

The Notary news



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



We are starting the new year off with a bang!

Our office just announced that new business creations in 2021 outpaced every other year on record, and they have more than doubled from 2017. Overall, nearly 1.7 million new businesses have been created under my administration.

This news is huge for our state and our economy, and it's huge for you as notaries. Some of you have created new businesses since I've been in office. Congratulations to you. And if you aren't a business owner, your notarial duties are the reason that business transactions flow smoothly. So I salute you as well!

North Carolina is a place where people want to do business, and we are doing everything we can to help them turn their dreams into dollars in their pockets. When I say, **we** - I also mean **you** - my fellow notaries.

Serving as the front line of defense against document fraud and attempts at

forgery is more important as more and more businesses are being created in all 100 counties. I am here to tell you that your role is crucial, and it's important that you take advantage of all resources available to help you do your job.

Notaries, keep moving forward. We need you, and I personally thank you. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022, and look forward to what our office has in store to help you: more videos on popular notarial topics, another fireside chat, and other things to be announced throughout the year.

Thank you so much for your dedication.

Elaine J. Marshall

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

Update on Emergency Video Notarization

This is to alert you that, despite the vigorous efforts of the Secretary of State's Office and others to obtain a timely extension, the Emergency Video Notarization law expired on December 31, 2021. There appears to be legislative support for reinstating the Emergency Video Notarization law now that the General Assembly has returned to Raleigh.

On December 31, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., ALL notarial acts, traditional and electronic, reverted to the original law requiring in-person, physical presence by the principal or principals.

In addition, the General Assembly has been considering enacting a more permanent remote notarization law, however, those proposals remain in a conference committee. We do believe the General Assembly has an intention to adopt a permanent solution, but we are unable to forecast when it may act.

We will keep you updated on the status of these provisions when more information is available. In the meantime, keep visiting our website for more information.



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

Nash CC
Pitt CC
Rockingham CC
Rowan Cabarrus CC
Southeastern CC
Southwest CC
Surry CC
Wake Tech CC
Wayne CC
Wilkes Tech CC



Fast Five Q&A

Q: What is the latest edition of the notary public manual, and where can I purchase it?

The latest North Carolina Notary Public Manual was published in 2016. You may purchase it from the UNC School of Government. Here is the link to purchase the manual: <https://www.sog.unc.edu/publications/books/north-carolina-notary-public-manual-2016-print-version?fbclid=IwAR0btGRKJNz6g1yJ5Q5AzJRtX51WOzHbm-PIHGX3Nz2qrUA7PRXZHahSXxE>.

Q: A question that was emailed to us: My boss wants me to notarize a document that does not have a place to write when my commission expires. What do I do?

You are required to write the information on the notary certificate near your signature and notary seal. Simply write "My commission expires on _____.". If your expiration date is included on your seal, that will satisfy the statutory requirement.

Q: From the Facebook Group: I am no longer a notary in the state of North Carolina and moved to Colorado. What do I do with my stamp?

According to page 90 of the 2016 North Carolina Notary Public Manual, you are required to mail your seal via certified mail to our office within 45 days of your resignation.

NC Department of the Secretary of State

Attn: Notary Public Section

PO Box 29626

Our office will destroy the seal to make sure that it cannot be used again.

Q: From our email: I am a resident of Chatham County. Am I allowed to notarize in all 100 counties in North Carolina?

Absolutely. As a commissioned notary, you are allowed to notarize documents in all 100 counties of the state, not just in your county of commission.

Q: I am interested in becoming a Signing Agent. Do I do this through your office?

This is another question that we get asked quite a bit. First, we need to point out that signing agents are not recognized in North Carolina notary law, and our Division does not regulate these practices. Because we do not regulate signing agents' practices, we don't offer courses on how to become one.

Also, if you would like more detailed information on signing agents, please refer to page 62 in the 2016 North Carolina Notary Public Manual.

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 yourself, 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.



Sherry Spillman
Forsyth County

***Sherry's been a notary
since January 1989.***

She is a paralegal and a former division commander and public affairs specialist in the United States Coast Guard. Sherry also loves writing, photography and playing pickleball.



Hope Page
Cumberland County

***Hope has been a
commissioned notary
for 16 years***

Hope's fun fact is that she was a notary in Ohio before moving to North Carolina to become a commissioned notary here.



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 10,831 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!





The Ultimate New Year's Quiz

We are already in the New Year, and it's going to be a great one!

Here are the answers to last month's *How Stuff Works* quiz.
Let's see how smart everyone was:

What does "auld lang syne" mean?

"times go by" - CORRECT

"for the future"

"here and now"

Which place was the last to celebrate the new millennium on Jan.1, 2000?

Antarctica

Russia

Hawaii - CORRECT

During the Chinese New Year, what activity should you avoid to ward off bad luck?

wearing red

using scissors - CORRECT

cleaning the house

What year did the New Year's celebration in Times Square begin?

1904 - CORRECT
1912
1933

What fruit do New Year's revelers in Spain eat at the stroke of midnight?

oranges
grapes - CORRECT
pears

Which of the following is not eaten to symbolize a financial prosperous new year?

cabbage - CORRECT
pork
lentils

If you are superstitious, which of the following would you avoid eating on New Year's?

lobster - CORRECT
steak
fish



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