



The Notary Newsletter

The Department of the
NC Secretary of State



It's NC State Fair Season, Notaries!

I hope you are getting ready. We here at the NC Secretary of State's Office certainly are. The 154th North Carolina State Fair kicks off in a few short days: **Thursday, October 13 and runs through Sunday, October 23.**

It's our state's largest annual event with more than 800,000 people coming from all over for games, rides, exhibits, agriculture, local vendors, and yes the food. Turkey legs, ham biscuits, fried fish & shrimp, hush puppies, cotton candy, and of course, sweet tea to name a few of the treats. Come hungry!

For years, our office has hosted a booth in the Kerr Scott Building, and I've had the pleasure of meeting so many of you who stop by to let me know that you are a fellow notary. We'll be there again this year, so I want to personally invite you to come see us.

You'll be greeted by my wonderful staff as they share information about the different Divisions in our office. You can find out information important for notaries to know, learn how to register your business and what resources we have for business owners, learn about our work protecting consumers from dangerous counterfeit products, get information about how you can file your advance health care directives on our secure online registry, learn how to avoid investment scams, and much more.

I'll be out at the booth sometime too, so please say *HI* when you see me, and don't forget to let me know that you are a notary too!

Elaine A. Marshall

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



Last year, Secretary Elaine Marshall and Ozie Stallworth (Director of Electronic Notarization and Enforcement and long-time notary instructor) hosted a *virtual* FIRESIDE CHAT where NC notaries got a chance to ask their burning notarial questions.

We received great feedback from you asking us to do more of these.

So... we decided it's time to take this show on the road (safely) with a series of Notary Chats! Secretary Marshall and Ozie will be going to a few locations around the state this year and in 2023, giving notaries a chance to hear important updates and ask questions in person. Secretary Marshall and Ozie are excited to bring their combined expertise and years of experience in notarizations to a location near you as part of their commitment to serve as resources to notaries whenever they can.

Select sessions will be recorded and ultimately be archived in the notary section of the Secretary of State's website, sosnc.gov. Although these events are **FREE**, registration is required due to space constraints.

The next one will be held on **Monday, October 24 at 12pm at Wake Technical Community College's Scott Northern Campus in Raleigh, NC.** Thank you to Wake Tech for allowing us to use your space.

Click here for the registration page:
https://sosnc.gov/online_services/Event_Registration/Front_Page/39

If you have any questions about these notary chats, please email notarynews@sosnc.gov.

Notarizing Absentee Ballots for



[Play Instructional Video - By Clicking Here or on Above Image](#)

Notarizing An Official Absentee Ballot Return Envelope

Labor Day has passed, the leaves are changing and fall is officially here! That can only mean one thing, the 2022 midterm elections are around the corner – **Tuesday, November 8th to be exact.**

Absentee ballots are required to be witnessed either by two witnesses or by a single notary. The part that you will be focusing on is on the back of the return envelope.

You **MAY NOT** charge a fee for this service.

Here are some quick reminders in case you are asked to notarize an absentee ballot:

- You must ensure that you are in the same physical location as the voter. Personal appearance is a requirement for absentee ballots. Temporary Emergency Video Notarization **CANNOT** be used. Make sure you positively identify the voter just as you would do for any notarial act. This is not a result of any type of voter ID requirement or law – this is the standard operating procedure for performing any notarial act
- After the voter marks the ballot and places it in the envelope, he or she will seal it and sign and complete Step 2 of the envelope. Make sure you observe the voter mark the ballot and sign the envelope. You want to make sure they are marking the ballot, but be sure to respect their privacy and refrain from attempting to see how they are voting.
- Sign and complete Step 3 of the envelope. Make sure you provide the date, the voter's name, and complete the certificate by signing your name, affixing your seal, and writing your commission expiration date and the county where this notarial act took place. This is the section that, in notary terms, would be considered the notary certificate.
- If you suspect fraud or forgery, you have an obligation to refuse the notarization.

You cannot notarize the document if you are a North Carolina notary who works at or owns a hospital, clinic, nursing home, or adult care home and the voter is a patient or resident in your facility.

Also, if you hold a federal, state, or local elective office, or if you are a campaign manager or hold an office in a political party you cannot notarize the document. Please refer to the flap of the Official Ballot Return Envelope for more information.

Hop on the NC State Board of Election's Website at www.ncsbe.gov for more information. We will post the Absentee Voting Instructions and a sample of the Official Ballot Return Envelope on the notary section of our website.

We thank all of our notaries for taking their role in the 2022 Election seriously.

We ask that you take your time to ensure you are not doing anything that might prevent the voter's ballot from being counted. If you have any questions about how to notarize absentee ballots, call us at 919.814.5400 or email us at notary@sosnc.gov.



EVN Is Back and RON Is On The Way

With the signing of House Bill 776 into law, Emergency Video Notarization (EVN) is restored until next June when a new Remote Online Notarization (RON) program is implemented. In the meantime, here is what you need to know now:

- **Emergency Video Notarizations (EVN)** have resumed as a stop-gap measure to allow video notarizations while permanent RON procedures are being put in place. *EVN expires on June 30, 2023 at 12:01am.*
- Once RON becomes effective in 2023, you must be a commissioned e-notary to perform remote notarizations under RON (unless you are a court reporter).
- 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 federal mileage rate can be charged if the travel reimbursement is agreed to by the principal in writing prior to travel. (The State of NC uses the federal mileage rate of 62.5 cents per mile.)
- The new Remote Online Notarization fee will be \$25 per principal

signature when RON becomes effective in **July of 2023**.

