

The Notary news



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

STAY SAFE + HEALTHY, NC NOTARIES!

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File Edit Share View Audio & Video Participant Meeting Help



ATL WebEx (Host)

Unmute Start video Share



Unmute Start video Share

* * HANGING OUT WITH OUR NOTARIES * *

Last Friday, we hosted our **first** Virtual Notary Fireside Chat where we heard a special message from Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. Ozie Stallworth, the Director of Electronic Notarization and Notary Enforcement, answered your notary questions LIVE, and y'all had a lot of great questions!

Thank you to the notaries who submitted questions ahead of time, and those who squeezed some in on the chat feature. We know we can never get to them all, so don't forget the other great resources available to you:

- The 2016 NC Notary Public Manual
- Monthly Newsletter Archives which can be found here: https://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/notary/newsletter_archive
- The NC Notary Facebook Group
- Email your questions to us at notary@sosnc.gov

So *what's next?* We have a lot of great things planned for 2021:

- More Notary Fireside Chats
- Videos on a variety of different notarial topics
- Facebook Live Events

Look for dates in the coming weeks. We appreciate everyone's *patience and engagement.*

Here's the recording of the Fireside Chat: [YouTube Channel](#)

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



Remote Online Notarization

As we have discussed in this newsletter on multiple occasions, the Secretary of State's Office has been working with and providing technical support to a stakeholder group working on making a remote online notarization (RON) law permanent. The current emergency video notarization law has been extended through December 31st of this year.

The Senate has filed its version of a permanent RON bill, and the House is expected to file its version in the next few weeks. The agency has been providing technical input to both House and Senate staff. We anticipate the two versions will be different.

We will keep you updated when a bill starts to move in committee and provide you additional information as we know it.



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

Coastal Carolina CC
Craven CC
Davidson County CC

Mitchell CC
Pitt CC
Rockingham CC

Blue Ridge CC
Brunswick CC
Cape Fear CC
Catawba Valley CC
Central Carolina CC
Central Piedmont CC

Fayetteville CC
Forsyth Tech CC
Gaston CC
Guilford CC
Johnston Tech CC
Lenoir CC

Rowan Cabarrus CC
Sandhills CC
Surry CC
Wake Tech CC



Fast Five Q &A

Q: As a notary, are we allowed to cross out and initial a mistake on a notary certificate?

The answer is yes. Strike through any error and add the correction as close to the original error as possible. It is wise to initial and date next to the correction. It is the notary's responsibility to ensure that all information in the notary certificate is correct before affixing the notary signature and seal.

Remember that the notary should NEVER make any corrections or changes to the document or the signature lines on the document.

Q. A question sent to us via email: What if the document that I'm asked to notarize doesn't have a notarization section? Do I just write it out by hand?

When a document is presented without notarial wording on it, the notary must ask the principal, "What type of notarization would you like?".

If the signer does not know, the law authorizes notaries to offer them a selection of statutory certificates they can choose from. Once the signer selects the type of notarial act, the notary may hand write it on the document or attach a notary certificate to the back of the signature page and complete it.

Notary certificates can be found on the Department's website [here](#).

Q: From the Facebook group: Is it allowable for a Notary Public to notarize the signature of their parent for a City Residential Building Permit for the building of a wheelchair ramp at their private home where the parents are disabled? The notary will NOT receive any financial benefit from this document, other than being able to help family members.

Although the law does not prohibit notaries from notarizing for family members, it is a BEST PRACTICE to refrain from doing so if possible.

Often times, family members will have a financial or beneficial interest, which would disqualify the notary. But even in instances where there is no interest, it is recommended that a notary with no family ties perform the notarization to limit any potential future challenges to the execution of the document.

Q: Is there a state requirement on the pen color that notaries must use?

There are no official requirements, but it is customary business practice to use pens with blue or black ink.

Q: Are notaries allowed to take a signer's acknowledgment over the telephone or by email?

No, you may not take an acknowledgment over the telephone or by email.

However, you do have Emergency Video Notarization (EVN) options for you to use. Visit our EVN Resource page [here](#) for detailed instructions on performing a remote notarial act utilizing audio video communication tools.

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.



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 8,437 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!





U.S. HOTEL LOBBIES:

Even If Some Don't Plan To Travel This Year, We Can Still Dream

More than 130 million adults have received at least one dose of a vaccine. However, some people still plan to put their travel plans on hold just a little while longer. That's okay.

If you aren't quite ready to leave the Old North State and venture out across the country, we've found some stunning hotel lobbies and spaces that will make you go OOH!

And, don't forget to put these places on your bucket list for when you are ready to jet set again!

In order:

- *Chancellor's House in Oxford, MS (above)*
- *The Phoenician, Scottsdale, AZ (above)*
- *Willard InterContinental Hotel in Washington, DC*
- *The Fairmount, San Francisco, CA*
- *Hotel Indigo, Downtown Los Angeles, CA*
- *Thompson Chicago, IL*







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