

# North Carolina Notary Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Which of the following is not an acceptable form of ID for notarization?**
  - A. State ID**
  - B. Valid Passport**
  - C. Marticula Consular Card**
  - D. Retired Military ID**
- 2. Can notaries public in North Carolina notarize a will?**
  - A. No, wills cannot be notarized**
  - B. Yes, with specific requirements**
  - C. Yes, but only if the signer is present**
  - D. No, only attorneys can notarize wills**
- 3. What is one of the primary duties of a notary public?**
  - A. To write legal documents for clients**
  - B. To verify the identity of signers**
  - C. To assist in court proceedings**
  - D. To provide public notary services only during business hours**
- 4. Which of the following is NOT considered satisfactory evidence of identification?**
  - A. A government-issued photo ID**
  - B. An oath from a credible witness**
  - C. A social media profile with no verification**
  - D. A passport with the individual's signature**
- 5. For what reason is it important for notaries to remain impartial?**
  - A. To ensure all documents are duly signed**
  - B. To avoid the appearance of favoritism**
  - C. To boost their personal reputation**
  - D. To comply with all local laws**

- 6. Which of the following accurately describes an oath or affirmation?**
- A. A declaration made under legal pressure**
  - B. A vow of truthfulness on penalty of perjury**
  - C. Simply agreeing to the validity of a document**
  - D. A requirement that lacks any legal implications**
- 7. What type of identification is suitable for notarization and is intended for travel purposes?**
- A. Valid Passport**
  - B. Social Security Card**
  - C. Credit Card**
  - D. Student ID**
- 8. How long before the end of the commission date can you start the reappointment process?**
- A. 5 weeks**
  - B. 8 weeks**
  - C. 10 weeks**
  - D. 12 weeks**
- 9. Which statement is true regarding the notification requirements for lost notary seals?**
- A. Notification is only required for stolen seals**
  - B. Notification must be written and must be made to the sheriff's office and Register of Deeds**
  - C. Only the sheriff's office needs to be notified verbally**
  - D. No notification is required**
- 10. Which of the following forms of ID is acceptable, as long as it is properly issued?**
- A. Birth Certificate**
  - B. Temporary ID**
  - C. Out of State License**
  - D. Student ID**

## **Answers**

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. C

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which of the following is not an acceptable form of ID for notarization?**

- A. State ID**
- B. Valid Passport**
- C. Marticula Consular Card**
- D. Retired Military ID**

The correct choice is the Marticula Consular Card, which is not considered an acceptable form of identification for notarization in North Carolina. This card is issued by Mexican consulates to Mexican nationals living abroad and does not meet the criteria outlined by North Carolina law regarding acceptable identification for notarizations. In North Carolina, acceptable forms of ID must include government-issued identification that verifies the identity of the signer. State IDs, valid passports, and retired military IDs meet this criterion because they are official government documents that contain a photograph and a signature, thereby establishing both the identity and the authority of the individual presenting the ID. In contrast, the Marticula Consular Card, while a legitimate identification method in some contexts, does not fulfill the specific requirements established for notarization in North Carolina, making it an unsuitable option.

**2. Can notaries public in North Carolina notarize a will?**

- A. No, wills cannot be notarized**
- B. Yes, with specific requirements**
- C. Yes, but only if the signer is present**
- D. No, only attorneys can notarize wills**

In North Carolina, notaries public can indeed notarize wills, but they must adhere to specific requirements outlined in the state's notarial laws. This includes witnessing the signing of the will and ensuring that the testator (the person making the will) is competent, understands what they are signing, and does so voluntarily. While notaries play an essential role in the execution of a will by verifying identities and ensuring proper acknowledgment, they do not provide legal advice or guidance on the content of the will itself. It is crucial for notaries to understand their limitations and the importance of proper procedures when involved in the notarization of legal documents, such as wills. The options indicating that wills cannot be notarized or that only attorneys can handle this task misunderstand the role of notaries in the legal process. Notaries in North Carolina can assist with wills, as long as they fulfill the necessary conditions prescribed by law, making this answer correct.

