

## Remote Notarization Orders | Updated December 15, 2022

Updates this week include: **Illinois and Rhode Island.**

Last week's updates include: *No updates this week.*

**Alabama's** Republican Gov. Kay Ivey issued a [proclamation](#) on March 26, 2020 temporarily relaxing rules regarding remote notarizations. This proclamation authorizes notaries who are licensed attorneys or operating under the supervision of a licensed attorney to notarize signatures through video conferencing programs. This proclamation [expired alongside the state-of-emergency on July 6, 2021](#). [A second supplemental](#) proclamation was issued on April 2, 2020 outlining further requirements for remote notarizations.

**Alabama** [SB 275](#) was signed by Republican Gov. Kay Ivey on May 25 to authorize the use of remote notarization for acknowledgments and to validate remote notarizations which occurred before July 1, 2021. The bill will go into effect on July 1.

**Alaska** [HB 124/Chapter 24](#) was signed by Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy on April 30, 2020 and took effect immediately. This act authorizes the notarization and conveyance of electronic documents in the state.

**Arizona** [Executive Order 2020-26](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Doug Ducey on April 8, 2020. This bill waives the July 1 effective date of 2019's [SB 1030](#), an act which authorizes remote online notarization in the state. Under the executive order, the act took effect immediately, allowing remote notarizations to begin taking place.

**Arkansas** Executive Order [EO 20-12](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson on March 31, 2020 and will last for the duration of the state-of-emergency. This order allows notarial acts to be performed using real-time audio and video communication technology, if certain requirements are met by the notary and customer. [EO 21-07](#) further extends these provisions through May 30, 2021. This order is currently expired.

**Colorado** [Executive Order D 2020-019](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. Jared Polis on March 27, 2020 and remained in effect until April 26, 2020. This executive order temporarily suspends the requirement that an individual making a statement or executing a signature appear personally before a notary public. It further directs the secretary of state to issue emergency rules to authorize online remote notarizations using audio-video communication. [The emergency rules](#) were adopted on March 30, 2020 and will be in effect no longer than 120 days.

An updated executive order, [Executive Order D 2020-030](#), was issued on April 6 and extended Executive Order D 2020-19 through April 30, 2020. A third order, [Executive Order D 2020-47](#), was issued on April 30, 2020 and extended remote notarization provisions through May 30, 2020. A fourth extension, [Executive Order D 2020-87](#), was issued on May 29, 2020 and extended these provisions through June 28, 2020.

[SB 96](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Jared Polis on June 26, 2020 and took effect January 1, 2021. This act authorizes notaries public to perform remote notarizations on behalf of individuals who are not in the notary's physical presence, but only on an electronic document. The notarizations must be performed using real-time audio-video communication.

On October 15, 2020, the Secretary of State's office [extended temporary](#) rules authorizing the continuance of remote notarizations. These rules were [adopted permanently](#) on December 1, 2020.

**Connecticut** [Executive Order No. 7Q](#) was issued on March 30, 2020 by Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont. This executive order contains provisions which permit any notarial act in the state to be performed using remote audio-video communication technology, provided the notarization process meets certain standards. This was later extended for the duration of the ongoing state of emergency by [Executive Order No. 7ZZ](#), which was [extended through February 15, 2022](#). These provisions have expired.

**Delaware** Democratic Gov. John Carney issued the [Eleventh Modification: State of Emergency](#) on April 15, 2020; it will remain in effect for the duration of the state-of-emergency. This order authorizes the use of remote notarization for any type of notarial act required under state law.

[SB 247](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. John Carney on July 16, 2020 and took effect January 1, 2021. This act extends protections for the performance of remote notarization put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic through June 30, 2021.

**Delaware** [HB 216](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. John Carney on June 30 and took effect immediately. Under previous law, remote notarization provisions were scheduled to expire on June 30, 2021. This act extends those provisions through June 30, 2022.

**Delaware** [SB 262/Chapter 425](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. John Carney on September 9. Section 12 took effect immediately, the remaining sections will take effect on August 1, 2023. This act adopts the Uniform Law Commission's Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, which will authorize remote notarization in the state. Section 12 extends the existing authority granted to Delaware attorneys to conduct remote notarizations until the effective date of the bill.

**District of Columbia** [B23 750](#) was signed by Democratic Mayor Muriel Bowser on May 13, 2020 and expired on August 11, 2020. That act temporarily allowed for remote notarizations in the state during the ongoing public health emergency. [B23 759](#), which was signed June 19, 2020 and extended those provisions through September 6, 2020, also included provisions expanding what is considered satisfactory evidence of an individual's identity to include certain credible witness oaths and modified certain record-keeping requirements. [B23 758](#), an act extending these provisions, was signed by Mayor Bowser on October 29, 2020 and will expire on May 21, 2021.

