

The Notary news

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



STAY SAFE + HEALTHY, NC NOTARIES!



Notaries, business is booming in our state - literally.

Record numbers of people in North Carolina are starting their own businesses, and I could not be any prouder. We recently announced that new business creations in 2021 are breaking the record set at this point in 2020.

In 2020, nearly 127,000 new business creations were filed with our Department's Business Registration Division. Between January and June 30, 2021, 96,000 new businesses have been filed.

We are on pace to break the record for all of 2020 sometime in August.

I'm proud of all of the businesses in this state - both small and large. The 2020 pandemic brought with it so many challenges personally and professionally, and there were too many businesses that had to close their doors. So this news gives us many rays of hope about the possibilities of the future.

Many of you have your own notarial or other types of businesses, so you know firsthand how crucial they are to our state's economy. And to those of you who aren't self-employed, I personally want to thank you for supporting your fellow notaries and other businesses in your area. Shopping local and with those whom you know, is more important now than ever before.

Let us know how we can continue to be helpful to you in performing your notarial acts. As we enjoy another great summer, continue to stay safe and healthy.

Elaine F. Marshall

If you have any questions for us, please reach out to the Department at notary@sosnc.gov. We are always happy to help.

Save the Date!

Welcome Home

The NC Secretary of State's Office Presents

Third Annual Electronic Mortgage Closing Conference

November 16-17, 2021

Charlotte Marriott City Center
Charlotte, North Carolina

Presenters From: FHLBank Atlanta, Freddie Mac and others

Topics Include: Evolution of eNotes, eTechnology Solutions & Advancements, and Future of Notarizations & eClosings

Registration & more information to follow



Notaries, we invite you to Save the Date for the **Third Annual Electronic Mortgage Closing Conference**, hosted by the NC Secretary of State's Office in downtown Charlotte on November 16-17, 2021.

The link to the registration website will be LIVE next month. We will send more information when the website is ready. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at econf@sosnc.gov.



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 Valley CC
Central Carolina CC
Central Piedmont CC

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

Lenoir CC
Mitchell CC
Pitt CC
Rockingham CC
Rowan Cabarrus CC
Southwest CC
Surry CC
Wake Tech CC



Fast Five Q & A

Q: Question from our Facebook Group: Does the principal have to appear before me with the subscribing witness?

The answer is no. To refresh your memory, a subscribing witness is a person who signs a record for the purpose of being a witness to the principal's execution of the record or to the principal's acknowledgment of his or her own execution of the record and is the central character when executing a verification or proof.

This notarial act does not require the principal ever to appear before the notary public. Instead, an impartial third party, the subscribing witness, is sent to "prove" that the principal did in fact sign the document.

Q: Question from our Facebook Group. Can we notarize domestic partner forms for health insurance?

Remember notaries - your job is to VERIFY that the signer is who they say they are. If they have proper identification and request a specific notarial certificate, you may perform that notarization.

We appreciate this question because it gives us an opportunity to remind each other that it is our role to check identification, not make a judgement call on what's in the document we are notarizing.

Q. From our email account: Can we cross out and initial a mistake on a notarial certificate?

Yes you may.

Q: From our email account: When should I begin the process of renewing my notary status?

You can start the renewal process anytime within 10 weeks prior to your commission expiration date. Click on the following link to start the renewal process:

https://www.sosnc.gov/Online_Services/Account/Sign_In?ReturnUrl=%2Fonline_services%2Fnotary%2Freappointment

Once you log in with your notary number and the last four digits of your social security number, follow the step-by-step instructions.

When our office receives your application in the mail, we will email you the oath notification letter with instructions to take your oath of office at the register of deeds in the county of your residence. If you need your notary number, click on the link below, which is also found to the right of that page:

https://www.sosnc.gov/online_services/notary/search_notary_number?returnUrl=/online_services/notary/reappointment

If you need to purchase the 2016 NC Notary Public Manual, follow the link below.

<https://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/notary/resources>

Q: Another popular question: How long will it take for my notary application to be processed?

Our office may take up to 2 weeks to process your application after we receive it as long as it is complete and correct. Keep in mind, it may take longer if the application is not complete, or in need of corrections.

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



Get To "Know" our Notaries!

Notaries, we know you are doing great things all over North Carolina, and we want everyone else to know it too. Beginning in the August newsletter and every month, we will feature our notaries (as long as we have submissions). We want to feature YOU!

We'll make it super easy. Just send us a picture of you, along with your name, where you are from, the number of years (or months) you have been a commissioned notary, and one fun fact that you want us to know about you.

Email 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 December 31, 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 9,106 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!



Walking Is Good

According to the Mayo Clinic, physical activity like walking is important for weight control because it helps you burn calories. If you add 30 minutes of brisk walking to your daily routine, you could burn about 150 more calories a day.

But walking isn't just for getting to and maintaining a healthy weight. It also can help reduce overall fat (including belly fat which is bad for our hearts).

Other benefits of walking include:

better sleep
increased cardiovascular and pulmonary fitness

reduced risk of heart disease and stroke
it puts us in a good mood
it strengthens our muscles
it supports our joints
...and it could potentially help us all to enjoy a longer life.

So grab your favorite workout gear, running shoes and a partner. Or, if you prefer to walk alone, take a device to play your favorite music or podcasts. Watch your surroundings to stay safe and pound those streets!



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