### 3. What is one of the primary duties of a notary public?

- A. To write legal documents for clients
- B. To verify the identity of signers**
- C. To assist in court proceedings
- D. To provide public notary services only during business hours

Verifying the identity of signers is a fundamental duty of a notary public. This process typically involves checking government-issued identification, such as a driver's license or passport, to ensure that the person signing a document is indeed who they claim to be. This step is critical in preventing fraud and ensuring the integrity of the notarization process. By confirming the identity of the signers, notaries help uphold the trust and validity of documents that are often used in legal and financial transactions. The other responsibilities mentioned do not align with the primary role of a notary. Writing legal documents is generally outside the scope of a notary's duties, as they are not authorized to draft legal instruments or provide legal advice. Assisting in court proceedings is also not a specified duty, as notaries typically do not serve as legal representatives or witnesses within the court system. Additionally, the idea that notary services are only available during business hours limits the accessibility of notary services, which can also be performed outside regular business times, subject to the notary's availability.

### 4. Which of the following is NOT considered satisfactory evidence of identification?

- A. A government-issued photo ID
- B. An oath from a credible witness
- C. A social media profile with no verification**
- D. A passport with the individual's signature

Satisfactory evidence of identification is critical for notaries to ensure the identity of the individuals they are serving. Among the options provided, a social media profile without verification is not considered satisfactory evidence of identification. This is primarily because social media profiles can be created easily and often lack formal verification, making them unreliable as a means of identifying someone. In contrast, options such as a government-issued photo ID, an oath from a credible witness, and a passport with the individual's signature all provide a higher level of assurance regarding a person's identity. A government-issued photo ID is recognized as a legitimate form of identification, as it typically includes essential details such as the individual's name, photograph, and sometimes additional identifying information. A passport is also a strongly reliable form of identification, as it is issued by a government and includes a signature, which aids in ensuring that the identity presented matches that of the document. An oath from a credible witness can also serve as satisfactory evidence when the witness is known to the notary and can affirm the identity of the signer. This method hinges on the credibility and reliability of the witness rather than on official documentation. In summary, the credibility and reliability required in a notarial context are what make social media profiles without verification insufficient as evidence.

**5. For what reason is it important for notaries to remain impartial?**

- A. To ensure all documents are duly signed**
- B. To avoid the appearance of favoritism**
- C. To boost their personal reputation**
- D. To comply with all local laws**

It is crucial for notaries to remain impartial primarily to avoid the appearance of favoritism. Impartiality ensures that all parties involved in a notarization process are treated fairly and equitably, promoting trust in the notarial act. This perception of neutrality helps to uphold the integrity of the notary's role and the legal documents they are certifying. If a notary shows bias towards one party over another, it can undermine the reliability of the notarization and raise questions about the legitimacy of the documents. By maintaining impartiality, notaries help to ensure confidence in the notarial process for everyone involved. While ensuring documents are duly signed, enhancing personal reputation, and complying with local laws are all important aspects of a notary's duties, they are secondary to the fundamental need for fairness and neutrality in the notarization process. Notaries must prioritize this impartiality to maintain the public's trust in their role as unbiased witnesses in legal transactions.

**6. Which of the following accurately describes an oath or affirmation?**

- A. A declaration made under legal pressure**
- B. A vow of truthfulness on penalty of perjury**
- C. Simply agreeing to the validity of a document**
- D. A requirement that lacks any legal implications**

An oath or affirmation is a formal promise regarding the truthfulness of a statement, with the understanding that failure to adhere to this promise may result in legal consequences such as perjury charges. This means that the individual making the oath or affirmation is vowing to tell the truth, typically in the context of providing testimony or certifying the validity of certain documents. The legal weight of an oath or affirmation reinforces the seriousness of the commitment to honesty and can have significant implications if it is not upheld. This understanding distinguishes it from other options which fail to capture the essential nature and legal ramifications associated with oaths and affirmations. For instance, a declaration made under legal pressure does not fully account for the voluntary nature of oaths, while simply agreeing to the validity of a document does not reflect the element of truthfulness that is central to an oath or affirmation. Lastly, characterizing it as a requirement lacking legal implications overlooks the potential consequences that accompany false statements made under an oath.