District of Columbia [B23-750](#), effective May 13, 2021, authorizes the performance of remote notarizations through August 11, 2021. These provisions were again extended through February 4, 2022 by [B24 140](#). These provisions have since expired.

The **Florida** Supreme Court issued [Administrative Order No. AOSC20-16](#) on March 18, 2020, which remained in effect for the duration of the state-of-emergency. This order authorized notaries to swear-in witnesses remotely using audio-video communication technology. It also temporarily waives court rules prohibiting the use of audio-video communication technology for all other court related matters.

**Georgia** [Executive Order No. 03.31.20.01](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Brian Kemp on March 31, 2020, and expired on [April 15, 2022](#). This executive order allowed for the use of real-time audio-video communication technology to satisfy the requirements that notarizations be performed in-person.

[Executive Order No. 04.09.20.01](#) was issued by Governor Kemp on April 9, 2020 and will last the duration of the declared public health emergency. This order further requires any notarizations in the state to be performed remotely using two-way audio-video technology.

**Hawaii** [Executive Order 20-02](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. David Ige on March 29, 2020 and remained in effect throughout the state-of-emergency, which expired on [March 25, 2022](#). This order authorized the performance of notarial acts using audio-video technology, and suspended all notarization rules requiring close physical contact. On May 5, 2020, Governor Ige released the [Seventh Supplemental Emergency Proclamation](#), which further outlines rules relating to remote notarizations.

[SB 2275/Act 054](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. David Ige on December 10, 2020 and took effect January 1, 2021. This act authorizes notaries public to perform notarial acts for persons not in the physical presence of the notaries public and outlines the manner in which notaries public may do such notarial acts, including authorized technologies and electronic stamping.

**Illinois** [Executive Order 2020-14](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker on March 26, 2020 and will remain in force for the duration of the state's declared disaster. This executive order waives the requirement that a person physically appear before a notary public for a notarial act and authorizes notarizations to be performed remotely using two-way audio-video communication technology, provided certain requirements are met.

Pursuant to the executive order, the Illinois Secretary of State's office has issued a [guidance document](#) for remote notaries and consumers. This guidance document provides definitions for terms used in the governor's executive order, outlines requirements for remote notarizations for both notaries and consumers and specifies that the executive order does not prohibit individuals from seeking notarial services from existing electronic notarization companies.

On May 29, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued [Executive Order 2020-39](#), which extends remote notary provisions through the duration of the state of emergency, [currently January 9, 2023](#).

**Illinois** [SB 2664/Public Act 102-0160](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker on June 23 and became effective July 1, 2022. This act authorizes and establishes requirements for electronic notarizations and licensure requirements for electronic notaries public.

**Indiana** [Executive Order 20-15](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb on March 31, 2020. This order waives the July 1, 2020 effective date for [recently adopted rules](#) authorizing electronic notarization in the state; the executive order allows these rules to instead take effect immediately.

**Iowa's** Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds issued a [Proclamation of Disaster Emergency](#) on March 19, 2020, which remained in effect until May 27, 2020. This proclamation contains provisions, in sections 16 and 17, which suspend the personal appearance requirement for notarizations and authorizes the use of video conferencing technology for notarizations. These provisions were extended through June 25, 2020 by an updated [Public Health Proclamation](#) and through July 1, 2020 by a third [Public Health Proclamation](#) (see section 125).

[SF 475](#), which authorizes remote notarizations, took effect on July 1, 2020 replacing the Public Health Proclamation's provisions.

**Kansas** [Executive Order No. 20-20](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly on April 9, 2020 and was replaced by [Executive Order 20-40](#). The order remained in force until June 13, 2020. This executive order waives requirements that individuals appear in-person before a notary public, and instead authorizes such notarizations to take place using two-way communication technology. It was later extended to July 15 by [Executive Order No. 21-10](#). This order is now expired.

[HB 2016](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly on June 8, 2020, and took effect immediately. This act specifies that all notarizations performed while in-person requirements have been suspended shall be valid as if the individual had appeared before the notary public.

**Kentucky** [SB 150/Act 73](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear on March 30, 2020. This act authorizes notaries to perform remote notarizations for the duration of the state's ongoing state of emergency. These changes [were made permanent](#) through newly issued regulations on May 18, 2020.

