



CHANGES ARE COMING...

A new law has passed for RI notaries. Title 42, Chapter 30.1 "Uniform Law on Notarial Acts" was added to the Rhode Island General Laws and **goes into effect on January 1, 2019**. The new law strengthens and modernizes the office of Notary Public.



Need more information?

See [Chapters 104 and 109 of the 2018 RI Public Laws](#).

2018 RI PUBLIC LAWS



[CHAPTERS 104 and 109](#)

HOW WILL THE NEW LAW HELP RI NOTARIES?

The new law provides clear procedures and rules, access to modern notary tools and greater protections for notaries and consumers of their services.

WHAT DO RI NOTARIES NEED TO KNOW?

Here are a few highlights from the new law:



NOTARY STAMP

Every RI Notary will be required to have a notary stamp. The Stamping device must:

- Include the notary public's name as it appears on their commission, the words "notary public" and jurisdiction;
- Be capable of being copied together with the record to which it is logically associated;

Note: Embossing seals do not photo copy and will no longer be an acceptable notary stamp. The notary stamp must be an inked device.



QUALIFICATION STATEMENT

Every applicant (new and renewals) will be required to complete a qualification statement and disclose any criminal convictions involving fraud, dishonesty or deceit. The RI Department of State will determine whether to deny, refuse to renew, revoke, suspend or condition the commission.



See 2018 RI Public Law

[Chapter 104 § 42-30.1-16 a\(3\)](#)



ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION

New and existing notaries may perform notary acts electronically. You must select an approved tamper evident technology and notify the Notary Division that you will be performing electronic notary acts. Information about approved technology solutions and filing requirements will be posted at



sos.ri.gov/divisions/notary-public.



PROHIBITED USE OF THE TERM "NOTARIO PÚBLICO"


RI notaries may not use the term "notario público" unless they are an attorney licensed to practice law in this state. A notary public commission does not authorize individuals to give legal advice or act as an immigration consultant or expert.

 **See 2018 RI Public Law Chapter 104 § 42-30.1-18**



NOTARIES CAN REFUSE TO PERFORM A NOTARIAL ACT


If you are asked to perform a notarial act and you are not satisfied that the participant is competent; understands what they are signing or is not willing to freely sign the document, you can refuse to perform the notarial act.

 **See 2018 RI Public Law Chapter 104 § 42-30.1-7**



EVALUATION TOOL

Prior to receiving a commission, all new notaries will be required to take a knowledge assessment to demonstrate they have sufficient knowledge of the powers and duties of a RI notary public.

 **Test your notary knowledge now!**
sos.ri.gov/divisions/notary-public

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THE NEW LAW?

- Continue to perform notarial duties under the old law until December 31, 2018
- [Review Chapter 104](#)
- Obtain your self-inking notary stamp from a business supply retailer in-store or online
- [Review educational tools available on the RI Department of State website](#)
- Visit the RI Department of State website for updates and information
sos.ri.gov/divisions/notary-public

NOTARY PUBLIC MANUAL



NOTARY PUBLIC TOOLKIT



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