

Topic: Notary Question

Question by: Rebecca Longfellow

Jurisdiction: Indiana

Date: March 25, 2021

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	For those of you who administer notary commissions, do any of you differentiate the filing fees for applicants or renewals of individuals that work for state agencies, state law enforcement or county agencies?
Manitoba	
Corporations Canada	
Alabama	
Alaska	
Arizona	
Arkansas	
California	
Colorado	
Connecticut	
Delaware	
District of Columbia	
Florida	
Georgia	
Hawaii	
Idaho	
Illinois	

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	For those of you who administer notary commissions, do any of you differentiate the filing fees for applicants or renewals of individuals that work for state agencies, state law enforcement or county agencies?
<b>Indiana</b>	<p>We face the same issue in relation to the online system having no ability to waive fees. We require notaries to apply online (although we can process paper if we have to). The idea of having someone submit paper in order to waive a fee seems so counter intuitive. Paper also creates issues related to completing the education and exam because it is the payment that triggers these flags/connections to the application process.</p> <p>I am considering whether adding a filing process for applicants that would receive a fee waiver is cost effective. Of course that means that they will need to attach or fill in some type of information that can be verified by the office.</p>
<b>Iowa</b>	
<b>Kansas</b>	
<b>Kentucky</b>	
<b>Louisiana</b>	We have lifetime commissions with annual reports. We have only one charge when the commission is originated. Any state, parish, or municipal agency is not charged for filings.
<b>Maine</b>	
<b>Maryland</b>	
<b>Massachusetts</b>	
<b>Michigan</b>	
<b>Minnesota</b>	<p>Minnesota does not waive the \$120 Notary Public filing fee.</p> <p>Alternatively, we have a designation of Ex Officio Notary Publics; officers having the powers of a notary public within the state which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-every member of the legislature, while still a resident in the district from which elected; but no fee or compensation may be received for exercising these powers.</li> <li>-the clerks or recorders of towns, and cities.</li> <li>-Court commissioners, county recorders, and county auditors, and their several deputies, and county commissioners, all within their respective counties.</li> <li>-peace officers licensed under section 626.845&lt;<a href="https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/626.845">https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/626.845</a>&gt; for the purpose of administering oaths upon information submitted to establish probable cause to any judge or judicial officer under the Rules of Criminal Procedure.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi</b>	
<b>Missouri</b>	
<b>Montana</b>	

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	For those of you who administer notary commissions, do any of you differentiate the filing fees for applicants or renewals of individuals that work for state agencies, state law enforcement or county agencies?
<b>Nebraska</b>	
<b>Nevada</b>	
<b>New Hampshire</b>	
<b>New Jersey</b>	
<b>New Mexico</b>	
<b>New York</b>	
<b>North Carolina</b>	
<b>North Dakota</b>	
<b>Ohio</b>	Ohio is the same as Wisconsin - the fee is \$15 for applications for a new commission or renewal and there is a permanent commission for attorneys. We do not waive the fees for any government employees. Sounds challenging for an online world!
<b>Oklahoma</b>	
<b>Oregon</b>	
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<p>That's funny - we just were rehashing our policy on this earlier today, so it is only a few emails down in my in-box...</p> <p>The existing policy of the Department of State is that Pennsylvania notaries who hold their commissions in order to do notary work for the Commonwealth may have their fees waived. They must include with their application a letter from their employer stating this. Also, their business address would be with a Commonwealth agency or the General Assembly (our Legislature). We do not waive fees for county agencies.</p> <p>The issue that came up with waiving fees for these folks is that our online system (used by a vast majority of notaries to apply) does not permit a fee waiver and they must either apply on paper or ask for refund later. If anyone has any suggestions for this little problem, shoot me an email.</p>
<b>Rhode Island</b>	
<b>South Carolina</b>	
<b>South Dakota</b>	

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	For those of you who administer notary commissions, do any of you differentiate the filing fees for applicants or renewals of individuals that work for state agencies, state law enforcement or county agencies?
<b>Tennessee</b>	
<b>Texas</b>	<p>Notaries employed by Texas state agencies, as that term is defined in section 2052.101, Texas Government Code &lt;<a href="https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2052.htm#2052.101">https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2052.htm#2052.101</a>&gt;, are not required to obtain surety bonds, which is a cost savings for the notary. [Our notary statute authorizes us to collect a separate fee for filing the bond (\$10), so it's a "fee reduction" in that sense.]</p> <p>However, notaries who are performing their notarial duties as part of their job duties for the state must obtain verification of employment from the State Office of Risk Management ("SORM") before submitting their applications. These notaries must also purchase an official notary seal, that specifically states that the notary is without bond. A notary without bond who ceases to be employed by a state agency during the term of the notary public's commission, must either surrender the commission or obtain a bond for the remainder of the term.</p> <p>So rather than paying a total fee of \$21 for a commission, a notary without bond who is employed by a state agency pays \$11.</p>
<b>Utah</b>	
<b>Vermont</b>	
<b>Virginia</b>	
<b>Washington</b>	
<b>West Virginia</b>	
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Wisconsin does not waive fees. We offer a permanent notary (one-time fee) for attorneys.
<b>Wyoming</b>	

**Additional comments:**

**Full text of email:**

Good morning,

For those of you who administer notary commissions, do any of you differentiate the filing fees for applicants or renewals of individuals that work for state agencies, state law enforcement or county agencies?

Thanks,  
Becca

Rebecca Longfellow  
Director of Business Services Division  
Indiana Secretary of State Holli Sullivan  
(317) 232-6583  
[rlongfellow@sos.in.gov](mailto:rlongfellow@sos.in.gov)<mailto:rlongfellow@sos.in.gov>