**Louisiana** [Proclamation Number 37 JBE 2020](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards on March 26, 2020, and was in effect through April 30, 2020; it is currently expired. This proclamation authorized the performance of remote notarizations through the use of audio-video communication by licensed notaries public, provided that certain conditions have been met. [Proclamation Number 41 JBE 2020](#) extended these provisions through the state of emergency, which [was recently extended through September 11, 2020](#).

[HB 122/Act 131](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards on June 9, 2020, and took effect immediately. This act specifies that all electronic notarizations made from March 11, 2020, through April 30, 2020, have the same effect as in-person notarizations.

[HB 274/Act 254](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards on June 11, 2020 and took effect August 1, 2020. This act provides for the notarization of documents remotely in the state through teleconferencing or similar technologies and would require recordkeeping of any such notarizations made.

**Maine** [Executive Order 37](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. Janet Mills on April 8, 2020, and expired on July 12, 2021, 30 days following the June 12 end to the [state-of-emergency](#). This executive order suspends all provisions of state law which require in-person notarizations, instead authorizing such acts to take place remotely through two-way audio video communication technology.

**Maine** [LD 2023/Chapter 651](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Janet Mills on April 21 and will take effect July 1, 2023. This act adopts the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts and authorizes the use of remote and electronic notarizations in the state.

**Maryland** [Order Number 20-03-30-04](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Larry Hogan on March 30, 2020, and will remain in effect for the duration of the state-of-emergency. This order authorizes notaries in good standing to perform remote notarizations through the use of audio-video communication technology. The Secretary of State's office later [issued further guidance](#) for performing remote notarizations.

[SB 678](#), which authorizes remote notarization permanently on a statewide basis, took effect October 1, 2020.

**Massachusetts** [SB 2645/Chapter 71](#) was signed by Republican Gov. Charlie Baker on April 23, 2020, and took effect immediately. This act authorizes the remote notarization of any documents requiring a notary's signature in the state. The act took effect immediately and remains in effect until three business days following the ongoing state-of-emergency. The state of emergency [officially ended](#) on June 15; remote notarization provisions expired on June 18.

**Massachusetts** [HB 4345](#), the state's supplementary budget bill, was signed by Republican Gov. Charlie Baker on February 15. Among other provisions, this act authorizes the use of remote notarization in the state through July 15, 2022.

**Massachusetts** [HB 2985/Chapter 107](#) was signed by Republican Gov. Charlie Baker on July 16 and took effect immediately. Among other provisions, this bill would extend the current authorization for remote notarizations through December 15, 2023. The previous authorization expired on July 15.

**Michigan** [Executive Order No. 2020-41](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on April 8, 2020 and remained in effect until [October 31, 2020](#). This order allowed any in-person notarial act required under state law to instead be performed remotely using two-way communication technology.

**Michigan** [SB 1188/PA 337](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on December 30, 2020 and took effect immediately. This act retroactively authorizes remote notarizations that took place in the state between April 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020. A Senate analysis of the bill, and other remote notarization bills, can be found [here](#).

**Minnesota** [HF 15xxxxx](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Tim Walz on October 21, 2020 and took effect immediately. This act authorizes the performance of remote notarizations for real estate documents during the ongoing public health crisis and for 60 days following the end of the crisis - the scheduled end date for such notarizations is currently August 30, 2021. This authorization is currently expired.

**Mississippi** [Executive Order 1467](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Tate Reeves on April 6, 2020 and will remain in effect for the duration of the state-of-emergency. This order waives the in-person requirements for notarizations in the state and authorizes notarial acts to be performed remotely using audio-video communication technology.

[HB 1156](#) was signed by Republican Gov. Tate Reeves on June 25 and took effect July 1, 2021. This act will make numerous changes to state law regarding notaries, including authorizing notaries public to perform notarizations of electronic documents.

**Missouri** [Executive Order 20-08](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Mike Parson on April 6, 2020 and terminated on May 15, 2020. It extended through June 15, 2020, by [Executive Order 20-10](#) and through August 28, 2020 by [Executive Order 20-12](#). This executive order suspends the requirements that notarizations be performed in-person and allows notarial acts to be performed using audio-video technology.

On August 28, 2020, **Missouri** [HB 1655](#) took effect, authorizing remote notarizations statewide.

**Nebraska** [Executive Order No. 20-13](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts on April 1, 2020 and will remain in effect until 30 days after the lifting of the state-of-emergency. This executive order allows a state law authorizing remote and electronic notarization to take effect immediately; the law was not scheduled to take effect until June 1, 2020.

