers.

Also expiring will be the time extension permitting an appointee to appear before a Register of Deeds within 90 days to take the oath of office. That time will revert back to 45 days.

As mentioned previously, the Secretary of State's Office worked with a stakeholder group over the fall that included realtors, the mortgage banking industry, title insurance, the NC Bar Association and others. We anticipate an extension of the temporary video notarization law soon as part of the second COVID budget bill, and a more permanent solution to be considered later this legislative session.

We will provide you additional updates as we know more.

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.



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: If I am notarizing a form using the Emergency Video Notarization act, is it okay if the signer is an NC resident but is signing from a remote location out of the state?

The answer is no. Each principal must be physically located in the state of North Carolina. The notary must record the county of the principal's location during the time of the notarial act in the required EVN journal:

<https://www.sosnc.gov/imaging/dime/webportal/55574300.pdf>

Q. A question sent to us via email: If asked, am I allowed to perform notarial acts in another state?

No. North Carolina notaries may notarize documents within all 100 counties of our state. Your commission only allows you to perform notarial acts in North Carolina. You may not notarize documents for people who are in another state or jurisdiction during the notarization.

Q: From the Facebook group: if I am not familiar with a particular legal document that I am asked to notarize, should I still notarize it?

Very good question. As a notary, it is not up to you to understand the contents of a document. Your responsibility is to perform the requested notarial act and verify the identity of the principal signer.

However, you may refuse to notarize any document that you suspect is fraudulent.

Q: From the Facebook group again: can I use a green card to verify identification?

Yes. Green cards are documents that show a person has permanent residency in the United States. As long as the document has the signer's picture and signature, it is authorized.

Q: Do I have to have a college degree to become a notary in NC?

No you do not, but you must be at least 18 years old or legally emancipated as defined in Article 35 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes. Also, you must have the equivalent of a high school diploma.

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.



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 7,652 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!



It has been almost ONE year since many of us started working from home and staying close to home due to the coronavirus pandemic.

So you didn't paint your entire home or write the great American novel like you said you would? That's okay. We didn't either.

But there are still things you can do while staying safe either at home or outdoors. Here are some below:

Test out your green thumb and start a garden

Paint an accent wall in ONE room

Learn a foreign language

Take up an online cardio or weight-training class

Create playlists for family and friends

Start a new TV series that you've been reading about on social media

Learn to cook or perfect your sous chef skills

Get engrossed in a good book

Tackle small home projects around the house, then move on to the larger ones

Dust off *Monopoly*, *Sorry* or your other board games stuffed way in the back of the closet

Journal

Pickle your fruits and vegetables

Pick up an indoor or outdoor hobby - paint pictures, grab some adult coloring books or crossword puzzles, ride a bike in your neighborhood, knit, learn how to play an instrument, perfect your chess game, etc.