



Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia  
Office of Notary Commissions and Authentications

441 4th Street NW Suite 810 South Washington, DC 20001 (202) 727-3117 [notary@dc.gov](mailto:notary@dc.gov)

Application **MUST BE TYPED**. Please review the checklist below and the DC Notary Handbook prior to completing this application.

Applications must be sent as the original with an original signature or a valid electronic signature.

1. **You must live or work in the District of Columbia to become a notary public.**
2. Incomplete applications and applications without the commission fee will not be processed.
3. Return this application to the above address with:
  - The application fee of \$75.00 – except for those applying as employees of the District of Columbia government or employees of the federal government who work in the District of Columbia. **THIS IS A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE.**
  - Check or money order from A US Financial Institution in US Dollars payable to “DC Treasurer.”
  - A letter of request from yourself (Residential) or your supervisor (Business) on company letterhead, stating why you should be commissioned. The signature must be original. **Dual Commissions must include a letter from your supervisor and from yourself.**

**NEW** Commission       **RENEW** Commission      Expiration Date (renewal only): \_\_\_\_\_

If you have not renewed your commission within 12 months of your expiration date, you must apply as a new commission.

Name **AS YOUR COMMISSION** will read: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle (if applicable)

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Company Number: (202) \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Work Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For what purpose(s) will you use the commission?  Business  Residential  Dual

Please list below the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of two people other than **family members or your supervisor**, who can attest to your character. **The person submitting the letter of request cannot serve as a character reference.**

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold a notary commission in any other state? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what state? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever held a Notary Commission that was revoked? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes: Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide the charge and date of conviction. \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, solemnly affirm under penalties of perjury, that the information presented in this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. **PLEASE USE THE NAME YOUR COMMISSION WILL READ - THIS SHOULD MATCH YOUR NAME AT THE TOP.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## APPLICATION – CHECKLIST

Please be sure to follow these instructions when you fill out the application to become a notary:

- **You must live or work in the District of Columbia to become a notary public.** If applying for a **Business commission**, your **company** must have a **physical address in DC**; if applying for a **Residential commission**, you must live in and have a **physical address in DC**; if you are applying for a **Dual commission**, both your **business and home must have physical addresses** in the District of Columbia.
- **All applications must be typed.** If they are not, they will be returned and will have to be resubmitted.
- Applicants for renewal **must** include the expiration date of their current commission.
- Be sure to use the email address you want us to send the emails to. If you are applying for a residential or **dual commission**, **we will use your home email**; if you are applying for a business commission, we will use the email address listed for your work. If this is a general work email, you may not receive notices promptly.
- *Be sure to complete the entire application and be sure to date and sign it. An electronic signature must include the valid disclaimer. Copies of signatures are not allowed.*
- **Please fill out your name on the application as you wish it to appear on your commission. Use your middle name or initial ONLY if you want it to appear on your commission. The name at the top and where you sign should be the same.**
- Our general procedures are to enter the last name and then the first name and middle name or initial. EX: Doe, Jane S. Or Doe, Jane Smith. If you want Doe Smith in the same column and Jane listed separately you **must** inform us of this on the application and/or in a separate letter.
- You must complete the entire application. **Even if you are applying for a business commission, you must complete the section with home address and contact information. Note: If you are applying for a residential, you do not need to complete the business section.**
- If your current commission has expired more than one year (12 months) prior to submitting the application you must apply as a new applicant and will be required to take the orientation session again.
- Your application fee of \$75: Checks or money orders are payable to “DC Treasurer.” Checks or money orders must be in US dollars and drawn on a US Bank or from US Financial Institution. We cannot accept funds drawn on a foreign bank. Money orders from American Express or Western Union may be accepted. This is a **non-refundable fee**. If you pay in person you may also pay by VISA or Master Card.
- If you do not have a 202 area code on the application **for your business**, be sure to include an explanation and support that you live and/or work as to why you do not have a District of Columbia phone number.
- The letter(s) of request must have a **physical address** in the District of Columbia; we do not accept Post Office Boxes as a valid address. The address on the application and letter of request must match. If you do not have letterhead with an address that matches the address on the application, be sure to include an explanation and support in the letter of request.
- The application and the letter of request must have an original signature or a valid electronic signature.
- **The references included on the application may not be from the person who has written your letter of request or from a family member.**
- If you are applying for renewal (reappointment), you use the same application, but check renewal and you must include your expiration date of your current commission.
- If you are applying for a government commission – as a DC government employee, or a federal government employee with an office in the District of Columbia you still check “business” but you do not need to enclose a check or money order.
- If any or all of these items are not fulfilled you will receive a letter from our office specifying what items need to be corrected. Once you have made the necessary adjustments you may resubmit the application along with your check or money order and we will process the application. **Please be sure to include the denial letter when resubmitting your application.**

### NOTES

- After approving the application for a **new** commission, applicants will be notified by email approximately three weeks later to attend the **mandatory** orientation session. If you do not have an email address, please state this on the application and future notices will be mailed.
- Following the orientation session, new applicants will then receive their appointment notice by email or mail approximately two-three weeks after orientation.
- All applicants for new and renewal commissions must have their names published in the *DC Register*.
- If you have applied for renewal less than 45 days before your expiration date, you may have a break in your commission. We will make every effort to put you on the next commission date. Please see the link on our website for a guide to when your application must be submitted to not have a lapse in your commission.
- In summary, if your application is approved on the first submission, it will take about 45-60 days to receive your appointment notice.
- Unclaimed Commission: **A notary commission that is not claimed within 60 days from the date of issue by ONCA will be cancelled. Cancellation of commission requires the applicant to re-complete the entire process** i.e. submit a new application including the application fee and participate in the orientation program. ONCA may extend the deadline if the applicant provides a valid reason.
- All notaries public (except those commissioned on behalf of the government) will have their name and contact information listed on the “Search for a Notary Public” map on the Office of the Secretary website. If you do not wish to be listed, please notify us at [notary@dc.gov](mailto:notary@dc.gov).