



# American Society of Notaries

Home

## Notary Stamp & Seal Requirements

ASN Membership

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Notary Supplies

### What All Notaries Should Know About Their Stamp or Seal.

Stamp & Seal Requirements

- Keep your notarial stamp or seal under your control at all times—do **NOT** allow unguarded access to your stamp or seal as this often results in unauthorized use.
- Your notary stamp or seal is yours to use and keep; your employer has **no** right to control or keep your stamp or seal even if the employer paid for it.
- You must report a lost or missing seal immediately to your state notary authority.
- If you obtain a new stamp or seal because the old one expired or your name changed, you should destroy or deface the old stamp or seal.
- Your state notary laws will indicate whether a notary ink stamp or embossing seal is required in your commissioned state, and what must appear on the stamp and/or seal. You may use the chart below for a quick reference; see your state statutes for complete information about your state's notary ink stamp or embossing seal requirements.

Notary Recordbook Requirements

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State	Notary Stamp/Seal Requirements
Alabama	Embossing Seal Required
Alaska	Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
Arizona	Ink Stamp Required - (Round or Rectangular) NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible. Embossing seal may <b>ONLY</b> be used in conjunction with ink stamp.
Arkansas	Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
California	Ink Stamp Required NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible. Embossing seal should <b>ONLY</b> be used in conjunction with ink stamp.
Colorado	Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required
Connecticut	Not Required
Delaware	Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
District of Columbia	Embossing Seal Required
Florida	Ink Stamp Required (Round or Rectangular) NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible. Embossing Seal may <b>ONLY</b> be used in conjunction with ink stamp.
Georgia	Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required
Hawaii	Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required NOTE- Notaries may <b>ONLY</b> have either a stamp or a seal – <b>NOT BOTH</b> . The notary stamp/seal must be surrendered to the Attorney General's Office within 90 days of resignation, removal from office, or the expiration of a commission term without renewal.
Idaho	Ink Stamp Required NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.

<b>Illinois</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Seal Impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Indiana</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal Impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal Impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>Not Required</b>
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>Not Required</b> NOTE- The State of Louisiana considers the notary's signature the notarial seal.
<b>Maine</b>	<b>Not Required</b>
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b>
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>Not Required</b> NOTE- If a stamp/seal is used the seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Seal Impression must be photographically reproducible. An embossing seal may ONLY be used in conjunction with the ink stamp.
<b>Mississippi</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Seal Impression must be photographically reproducible. An embossing seal may ONLY be used in conjunction with the ink stamp.
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Montana</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- For new and renewal commissions issued on or after OCTOBER 1, 2009, notaries will be required to use an Ink stamp prescribed by the Secretary of State. Currently commissioned notaries may continue to use either a stamp or an embosser until they renew.
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible. Embossing seal may be used ONLY in conjunction with ink stamp.
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Along with the official seal, he/she must also have a separate rubber stamp that contains the commission expiration date.
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>Not Required</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- A Round ink stamp is NOT acceptable.
<b>New York</b>	<b>Not Required</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal Impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal Impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b>
<b>Oregon</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Embossing seal may be used ONLY in conjunction with ink stamp. Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>Not Required</b> NOTE- Although the use of an official seal is not required by law it is prudent that all notaries use a seal when performing notarial acts.
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b>
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b>
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>Round Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Round stamp must contain any ink color OTHER THAN black or yellow ink. Seal Impression must be photographically reproducible.

<b>Texas</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>U.S. Virgin Islands</b>	<b>Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Ink stamp may be used but ONLY in conjunction with embossing seal.
<b>Utah</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- The ink stamp MUST contain purple ink. Seal impression MUST be photographically reproducible. Upon the resignation, revocation, or expiration of a notarial commission, the seal shall be destroyed. A new seal shall be obtained for any new commission or recommission.
<b>Vermont</b>	<b>Not Required</b> NOTE- Although the use of a seal is not required ASN strongly recommends it.
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>Washington</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.
<b>West Virginia</b>	<b>Ink Stamp Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible. An embossing seal may ONLY be used in conjunction with ink stamp.
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b>
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>Ink Stamp or Embossing Seal Required</b> NOTE- Seal impression must be photographically reproducible.

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