



The Notary Newsletter



The Department of the
NC Secretary of State



Enjoy Your Fourth of July!

Guess who's back...CONEZILLA! Click on the video above to see what Secretary Marshall is up to in her garden and the status of our FAVORITE celebrity plant.

We wish everyone a SAFE and HAPPY holiday. Happy Birthday, America!

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



Something You Should Know: *When A Principal Is Physically Disabled*

One of the greatest things we can do as human beings is to help one another. Being a notary public is an honorable profession, but our roles become even more honorable when we are able to help principals who need physical assistance through our notarial acts. This is covered under North Carolina General Statute 10-B-20(e). Also, refer to page 58 in your 2016 North Carolina Notary Public Manual.

If a principal with a physical disability is unable to sign his or her name, cannot move his or her hands, and cannot hold a pen in his or her mouth or any area of their body, the principal may designate another person to sign for them. The designee cannot be a signer or party to the document. And this is very important: that person cannot have any financial or beneficial interest in the transaction.

Here are the steps for this act:

- The person with disabilities will direct the designee to sign the document in his/her name while in the presence of two witnesses and you, the notary.
- The notary must check the designee's identification.
- The notary must write the following statement below the principal's signature: "Signature affixed by (designee) in the presence of (name and address of principal)."
- Finally, you notarize the signature through an acknowledgment, oath or affirmation, jurat, or verification.

If you have any questions for us, please reach out to the Department at



Fast Five Q&A

Q: From our FB Group: Someone asked me to notarize a car title that has already been signed by the seller. I don't think I can do this because I did not witness the seller's signature. Is this correct?

The most recent North Carolina titles only require the seller to appear before the notary. If the document requires an acknowledgment as opposed to an oath it does not need to be signed in front of the notary. The seller would simply need to acknowledge to the notary that he or she signed the document willingly.

Q: From our FB Group: This is my first time notarizing a mortgage document. I just want to be clear that the fee is \$5 per signature, not per page. Is this the case?

You are authorized to charge up to \$5 per signature notarized. The number of pages presented and the type of documents being notarized are typically inconsequential to calculating the fees that may be charged for notary services.

Q: I understand there are certain things that a NC notary may not do. Can you refresh my memory?

Check back on page 82 of your 2016 NC Notary Public Manual. According to the book, notaries cannot perform the following acts:

- Assist persons in preparing wills, mortgages, deeds, deeds of trust, or any legal document.
- Provide immigration consultation.
- Provide legal advice.
- Choose the appropriate notarial certificates to be placed on a document.

Additionally, notaries are not authorized to certify copies of documents, perform marriages or to serve as witnesses on documents they are notarizing.

Q: To piggyback on the last question, how can I as a notary determine which certificate a principal might need?

You cannot. It would be the unauthorized practice of law for a non-attorney notary to determine what type of notarial certificate is needed for a particular document. Most often when a document is presented for notarization there will be notarial certificate language provided with the document. In the event notarial certificate language is not provided you must ask the signer what type of notarization they would like.

You are authorized to offer them a selection of the statutory certificates that are available on the Department's website but the decision of which certificate to use is solely the signer's and NOT the notary's.

Feel free to direct the notary to our website to select the certificate of his or her choosing: [North Carolina Secretary of State Notary Notary Resources \(sosnc.gov\)](http://sosnc.gov)

Q: From our FB Group: My stamp has my county on it. I forget, is this the county that I live in or work in?

Don't worry. We get this question all the time. The county on your stamp is the county of your residence (unless you live in another state and only work in North Carolina). Remember, the "State of...County of..." section of the notary certificate must reflect the county where the notarization took place. If you moved to a new county after taking your oath of office, you will remain commissioned in the original county where you took your oath until your commission expires.

As a notary, you are allowed to notarize documents in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

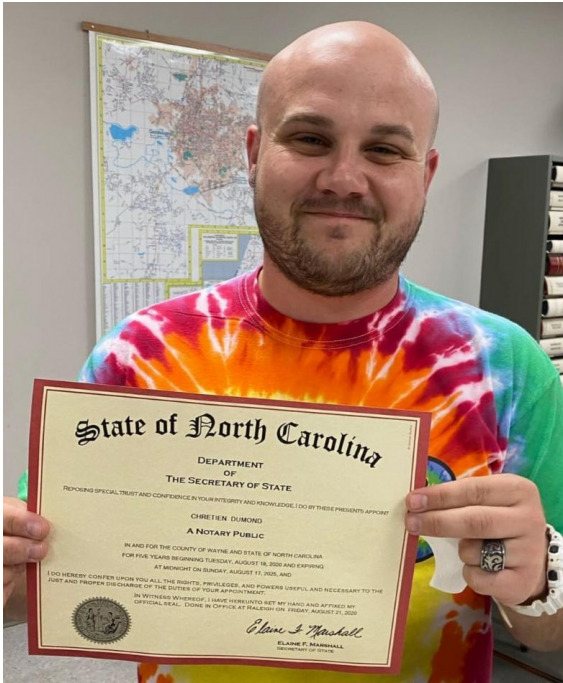
Do you have a question that you'd like us to answer for the **Fast Five**? Please send in your tips, practice ideas, and questions for us at notarynews@sosnc.gov.

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.



Chretien Dumond
Wayne County

Chretien's been a notary for almost two years.

My grandfather, Jim, who passed away 21 years ago, was a long standing Notary Public. He was so very proud to serve his community as a Notary, and I am just as proud to serve Wayne County and the State of North Carolina following in his footsteps!



Joyce Leak
Davidson County

Joyce has been a commissioned notary for 27 years.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of notarizing documents for several financial institutions. My company, Dove InnerCity Notary, provides loan signing services in Davidson, Davie and Forsyth Counties.



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 12,644 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 to 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!





SUMMER QUIZ

Summer is here! It's the hottest of the four seasons, and it's the time we love to gather, eat, travel, and enjoy the outdoors - safely, of course.

Here are the answers from last month's quiz. Let's see how well **you** summer...

- Two vegetables experience higher sales in August than during all the months of the year in the U.S. What vegetables are they? **Corn and squash**
- What summertime smell is said to elicit happy memories in all of us? **The smell of freshly cut grass**
- What was the most traditional way to make pink lemonade? **By adding a few drops of beet juice to regular lemonade**
- Which summer blockbuster film was the first to be promoted to the audience by expensive television advertising? **Jaws**

- Which month of the year is National Ice Cream Month?
July
- Which president hosted the first barbecue at the White House? **Lyndon Johnson**
- Which flower thrives in the sun because it loves the sun?
Sunflower
- True or False? Watermelon contains over 90% water.
True

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