There are a lot of things that the Secretary of State's Office will have to work out over the next year to get ready for RON. We are asking for your patience as we navigate this new law, and we are excited for the new opportunities that RON 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://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/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.



Fast Five Q&A

Q: A question that was emailed to us: I have been a commissioned notary since 1992. I know that NC Notaries that were commissioned in 1991 were "Grandfathered" in so they don't have to take the test for re-commission.

Are there plans to move the year up anytime soon?

Any changes to the notary statute have to be made by the NC General Assembly. We are not aware of any plans to change the "Grandfathered" date at this time.

Q: From our FB Group: Since it's been announced that the pandemic is over, does that mean Emergency Video Notarizations are over too?

We know that Governor Roy Cooper ended the state's COVID-19 State of Emergency in August, but notaries may still perform Emergency Video Notarizations (EVN) until June 30, 2023. For information on EVN resources and information, please visit: https://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/notary/Emergency_Video_Notarization

We also encourage all notaries to stay as safe and healthy as possible as COVID-19 is still potentially dangerous.

Q: From our FB Group: I have a notary fee schedule sign posted outside our business, and we get quite a few customers asking for a copy of the sign when they come in to get something notarized. Can we charge for these copies?

Yes you can charge a fee for copies since it is a special service outside of performing notarizations.

Q: From our FB Group: Just to clarify, we can charge \$10 per signature even if it's the same signature? If one person signs his or name three times, we still charge \$30, right?

You are correct. You are charging the notary up to \$10 per signature - not per person. So if there are three signatures being notarized, the maximum fee you may charge is \$30.

Q: I have a question about notarizing something for someone. They need me to notarize a certified copy of their driver's license and utility bill. I thought I read that we were not allowed to do this.

North Carolina notaries are not authorized to certify copies of any document. There may be an alternative in situations where the document is not a vital record such as a birth certificate, death certificate, marriage license or another document with restrictions or prohibitions against photo copying it.

The signer may choose to write and sign a statement where he or she swears or affirms that they made a true and accurate copy of a particular document and request the notary to administer an oath and complete a jurat certificate.

This may or may not be a satisfactory solution for the individual needing to present a certified copy of a document.

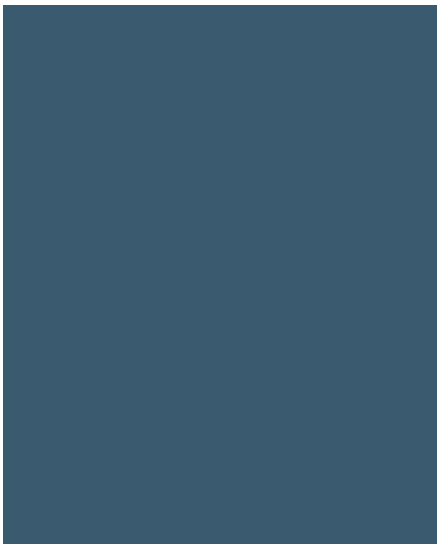
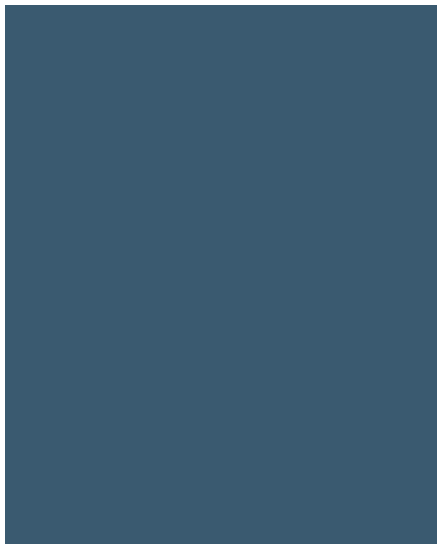
Do you have a question that you'd like us to answer for the **Fast Five**? Please send in your tips, practice ideas, and questions for us at notarynews@sosnc.gov.

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.





**Cheryl "CJ"
Johnson**

Mecklenburg County

*CJ's been a commissioned
notary
since 2000*

She was born and raised in the Queen City. CJ loves jigsaw puzzles and riding her Harley-Davidson. She's even ridden it from North Carolina to Florida.



Lucy Doll

Yancey County

*Lucy has been a
commissioned notary
for 12 years*

Lucy tried to join the Coast Guard in 1970, but she was told that she was too short.



Melody Council

Wake County

*She has been a notary
for 24 years.*

Melody says she loves giving back to the community. Every fourth Tuesday, she feeds the homeless at a local women's shelter a hot, delicious home-cooked meal.



Janet Wentz

Mecklenburg County

*Janet has been a notary
for more than 35 years.*

Her fun fact is that she took Irish dance lessons as an adult and participated in several competitions, winning gold,

silver and bronze in the various styles of Irish dance.



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 13,695 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!





THE STARS OF THE NC STATE FAIR: THE YUMMIES

Okay, y'all. You know we couldn't end this newsletter without showing you some of the goodness you'll see at this month's NC State Fair. We can't wait to dig in either, believe us!

Send us your pics with your favorite state fair delicacies so we can post some of them in the next newsletter and on the notary Facebook page.



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



North Carolina Secretary of State | 2 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

[Unsubscribe bgarner@sosnc.gov](mailto:bgarner@sosnc.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by notarynews@sosnc.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!