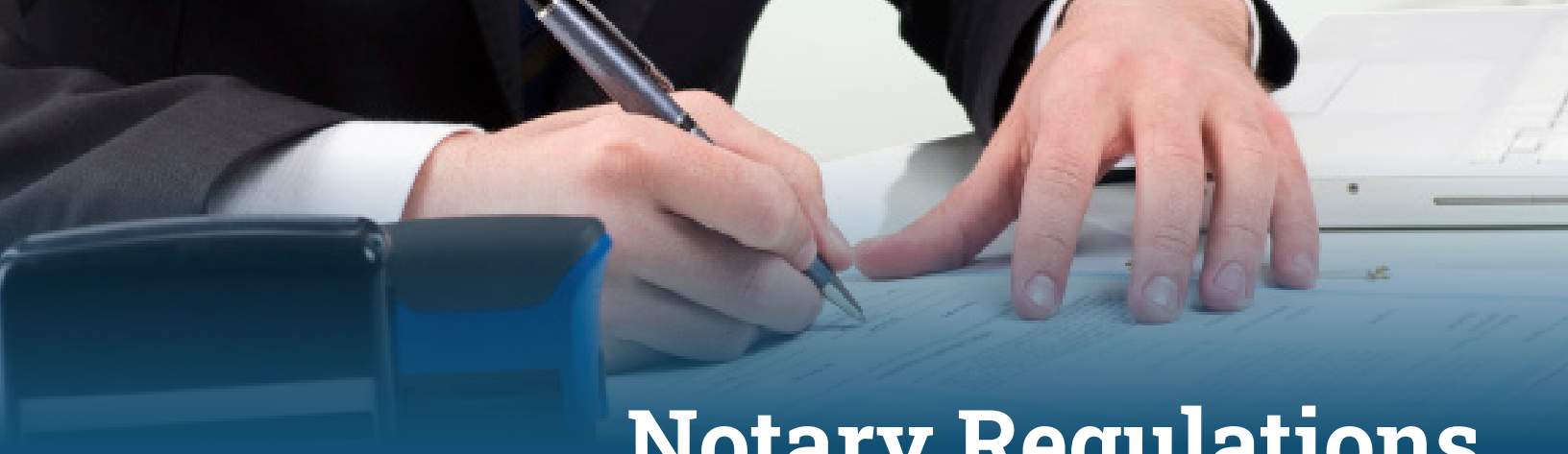

Notary Regulations Take Effect March 28, 2026

Learn the basics of the new regulations

What's the difference between RULONA and the regulations?

The Pennsylvania General Assembly enacts statutes—the official laws of the Commonwealth—and confers on boards, commissions, departments and agencies within the executive branch the authority to adopt rules and regulations to implement those statutes.

The Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts (RULONA) is codified in Title 57 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. RULONA Section 327 gave the authority to promulgate regulations to the Department of State.

According to the Department, "The regulations provide a comprehensive framework for notary public practice and procedure ... and provide necessary detail to implement provisions of the law."

RULONA and the regulations apply equally to each and every one of the more than 72,000 notaries public commissioned in Pennsylvania. Together, they comprise the "rule book" for performing your official duties.

What regulations affect me right now?

- The notary bond amount is increased from $10,000 to $25,000. *A notary public who holds a current commission on March 28, 2026 may continue to use the same bond until the expiration of that commission.* All notaries newly appointed or reappointed on or after March 28, 2026 must obtain a $25,000 bond. Note that your **appointment date** specified in the upper right corner of your Letter to Appointee, not the effective date of your commission, determines the bond amount.
- The seven-digit commission identification number assigned by the Department is now required on the official stamp. *A notary public who holds a current commission on March 28, 2026 may continue to use their official stamp until the expiration of that commission.* All notaries newly appointed or reappointed on or after March 28, 2026 must have a stamp that complies with the regulations.
- A notary public may have more than one stamping device for the same commission.
- The regulations clarify that the notary journal may not contain any personally identifiable information about any individual appearing before the notary public, to include any part of a Social Security number, full driver's license number or government-issued nondriver identification card number, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name or biometric records. A journal may contain terminal numbers of identification credentials including the last four digits of a driver's license or passport, the customer's signature, and the date of the record.
- In accordance with the RULONA requirement that a notary public must permit any person requesting it to inspect the journal, the request for inspection may be oral or in writing and the inspection must occur in the notary's presence. Requests for certified copies of the journal may be oral or in writing and must specify the particular entry or time period sought. The notary public must

provide the certified copy within 15 days of receipt of the request.

- The regulations require the notary public to provide an itemized receipt for all fees charged by the notary.
- Electronic notaries public and remote notaries public are permitted to charge a notarial fee not to exceed $20 per notarial act performed with respect to electronic records or using communication technology. This is in addition to the fee the notary may charge for the notarial act itself.
- The regulations specify additional types of credentials which meet the requirements for satisfactory evidence of identity (that is, they must be current, contain the signature or a photograph of the individual, and are satisfactory to the notarial officer).
- The regulations specify that a notary public must be able to communicate directly with the individual for whom a notarial act is being performed in a language they both understand or indirectly through an interpreter.
- A notary public may notarize a translation of a record in a language that the notary public does not understand only if the person performing the translation makes a verification on oath or affirmation stating that the translation is accurate and complete. The translation and the verification must be attached to the record for which the notarial act is being performed. The notarial certificate must always be in English. A certificate in another language that is read, written and understood by the notary public, immediately adjacent to the English language certificate, may be completed.
- Notaries public are required to notify the Department within 30 days of any change in the information on file with the Department specified in the regulations.
- Notaries public may not issue certified copies of the types of records listed in the regulations.
- The regulations provide explicit examples of acts or omissions and a new and comprehensive list of crimes involving fraud, dishonesty or deceit which may be the basis for disciplinary action.

Where to Find the Notary Regulations

Department of State regulations take effect March 28, 2026

Notaries should read and be familiar with the full text of the regulations, once they are published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

The Pennsylvania Bulletin includes state agencies' notices, proposed rulemakings and final rulemakings; the governor's proclamations and executive orders; actions by the General Assembly; and statewide and local court rules.

Between March 28 and April 3, a link to the current issue displays on the Pennsylvania Bulletin home page:

1. Go to https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/.
2. Under "VIEW CURRENT ISSUE of the BULLETIN," click the link to Volume 56, Number 13.
3. In the column on the right, click on "Department of State," then click on the regulations.

To access the regulations after April 3:

1. Go to https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Home/volume?vol=56.
2. In the list of issues on the left, click on "Number 13 – 3/28/2026" to display the Bulletin contents.
3. In the column on the right, click on "Department of State," then click on the regulations.