

The Notary news



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



Happy New Year, Notaries!

Can you believe it? *2022 has finally arrived.*

It's been an unpredictable last two years with the pandemic, so just like you - I am looking forward to a fresh start.

I wanted to keep the 2022 New Year message simple and say just two words: **THANK YOU**. Each and every one of you went the extra mile with your notarial acts last year, and believe me, it didn't go unnoticed.

Whether you were conducting Emergency Video Notarizations, brushing up on your notarial skills, calling us to get your questions answered, or even sharing accurate information on the Facebook group, I applaud you for working hard to ensure that economic transactions weren't jeopardized. I know it has not been an easy year, but you all rolled up your sleeves and persevered.

Being a notary in our state is not for the faint of heart. It can be a thankless job for little pay, but I am truly happy to be in great company with my brothers and sisters in our state.

During my [safe] travels across our state, many of you stopped me to say hello and let me know that you were a notary too. You also commented on our monthly newsletters and the many other resources we provide for you. You are the reason we work so hard to make sure you have what you need, and our staff is happy to do whatever they can to help you.

So let's pop the bubbly to ring in a new year and stay focused on doing a great job for the citizens of North Carolina. I wish you all good health and spirits, and *please please please* remember that we are still in a pandemic. I know people are growing tired and weary, but we cannot let up on our safe practices now.

Thank you so much for your dedication. Have a Happy New Year!

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 when the General Assembly returns in January.

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

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: I was recently gifted company stock as a bonus from my employer. Am I now unable to perform notarial acts for my company?

Congratulations on your bonus. The answer is you may continue to serve in your role as a notary. According to page 64 in your 2016 North Carolina Notary Public, a notary who is an employee of a party shall not be disqualified solely because of the notary's employment by a party to the record or solely because the notary owns stock in a party to the record.

Q: A question that was emailed to us: I have a request from someone who needs something notarized in an assisted living center, but they are not allowed to have visitors due to the rising COVID cases. How can I notarize his document?

If, as we anticipate, the sunset is extended on the Emergency Video Notarization (EVN) law, utilizing that will be the best option, allowing notaries to perform remote notarizations while using a video conference tool such as Webex, Zoom, TEAMS, etc.

However, the EVN law has expired at this point and all notarial acts must be conducted in the traditional manner requiring in-person, physical presence by the principal or principals.

Q: An emailed question: Are we allowed to fax in our re-commissioning application?

We don't accept faxed applications. The original document must be sent to us via mail for processing.

Q: From the Facebook Group: Can a notary notarize a last will and testament which was created by that individual and not an attorney?

Yes, you are able to perform this notarial act. You are notarizing the signature and are not responsible for the contents of the document.

Q: What forms of ID are acceptable to identify a person requesting notarization? This question is asked quite a bit in our Facebook group.

Satisfactory evidence of identity includes one current federal or state issued identification card with a picture of the principal's face and their physical description or signature.

Sample forms of acceptable identification include:

- State driver's licenses and identification cards
- Passports (Foreign or Domestic)
- Retired or dependents military ID cards
- Cards issued by recognized state tribal agencies

Let's do a quick refresher of what forms are **NOT** acceptable.

- Social Security cards
- US Passport cards
- Matrícula consular cards
- Credit cards
- Temporary driver's licenses
- Newer active duty military ID cards (per page 31 of the Manual, the newer military ID cards cannot be used because the signature and physical description are embedded in a computer chip)

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.

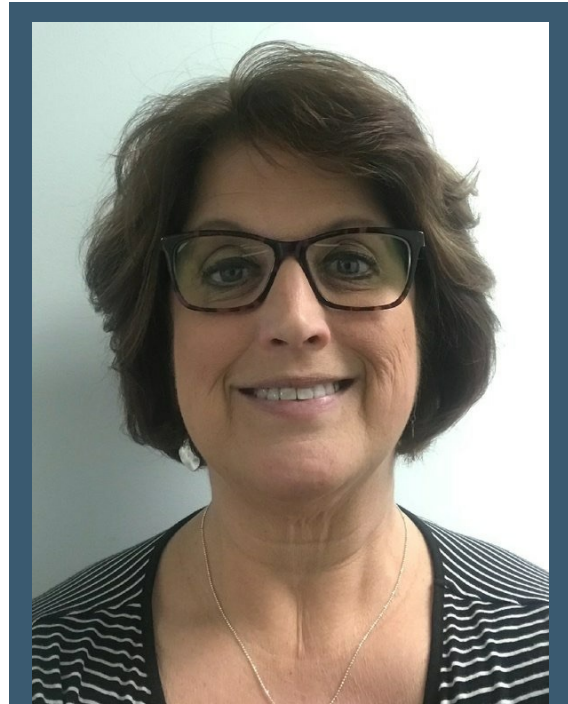
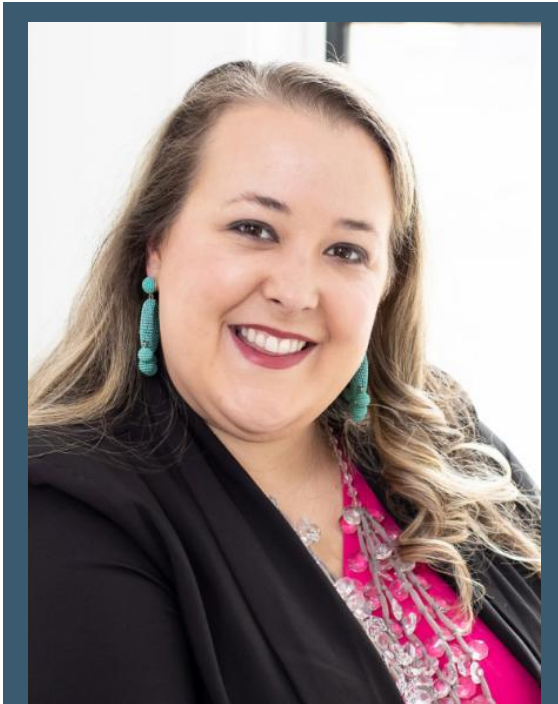


Get To "Know" our Notaries!

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.



Ashley Berger
Buncombe County

*Ashley's been a notary
for about 7 years.*

Her fun fact is that she
writes a food blog.

Donna Hutchens
Yadkin County

*Donna has been a
commissioned notary
for 30 years.*

Donna says she cannot wait to
retire and enjoy life.



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 10,367 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

Pop the bubbly and bring on 2022! As we navigate the Omicron variant and continue working to emerge from this pandemic, the new year will look a little different. That's okay, because we are all happy to celebrate a new beginning. Cheers to everyone!

You think you know a lot about New Year's traditions? Let's test your knowledge with a fun New Year's Quiz by *How Stuff Works*. We'll reveal the answers in the next newsletter.

What does "auld lang syne" mean?

"times go by"

"for the future"

"here and now"

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

Antarctica

Russia

Hawaii

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

wearing red

using scissors
cleaning the house

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

1904
1912
1933

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

oranges
grapes
pears

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

cabbage
pork
lentils

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

lobster
steak
fish



