

Tennessee Secretary of State
Division of Business Services
312 Eighth Avenue North
6th Floor, William R. Snodgrass Tower
Nashville, TN 37243

Changes in Notary Public laws and new notary seal design (Effective July 1, 2004)

Please note: The Tennessee Secretary of State, Division of Business Services, does not license or regulate Notary Publics in Tennessee, and is neither authorized nor qualified to provide legal advice. If you have any questions concerning the matters presented herein, please contact an attorney or other qualified professional.

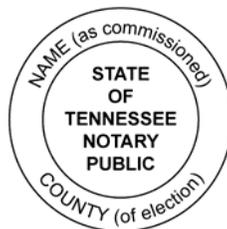
2004 Tenn. Pub. Acts, ch. 854, was signed into law on June 7th. Effective July 1, 2004, this Act makes a number of modifications to the existing laws concerning notaries, including the following changes:

- **New Eligibility Requirements.** In addition to any other eligibility requirements, a person applying for election as a Notary Public must certify under penalty of perjury that he/she has never been removed from the office of Notary Public for official misconduct, has never had a notarial commission revoked or suspended by this or any other State, and has never been found by a court to have engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.
- **New Name.** Notary Publics will no longer be identified as Notary Publics "At Large" but rather will be known as Notary Publics for the State of Tennessee.

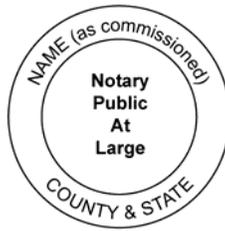
- **Notary seal color.** The notary seal must be imprinted in "...any color other than black or yellow, provided the color used to imprint the seal shall be clearly legible and appear as black when photocopied on a non-color copier." However, these requirements do not apply to current notaries until the expiration of their current terms of office. In addition, the failure to imprint the seal with a proper color does not invalidate the notarization and does not subject the notary to any civil or criminal liability.
- **Notary change of address (to another county).** If a Notary Public moves his/her residence or principal place of business out of the county from which he/she was elected and commissioned to another Tennessee county, the notary must notify the County Clerk of the county from which the notary was elected and commissioned, and the County Clerk must thereafter notify the Secretary of State of the Notary's change of address. The County Clerk should collect a \$7 processing fee for the change of address, \$2 of which should be forwarded to the Secretary of State with the change.

Promulgation of new notary seal design

Since Notaries Public will no longer be identified as "At Large" after June 30, 2004, the Secretary of State has promulgated a new notary seal design. The new seal design should be used by any Notary Public commissioned on or after July 1, 2004. A sample seal format appears below:



A Notary Public commissioned prior to July 1, 2004, may use the new seal design or may continue to use the following prior seal design until the expiration of his/her current term of office:



Links to Public Chapter 854 and to the new seal design rules (Rule 1360-7-2-.01) appear under the Notary Commission Services section of our website at <http://sos.tn.gov/notary-commissions> .