



The Notary Newsletter



The Department of the
NC Secretary of State

June, 2023

Join Us! For the 4th ANNUAL

eMortgage Closing

CONFERENCE



Ken Sykes
Conference Chair

October 24rd & 25th
Greensboro, NC
Grandover Resort & Spa



Elaine F. Marshall
NC Secretary of State

Presented by the Department of the NC Secretary of State

Click [here](#) to register for the conference

Click [here](#) to view Save The Date video

Registration is open!

It's time to register for the Fourth Annual eMortgage conference!

Join us at the Grandover Hotel & Spa in Greensboro on October 24 and 25, 2023.

We have a tentative agenda up on our registration page, but it will be updated as we add more speakers and information.

We encourage everyone to make their hotel reservations at the Grandover as our room block will sell out quickly. Our office has negotiated a great rate of

\$229 per night. Here's the link to make your hotel reservations: [Grandover Resort & Spa, a Wyndham Grand Hotel - Reservations - Room Availability \(synxis.com\)](#)

We are bringing the fun to the conference too by hosting a "playdate" on *October 23* for those who want to enjoy all of the amenities that the Grandover has to offer.

If you have any questions, email us at ateconf@sosnc.gov.

See you in Greensboro!

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.



EVN Is Back and REN Is On The Way

With the signing of House Bill 776 into law, Emergency Video Notarization (EVN) is restored until the end of June while work on Remote Electronic Notarization (REN) rules is underway. In the meantime, here is what you need to know now:

- **Emergency Video Notarizations** have resumed as a stop-gap measure to allow video notarizations while permanent REN procedures

are being put in place. *EVN expires on June 30, 2023 at 12:01am. The General Assembly is considering another extension until permanent rules are adopted for REN, which will happen after the deadline expires.*

- There are new or increased fees that notaries public across the state can charge now. The maximum fee that can be charged per principal signature is now \$10 for acknowledgments, jurats, and verifications or proofs. For oaths or affirmations without a signature, the maximum fee is now \$10 per person, except for the identity of a principal or subscribing witness. The fee for electronic notarizations under G.S. 10B-188 is \$15.
- For any notarial act under 10B, actual mileage at the current federal mileage rate can be charged if the travel reimbursement is agreed to by the principal in writing prior to travel. Always lookup the federal mileage rate to ensure you are charging the accurate fees.
- The new Remote Electronic Notarization fee will be \$25 per principal signature when REN becomes effective.

There are a lot of things that the Secretary of State's Office will have to work out over the coming months to get ready for REN. We are asking for your patience as we navigate this new law, and we are excited about the new opportunities that REN will open up for our notaries and our state.

Here is a link to EVN resources available on our website: [North Carolina Secretary of State Notary Emergency Video Notarization \(sosnc.gov\)](https://sosnc.gov/notary-emergency-video-notarization)

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

Will Remote Electronic Notarization (REN) Automatically Begin on July 1 When Electronic Video Notarization (EVN) Expires on June 30, 2023?

No, REN **will not** begin on July 1st, and there's nothing automatic about it. Although you may have heard July 1, 2023 as a "Go-Live" date, that is NOT what the statute actually says. July 1st is the date by which the Secretary of State "shall begin rulemaking to implement" REN, and "no temporary or permanent rule shall become effective prior to July 1, 2023."

So, one might wonder, when will North Carolina notaries be able to conduct remote electronic notarizations?

Drafting rules is labor intensive and time consuming. Besides creating new rules focused on REN, some existing Notary and E-Notary rules also must be revised so they are consistent with the upcoming REN rules. All rules must be adopted in accordance with the very deliberative notice-and-comment provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, and must meet the standards

established by an independent body, the North Carolina Rules Review Commission. The Secretary of State started work last Summer. Comments to inform rulemaking are being collected now. Click [here](#) for further information.

Once rules are finally adopted, REN launch preparation begins. Platforms and third party vendors must apply, be screened and licensed, and then contract with North Carolina notaries. The Notary Manual must be revised to incorporate all the changes to the law and rules. Forms must be prepared to make it easier for applicants to provide essential information. All notary training must be updated and community colleges engaged so North Carolina notaries may learn how the changes apply to them, and be trained, tested and authorized to conduct remote electronic notarizations. We will also have to coordinate with the Registers of Deeds so that notaries receive the proper commission. All these tasks must be completed before the first REN can be conducted.

So, when will North Carolina notaries be able to use REN?

The short answer is we don't yet know. But, just given the mandatory time lines that have to be met before we can adopt rules to even start the program, we expect it will be a year or more before the RENA is up and running.

There is little need for those planning to implement REN to wait for RENA to be fully effective when the tools of IPEN and EVN can be utilized today to perform notarial acts.

It is highly likely that those who implement REN will also incorporate IPEN and that both will be employed to service remote as well as in person customers. Click [here](#) for information on becoming an electronic notary.

