

Notary Public Qualifications³⁵

Notaries public are public officers of the state of South Carolina that are commissioned to perform notarial acts. Notaries are appointed by the Governor and commissioned by the Secretary of State. Notaries serve as impartial witnesses for the state in order to prevent fraud. S.C. Code Section 26-1-15 requires that a person meet the following qualifications to serve as a notary public in South Carolina: (a) be registered to vote in South Carolina; (b) be able to read and write in the English language; and (c) submit an application with no significant misstatement or omission of fact. Under Section 26-1-40, a notary public must take the oath of office prescribed by the State Constitution and record a copy of the oath with the Secretary of State. The oath of office is included on the notary application.

OATH OF NOTARY PUBLIC	
<p>I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am duly qualified, according to the Constitution of South Carolina, to exercise the duties of the office to which I have been appointed and that I will, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of this State, and of the United States. So help me God.</p>	
Print Name _____ <i>In the presence of a notary, please sign your name as printed above.</i>	Sworn to and subscribed before me This _____ day of _____, 20 _____
_____	_____ Notary Public of South Carolina
Signature of Applicant _____	_____
Date _____	Printed Name _____
	My Commission Expires _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your printed name and signature above must match.• If this is a renewal application, your name as printed above must match your name as previously commissioned.• Please sign and print your name above exactly as you will sign when you notarize documents.	

³⁵ S.C. House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “Agency Presentation – Notaries, boards and commissions, authentications, and apostilles (December 5, 2019),” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” under “Secretary of State, Office of the,” and under “Meetings,” <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/AgencyWebpages/SecretaryofState/SoS%20Presentation%20-%20Notaries,%20Boards%20and%20Commissions.pdf> (accessed January 21, 2020), slide 6-8. Hereinafter “Notaries Presentation.”