

Surety Bond Information

Applicants for a notary public commission are required to obtain a \$10,000 surety bond and file it at the office of the county clerk in the county where the applicant resides. The company from which you receive the surety bond must be licensed to do business in Michigan. Licensed attorneys are exempt from filing a surety bond; however, they must file an oath at the office of the county clerk in the county where the applicant resides.

A link to licensed surety bond companies in Michigan is available on our Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos. The cost of surety bonds varies — generally between \$50 and \$100. See our Web site for information on obtaining a surety bond.

A surety bond protects the public from a notary's public misconduct or negligence. A surety bond does not protect the notary. "Liability" or "errors and omissions" insurance may be purchased to protect an individual notary.

Oath of Office

The oath of office is an oral or written statement taken at your county clerk's office when you file your bond or oath (licensed attorneys only). For Michigan residents, this must be in your county of residence. Out-of-state applicants appear in the county of their principal place of business. After the oath is administered, the clerk will attest that you swore to the statement by completing information at the top of the application.

Length of Appointment

Notary public commissions expire not less than six (6) years and not more than seven (7) years from your next birthday at the time of commission issuance.

Renewing Your Commission

There is no automatic renewal process. You must apply for a new commission when your current commission expires. It is your responsibility to apply for a new commission no more than 60 days prior to the expiration date of your present commission. If you are currently a licensed attorney in Michigan, you will receive a reappointment application form approximately 90 days prior to your commission expiration date.

Further Information

For further information about the Michigan notary public program, please visit our Web site at: www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Contact Us

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Becoming a Michigan Notary Public



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Michigan Department of State