**7. What type of identification is suitable for notarization and is intended for travel purposes?**

**A. Valid Passport**

**B. Social Security Card**

**C. Credit Card**

**D. Student ID**

A valid passport is suitable for notarization and intended for travel purposes because it is a government-issued identification document that verifies the identity and citizenship of an individual. It includes essential information such as the individual's name, photograph, and signature, which helps to establish their identity in a clear and recognizable manner. Passports are widely accepted by notaries because they contain advanced security features that make them difficult to forge, ensuring that the individual presenting the document is who they claim to be. This high level of authenticity is crucial in notarization, where the integrity of the identification is paramount for preventing fraud and ensuring legal validity. In contrast, the other options lack the same level of credibility and acceptance for notarization. A social security card does not have a photo and may not adequately verify identity in the context of a notarial act. Similarly, a credit card may include a person's name, but it is not a government-issued document and often lacks sufficient security features. A student ID, while it may serve to identify a person within a school context, typically does not meet the rigorous standards required for official notarial identification as it does not provide enough assurance of identity for legal transactions.

**8. How long before the end of the commission date can you start the reappointment process?**

**A. 5 weeks**

**B. 8 weeks**

**C. 10 weeks**

**D. 12 weeks**

The reappointment process for a notary in North Carolina can begin as early as 10 weeks before the end of the current commission. This time frame allows notaries to ensure that there is no lapse in their ability to perform notarial acts. Starting the reappointment process early helps avoid any potential delays or issues that might arise, such as the need for additional training or the processing time involved with the application. Understanding this timeline is crucial because it emphasizes the importance of proactive planning and compliance with state regulations governing notary commissions. By starting the reappointment process at the appropriate time, a notary can maintain their authority and continue to serve their clients without interruption.

**9. Which statement is true regarding the notification requirements for lost notary seals?**

**A. Notification is only required for stolen seals**

**B. Notification must be written and must be made to the sheriff's office and Register of Deeds**

**C. Only the sheriff's office needs to be notified verbally**

**D. No notification is required**

The correct statement regarding the notification requirements for lost notary seals is that notification must be written and must be made to the sheriff's office and Register of Deeds. This requirement ensures that appropriate authorities are informed about the loss of a notary seal, which is crucial for protecting against potential fraudulent activities that could arise from the unauthorized use of the seal. By notifying both the sheriff's office and the Register of Deeds, a notary can take necessary precautions, thus contributing to the integrity of public records and maintaining the trust placed in notarial acts. The requirement for written notification highlights the importance of having a formal record of the loss, allowing for greater transparency and accountability. The sheriff's office can take measures to monitor any misuse while the Register of Deeds can update public records as needed. This process reinforces the ethical responsibility notaries have regarding their seals and the importance of safeguarding them against misuse.

**10. Which of the following forms of ID is acceptable, as long as it is properly issued?**

**A. Birth Certificate**

**B. Temporary ID**

**C. Out of State License**

**D. Student ID**

An out-of-state driver's license is an acceptable form of identification for a notarial act in North Carolina, as long as it is current and properly issued. This form of ID provides a legal verification of a person's identity and can include crucial information such as their photo, signature, and physical description, which helps the notary confirm that the individual is who they claim to be. In specific contexts, the guidelines regarding the acceptance of identification can vary, but out-of-state licenses are generally recognized due to their standardized issuance process, which ensures they contain valid identifying information. This is particularly important in maintaining the integrity of notarizations, as it is the notary's responsibility to verify the identity of the signers. Other forms of ID, such as birth certificates, are typically not acceptable because they do not include a photo or signature, making it challenging to verify a person's identity effectively during the notarization process. Temporary IDs may lack the permanence or formal verification needed for the notarial act, and student IDs are often not standardized or recognized widely enough as valid identification for notarization.