



AFTAB PUREVAL CLERK OF COURTS

HAMILTON COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
1000 MAIN ST., ROOM 375
CINCINNATI, OH 45202
(513) 946-5656
FAX: (513) 946 5660
www.courtclerk.org

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jenny Diaz, 614/512-4628

***** Press Release *****

New Ohio Law Changes Process for Becoming a Notary Public

Cincinnati – Legislation was passed in 2018 changing how to become a Notary Public in Ohio. The Secretary of State’s Office is currently developing rules and systems to implement the new law which will go into effect September 20, 2019.

Previously, each county processed notary applications differently. The new law strives to streamline and modernize the process and create statewide consistency.

If you are already a Notary Public, but your commission is expiring in 2019, you may be eligible to renew your application within 90 days of the expiration of your current commission. A non-attorney notary public must renew their notary commission and online authorization every five years.

Counties will still process new applications and renewal applications if received on or before September 19th to process them under the old law. It is likely that the costs to become a notary will increase under the new law, with the added expense of a background check.

One additional feature of the Notary Modernization Law is that Ohio will soon join other states in allowing for online notarization. Becoming authorized to notarize online transactions will require additional education, testing and compliance with technology standards. You must first obtain a traditional notary commission before applying to become an online notary.

Lawyer applicants will continue to have a lifetime commission, assuming they remain in good standing with the Supreme Court of Ohio. Attorneys will not be required to obtain a background check, but they will be required to take a class before obtaining their notary commission. The new law does not impose any additional requirements on lawyers who are currently notaries.

Go to www.ohiosos.gov and click “Notary” to review the process and find the necessary links.

###