

The Notary news



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

Happy
Holidays
Notaries!

 Click To Play



Update on Remote Online Notarization

We wanted to update you briefly on the Remote Online Notarization legislation which is contained in [House Bill 776](#). The House passed its version of the bill many months ago. The Senate recently changed the bill to reflect its own version, but also included an amendment not related to remote notarization around government transparency of state employee records.

The legislation has now ended up in a conference committee and will be negotiated between the two chambers. If a compromise is not reached, the Secretary of State's Office is advocating for another Emergency Video Notarization extension into 2022. We will keep you up-to-date on its progress.

In the meantime, the Temporary Emergency Video Notarization law remains in effect until December 31, 2021.



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
Southeastern CC
Southwest CC
Surry CC
Wake Tech CC
Wilkes Tech CC



Fast Five Q &A

Q: Question posted on our Facebook Group: I'm a new notary and doing my first affidavit. If it doesn't have an area that says seal, do I still place my stamp somewhere on the bottom of the document? Or do I only need to give the oath?

One of the final steps to performing a proper notarial act is for the notary to affix an impression of the official notary seal. The seal must be placed near the notary's signature and on the same page as the notary certificate's wording.

If there is no space for your stamp, you may attach a notary certificate to the document.

Q: Another question from our Facebook page: My daughter and her partner need a document to be notarized so they can sign up for health insurance. I don't think it's a conflict of interest for me to notarize her document, but I want to be sure.

This question is asked so many times in our group. We know it's an important topic, so we are happy to keep answering it.

The answer is it depends. Notaries may notarize for family members as long as there is no financial or beneficial interest in the transaction.

N.C.G.S. 10B-20 (c)(5).

Since you are not the one applying for health insurance, technically you are not prohibited from notarizing your daughter's signature. When dealing with family members, after establishing that there is no financial or beneficial interest, the determination about notarizing should be based on the specific circumstances of the situation.

Q: A question we received via email: What can I do if my seal is too faint to read because of an uneven application or a bad impression?

This is another common situation that our notaries find themselves in.

What's important to remember is that your seal impression must be legible so another impression will need to be made near the initial one.

Do not try and correct the first impression with a pen or ink. You do not want to be accused of tampering with a document and causing it to be rejected. Notaries are actually prohibited from altering a notary seal impression.

Q: Another question that was emailed to us: My notary commission will expire on a certain date. Am I allowed to notarize a document on the date that my commission expires?

Yes, you may notarize up until midnight on the day that your commission expires.

For example, if your commission expires on December 1, 2021, you will be able to notarize the entire day on December 1st. Once the clock strikes midnight on December 2nd, you are no longer eligible to notarize documents.

Q: Are notaries who perform emergency video notarizations required to keep a journal? If it is required, what items do we need to record in it?

The notary is required to record the details of their emergency video notarization in a notary journal, and each notary is required to keep this journal for at least 10 years. The journal may be maintained in electronic form.

The following items must be in the journal:

- a. Time of day when the notary observed the signing of the document by each principal and was presented with the principal's acceptable form of identification
- b. Date of the completion of the emergency video notarization
- c. Last and first name of the principal signer
- d. Type of notarial act performed
- e. Type of document notarized or proceeding performed
- f. Type of acceptable form of identification presented including, if applicable, issuing agency and identification number on the identification presented
- g. Type of video conference technology used during the emergency video notarization
- h. Statement that the notary and each principal signer could see and hear each other
- i. Whether other persons were present in the room with the principal signer(s) and if so, the name of that person(s).

You may find a template of the emergency video journal for you to use on our website: <https://www.sosnc.gov/imaging/dime/webportal/55574300.pdf>

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. 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.





Courtney Atkins
Montgomery County

Courtney's been a notary since 2018.

Courtney loves serving her community in many areas and volunteering as much as possible.



David Hanein
Forsyth County

David has been a commissioned notary for 3 years.

Congratulations to David, who just started his new career as a branch manager at Piedmont Federal Savings Bank in Clemmons, NC.



December 2021

**The Emergency Video Notarization
due date has been extended to
sunset on December 31st, 2021**

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 10,087 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!





Shop Local, Ya'll!

It's Gift-Giving Season!

As the Office of the Secretary of State announced this summer, record numbers of people in North Carolina have started their own businesses and we are soooo happy for these entrepreneurs! In fact, new business creations in

2021 broke 2020's record for new business creation filings with our Business Registration Division. Between January and June 30, 2021, 96,000 new business creations were filed with our Department.

We know the pandemic has changed the way people shop, including increased growth and interest in online shopping. Yes, Amazon is super convenient, and you can have a package at your door faster than you can say NUTCRACKER. But here's a great fact: shopping local in your community makes dollars *and* sense!

There are tangible benefits from supporting local **shops, restaurants, food trucks, cafes, charities and businesses** this holiday season. So let's all pledge to shop and support local at least once this season!

- It's so convenient to go to your local restaurant and gift shop for instant gratification.
- You are supporting your friends and neighbors who have been hit hard by the pandemic.
- You are investing in your community, friends and neighbors.
- You are helping to create jobs.
- You are strengthening your local economy.
- You get introduced to creative products and yummy food dishes.
- Chances are, you'll be making more thoughtful purchases.
- You have the honor of supporting local non-profits.

There is a place for both national and local shops in our economy. However, when you shop local, the money stays in your community and ultimately everyone wins.

It's a well-known fact that for every \$100 spent at a locally-owned business, \$73 remains in the local economy. And that's something we ALL can get behind!



NC Secretary of State's Office
www.sosnc.gov | 919-814-5400 |
notarynews@sosnc.gov