**New Hampshire** [Emergency Order #11](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Chris Sununu on March 23, 2020 and expired alongside the state-of-emergency on [June 11, 2021](#). This order waives all existing state laws and rules requiring the physical presence of an individual before a notary public for a notarization, and authorizes remote notarizations using audio-video communications technology, pursuant to certain requirements outlined in the order.



**New Hampshire** [HB 134](#) was signed by Republican Gov. Chris Sununu and took effect February 6, 2022. As passed the legislature, this act contains provisions that adopt the [Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts](#) and the [Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act](#).

**New Jersey** [AB 3903/Chapter 20](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy on April 14, 2020 and took effect immediately. This act allows the performance of remote notarizations in the state for the duration of the ongoing state-of-emergency, currently in effect [indefinitely](#). This act [expired](#) alongside the state of emergency on July 4, 2021.

**New Jersey** [AB 4250/Public Law 2021 c.179](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy on July 22 and will take effect on October 20. This act will authorize the performance of electronic notarizations in the state and outline requirements for the performance of remote online notarizations.

**New Mexico** [Executive Order 2020-015](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on March 30, 2020. This executive order temporarily authorizes the use of two-way audio-video communication technology to be used for notarial services, in place of in-person services. Per [Executive Order 2021-23](#), these provisions expired on June 25, 2021.

**New York** [Executive Order 202.7](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo on March 21, 2020 and remained in effect until April 18, 2020. This order allows any notarial act required under state law to be performed electronically using audio-video communication if certain conditions are met. The Department of State issued [further guidance](#) to notaries concerning this executive order. [These provisions expired](#) on June 24, 2021, and remote notarizations are no longer authorized in the state.

**North Carolina's** Secretary of State [issued guidance](#) relating to best social distancing practices relating to notarization. While this guidance does not authorize remote notarization, it does offer notaries and individuals guidelines for the safe performance of in-person notarizations.

[HB 1043/Session Law 2020-4](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper on May 4, 2020 and took effect immediately. This act, among other provisions, would authorize the performance of emergency remote notarizations for the duration of the ongoing state-of-emergency.

[According to information from the Secretary of State](#), remote notarization provisions expired on March 1, 2021, though they are expected to be renewed by the General Assembly in the coming weeks. These provisions were later extended through [December 31, 2021](#). These provisions are now expired, according to the Secretary of State's office.

**North Carolina** [HB 776/Chapter SL 2022-54](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper on July 8 and took effect immediately. This act allows North Carolina notaries to perform online notarial acts using real-time online audiovisual technology.

**Oregon** [HB 4212](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Kate Brown on June 30, 2020, and took effect immediately. This act creates a remote notarization pilot program, allowing such notarizations statewide through June 30, 2021. The Secretary of State has also issued [temporary remote online notarization rules](#), effective July 1, 2020, through December 27, 2020, to implement the provisions of HB 4212.

**Oregon** [SB 765](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Kate Brown on June 15 and took effect immediately. This act makes permanent current laws temporarily allowing the use of remote and electronic notarizations in the state.

**Pennsylvania's** Department of State has [suspended](#) in-person regulatory requirements for notaries in real estate transactions. This suspension allows personal real estate transactions that were commenced before the state's disaster declaration to be completed using remote notarizations. It also allows both new and previously commenced commercial real estate transactions to be completed using remote notarizations. The secretary's office has also offered guidance to notaries using remote notarizations in the document.

The Department of State [provided further information](#) on April 2, 2020 in a memo detailing the use of remote notarization in estate planning.

Previously, the Department of State had [suspended](#) the requirement for the physical presence of notaries who are court reporters or stenographers on March 21, 2020.

[SB 841/Act No. 15](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf on April 20, 2020. Effective immediately, this act authorizes all notarial acts in the state to be performed remotely. The notarization provisions of this act will expire 60 days after the termination of the ongoing state of emergency. Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf signed an [executive order](#) to extend the state of emergency an additional 90 days through August 18, 2021. Remote notarizations will expire under these provisions on October 17; however, they have also been authorized by statute.

**Pennsylvania** [HB 2370/Act 97](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf on October 29, 2020 and took effect immediately. This act authorizes the performance of remote notarizations and the notarization of electronic documents in the state.

