

## New Notary Law Changes

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 beginning September 20, 2019.

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

### History

The Dayton Bar Association has been processing notary applications for over 40 years, requiring that applicants pass a test before becoming a notary. We've also offered a study guide for the test.

### Notary Applicant Changes

Under the new law, all notary applicants will be required to take a class, pass a test, and obtain a BCI criminal background check before being granted a commission from the Secretary of State. Those who will be renewing their notary commissions after September 19, will also have a continuing education requirement as well as a BCI criminal background check every five years.

### What does this mean?

If you have been considering becoming a Notary Public, it would be wise to begin the application process prior to the new rules going into effect.

For those that need to renew, the application may be completed approximately 90 days prior to expiration date. **We recommend renewing no later than September 1, 2019.** It is likely that the costs to become a notary will increase with the added expense and time of a background check as well as a required addition of an education course.

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### Attorney Notary Changes

Lawyers 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.

### Attorney Notary

Attorneys may want to avoid the educational requirement of the new law by obtaining your notary commission before September 1, 2019.

The rules implementing the new law were still under review. Please check back for updates. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Dayton Bar Association at (937) 222-7902.