

The Governor of the State of Maryland has proclaimed a State of Emergency and a catastrophic health emergency related to COVID-19. On March 12, 2020, an order was issued extending state licenses and registrations until 30 days after the State of Emergency and catastrophic health emergency is terminated. [See notice](#)

In accordance with that order, the Secretary of State is extending all commissions for notaries public that are set to expire during this period until 30 days after the State of Emergency is terminated.

#### **FAQS:**

#### **Should I still submit an application for renewal online during the State of Emergency even if I cannot be sworn in at the courthouse?**

Yes. You should submit your application for renewal online at <https://www.egov.maryland.gov/sos/notary/#/home>. It is important that you submit your application for renewal online and within the timeframe in your notice of renewal. We will process applications and hold commissions until the courthouses re-open. At that time, we will send the commissions to the courthouses. Please continue to monitor the Secretary of State's website at [sos.maryland.gov](https://sos.maryland.gov) for important updates.

#### **Can I still perform notarizations if my commission has expired during the State of Emergency?**

- You may continue to notarize documents and perform notarial acts until 30 days after the State of Emergency is lifted.
- Continue to affix your expiration date to the notarization, as required by Section 18-108(c), State Government Article, Maryland Annotated Code.
- You may, if you choose, attach a copy of the Public Notice to all notarizations you perform during the extension. The Public Notice is attached and is found below and on our website at [sos.maryland.gov](https://sos.maryland.gov).
- You may, if you choose, note the date of the Public Notice extending notary commissions on or near your seal affixed to a notarized document as documentation of the extension of your notary commission. also

#### **What Happens If My Commission expired BEFORE the State of Emergency?**

If your commission was expired BEFORE the State of Emergency, your commission is expired. **You cannot act as a notary public.**

Please continue to monitor the Secretary of State's website for updates at <https://sos.maryland.gov>.