**Rhode Island's** Secretary of State [issued updated standards of conduct for notaries](#) on April 3, 2020 that will remain in effect until the termination of the ongoing state of emergency, [currently scheduled to end on January 10, 2023](#). Section 8 of these standards grant notaries public the authorization to perform remote online notarizations in the state for any documents that require notarization.



**Rhode Island** [HB 2705](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Daniel McKee on June 30 and took effect immediately. This bill would permit remote notarization, recognize notarizations performed under the authority and in the jurisdiction of a federally recognized tribe, prohibit notary fees in excess of \$5, prohibit remote online notary fees in excess of \$5, and require the disabling of a notary stamping device upon expiration or revocation of a notary commission.

**South Carolina** [SB 631/Act 85](#) was signed by Republican Gov Henry McMaster on June 1 and took effect immediately, retroactive to May 18. This act, the “South Carolina Electronic Notary Public Act,” authorizes remote and electronic notarizations in the state, and establishes rules and regulations governing these notarizations and those who could perform them.

**South Dakota** [SB 193](#) was signed by Republican Gov. Kristi Noem on March 18, 2021 and took effect July 1. This act authorizes the use of remote online notarizations in the state and outlines rules for performing such notarizations.

**Tennessee** [Executive Order No. 26](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Bill Lee on April 9, 2020 and remained in effect through May 18, 2020. [Executive Order No. 66](#) further extends remote notarization provisions through December 29, 2020. This order permits the remote notarization of documents through real-time audio-video communication technology.

**Texas** Republican Gov. Greg Abbott [announced](#) on April 8, 2020 that he has suspended certain statutes in the state relating to in person notarization. Specifically, in-person notarization is no longer required and remote notarization is permitted to execute a self-proved will, a durable power of attorney, a medical power of attorney, a directive to physician, or an oath of an executor, administrator or guardian. This suspension will last until terminated by the governor or the end of the state’s disaster declaration.

**Vermont’s** Secretary of State [reissued emergency rules](#) relating to remote notarizations, which were extended [through March 9, 2023](#). These rules temporarily allowed for remote notarizations using two-way audio-video technology. Under these rules only the notarization of physical documents are allowed and both parties must physically sign their respective copies; electronic signatures are not allowed. They have also issued [Guidance on Emergency Administrative Rules for Notaries Public and Remote Notarization](#).

In connection with these rules, the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 31, 2020 approved language for two emergency bills concerning the remote execution of Powers of Attorneys ([Draft 2.1, 3-30-2020 Emergency Bill - Remote Power of Attorney](#)) and recording copies of deeds and other instruments in the land records ([Draft 3.1, 3-30-2020 Emergency Bill - Remote Deed Recording Amendment](#)), respectively. The bills have not yet been assigned official bill numbers.

**Washington** [Proclamation 20-27](#) was issued by Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee on March 24, 2020 and remained in effect until April 26, 2021. This proclamation changes the effective date of [SB](#)

[5641](#), which was enacted by the legislature earlier in the year and authorizes remote notarizations in the state. The bill was scheduled to take effect on October 1, 2021 but under this proclamation it temporarily took effect on March 27, 2020 through April 26, 2020. A summary of the bill can be found [here](#).

**West Virginia** [Executive Order No. 11-20](#) was issued by Republican Gov. Jim Justice on March 25, 2020. This executive order suspends provisions that require a personal appearance for a notarization in the state. On April 1, 2020, the secretary of state issued [emergency rules](#) following up on this order, outlining the requirements for remote notarization. Such notarizations are only authorized for the duration of the state-of-emergency, currently in place for an indefinite period.

[SB 469](#), effective June 17, 2021, permanently authorizes both remote online notarizations and remote ink notarizations under certain circumstances.

**Wisconsin's** Department of Financial Institutions [announced](#) that due to the public health emergency, remote online notarization is now permitted in the state pursuant to [SB 293/Act 125](#). The act was previously not scheduled to take effect until May 1, 2020, but the department has waived that effective date. All remote notarizations in the state must be performed in accordance with the provisions of the act.

**Wyoming's** Secretary of State [issued guidance on temporary remote online notarization](#) on March 24, 2020. This guidance will remain in effect until the ongoing state-of- emergency is lifted. It was extended by the Secretary of State's office [through June 30, 2021](#), and is currently expired. This guidance finds that state laws which require a person seeking a notarization to have the act performed in the presence of a notary also allow such notarial acts to take place through a remote online connection.

[SF 29/Chapter 29](#) was signed by Republican Gov. Mark Gordon on February 9, 2021 and took effect July 1, 2021. This act will allow for remote online notarization and remote ink notarizations in the state.