Find A Notary



Find a Notary

[Current Notaries Register for Find A Notary.](#)

To find registered Notaries near you click search and allow tracking below or enter an address and click search, then use the filter button to display the Notary results.

To find registered Notaries near you, enter a location and click "Search":

City: State: Zip:


Map pins are only shown for registered Notaries who choose to provide an address. Use the map or buttons to view Notary info.

- [Browse Notary](#)
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- [Notary Public Manual](#)
- [Find a Notary](#)
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- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Notary/eNotary & eCommerce Resources](#)

As we add more and more notaries to our rolls, we want to make you aware of the FIND A NOTARY database located on the Secretary of State's website. This is a place where you can voluntarily add your own information so members of the public can find you when they are in need of your notarial services.

We put together this step-by-step instructional video, *We Hear You* (below) on how to add your name to the Find a Notary Database.


If you have questions, please feel free to send an email to notary@sosnc.gov.



We Hear You!

We're happy to help you add your information to the NCSOS

Notary Database.





Fast Five Q&A

Q: From our email: I heard from a fellow notary that we are required to keep a journal for video notarizations. Is this accurate?

Yes. In the Emergency Video Notarization Guidelines under the new law, notaries are required to keep a journal. We have added a journal template on our website for you to use (https://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/notary/Emergency_Video_Notarization).

Be sure to include these items in your 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 notarial certificate
- 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. Also state whether other persons were present in the room with the principal signer(s) and if so, include their name(s)..

The notary may want to include other documentation in the journal such as:

- i. An electronic recording using the video conference technology's recording and storage services, a video recording of the video conference using an

independent recording device like a Smart Phone, or electronically-saved screen shots of the transaction that clearly shows the face of each participant, any identification presented, and the notarized documents(s). This may be required by some interested parties to transactions, i.e. title insurance companies, mortgage lenders, or others

j. How the notary public confirmed that the document signed by the principal signer(s) during the emergency video notarization is the same as the one presented.

Q: From our FB Group: Can I decide what kind of notarial act or certificate they need if the person did not provide one?

No. A notary must always ask the signer what type of notarization is needed when a document is presented to a notary for notarization without a notary certificate. Notaries are not authorized to determine which type of certificate should be used.

However, if the document does not have a pre-printed notary certificate, the notary may allow the signer to choose from all of the certificates available and select the one that he or she would like the notary to execute.

Q: From our FB Group: How do you redact an entry in a notary journal? One of our notaries started filling out the information in her journal, and the principal changed his mind and decided he did not want his document notarized. Should she use a black sharpie and mark through his information?

Yes, things do happen and people do change their minds. We get it. However, you don't need to redact anything. Just use the notes section of your journal to write that the notarial act was abandoned based on the circumstances.

Q: From our FB Group: I tried to renew my notary commission and failed my test. Do I need to take the notary class again?

In order to be re-commissioned, you must take and pass the online exam (80% or better, 3 chances within 30 days).

If you do not pass your test the third time, you are required to take the notary class again.

Q: How can I find out how to authenticate a notarized document so I can use it outside of the United States?

You can contact the Authentications Unit in the Business Registration Division of our office by calling 919.814.5400 or emailing us at authen@sosnc.gov.

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

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.



Robin McNeal
Durham County

*She has been a
commissioned notary
for a little over a year*

Robin is the postmaster of Hillsborough, NC. She enjoys singing and is the praise and worship leader at her church in Durham.



Tanita Tilman
Davidson County

*She has been a
commissioned notary
since 2022*

Tanita is a horror fanatic and a gamer mom.



**Myra Anthony
Carberry**

Cumberland County

*She has been a notary for
more than 26 years
(working for the same
attorney)*

Myra loves spending time with her husband and daughter. She loves Disney World and traveling. Myra also loves to hunt for shark's teeth at the beach. And, she's a fan of the UNC Tarheels and the Carolina Panthers.



**C. Susanna
Jaikaran**

Durham County

*Susanna has been a
notary since 2009*

Susanna is a notary instructor. She's also employed by Durham Technical Community College and Sport Durst Automotive. Susanna says staying busy keeps her out of trouble.



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 16,465 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!





Foods Ideas for Backyard Get-Togethers

It's Cookout Season! Time to fire up the grill, clean the pollen off the outdoor furniture, dust off the tiki torches, and add new stations to your Bluetooth radio.

We all know nothing beats good company and food from the grill. It's not nice to show up to a cookout empty handed, so we thought we would give you some ideas to take to your next outdoor shindig.

Or, if it's *your* turn to host this year, we have some fresh ideas for ya:

Click on each food item for the recipe:

[Beer Batter Hushpuppies](#)

[Baby Back Ribs](#)

[Shrimp Kabobs](#)

Southern Style Potato Salad

BBQ Meatballs

Chinese Chicken Pasta Salad

Southern Red Velvet Cake



NC Secretary of State's Office
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