

# NOTARY NEWS

**CommuniMatics Mobile Notary Services**  
**Where making it Official meets CONVENIENCE!**



**CommuniMatics**  
MOBILE NOTARY SERVICES

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## Notary Trivia

The origins of Notaries can be traced to ancient Egypt -- a time when making records official transactions became important to humanity. Notaries and notarization played a key role in the development of governments, commerce and organized society.

**Ancient Egypt: 2750-2250 B.C.**  
Ancient Egyptian “sesh,” or “scribes,” were established in the Old Kingdom and were the earliest known chroniclers of official communications in recorded history. Scribes made up an entire level of the ancient Egyptian bureaucracy. Personal letters, official proclamations, tax records, and other documents all went through their hands. The recording of events was so highly valued that Pharaoh Tutankhamen even included writing equipment in his tomb for the afterlife.

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## When to Use a Notary

You've just signed that lucrative contract to build a million widgets, and you're feeling great. Your company is in the black, and employee morale is high. *BUT WAIT ... Did you have your signature witnessed by a Notary Public?* NOT having your signature notarized on such an important document is a big mistake! You are covered if any questions pertaining to the authenticity of your signature arise in the future, *if* your signature was notarized.

Having your signature notarized is a powerful risk-management tool to prevent fraud and identity theft but having the notary simply witness you sign the document is not enough; *the notary must also include the official acknowledgement wording and affix his or her seal to make the notarization legal.* One of the most important reasons for having your signature notarized is that under the Federal Rules of Evidence, a notarized document is considered "self-authenticating." The same is true under the rules of evidence in effect in each state, although there are a few states that don't follow this norm. When a document is self-authenticating, the signers of the contract do not need to testify in court to verify the authenticity of their signatures. That saves a lot of time and money. Having a document notarized is a huge strategic advantage in litigation.

A notary public is a person with a special commission from a state government that allows him or her to acknowledge the official witnessing of another person's signature on a document. There are 4.5 million notaries in the United States. That figure does not include the millions of lawyers nationwide who by virtue of being an attorney are also vested with that authority. Each state maintains its own rules about whether attorneys are automatically notaries.

While the duties of public notaries might be simple to execute, they are extremely important. First, a notary cannot attest to witnessing a signature unless the signer signs the document in their presence. To ensure the parties signing the document are the real people who are supposed to do so, Florida requires signers to present identification to the notary. The notary must also ascertain whether people are signing the document voluntarily or under duress. This is especially crucial when a senior citizen or someone with limited English skills is signing a document. In some states, notaries are required to maintain a journal of the documents they notarize. The journal details the type of identification presented to the notary and a basic description of the document he or she notarized. While Florida does not yet require notaries to keep a journal, CommuniMatics' notaries do maintain a confidential and secured journal to protect our clients.

**Some states like Florida require that notaries be certified.** This occurs when applicants complete required educational courses and pay a fee. Other states that impose these requirements on notaries include North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Oregon, and California.



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## Neighbors Network—Helping Older Family Members Stay Independent

Remember the old adage “It takes a village ...?” Neighbors Network is just that; a village of vetted service providers and volunteers who provide services much like neighbors used to do for each other years ago. Need some help to change out light bulbs on a ceiling fixture too high to reach, need a hand flipping that heavy mattress, or need some help cleaning out and organizing a closet or your garage? In a society where more often than not folks don’t know their neighbors, and our children may live all over the country, Neighbors Network can help match a vetted volunteer to help with these simple chores.

Seniors often struggle to find a qualified and honest service provider to perform services like plumbing repairs, air conditioning repairs, electrical repairs or even replace or repair a roof. In addition to vetting volunteers to help with simple chores around the house, Neighbors Network also vettes local service providers and can help older families find those roofers, Notaries, and plumbers, etc. they need to provide professional services in their home.

Currently the Neighbors Network “village” covers Winter Park, Eatonville, Maitland, and some streets surrounding those cities. Membership in the “village” begins with an application and an in-home interview to determine what the resident needs most. There is an annual fee to become a member but members have unlimited access to the list of “pay for” service providers and there is no limit to the number of times a member can call for help. For more information about membership in Neighbors Network or to apply to become a vetted service provider or volunteer, contact Annette Kelly, Executive Director at [annette@neighborsnetworkfl.org](mailto:annette@neighborsnetworkfl.org). Check out the website at <http://www.neighborsnetworkfl.org/>

**CommuniMatics Mobile Notary Services is proud to be a vetted service provider for Neighbors Network.**

## Senior Survival Workshops

Have questions about navigating the challenges of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and Veterans benefits. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to educate yourself on Estate Planning tools used to ensure you protect your legacy and plan for your loved ones, including Medicaid benefits and Veterans benefits available to help pay for the rising costs of long term care. The Law Offices of Kathleen Flammia invites you to attend their upcoming workshop as listed below and encourages you to pass along the information to anyone you know who may be in need of these services.

The workshop will take place on April 28th at the Winter Park Public Library from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Please call the law office at 407-478-8700 for details and to RSVP, as seating is limited.

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Proudly serving the Orange, Osceola, and Seminole County areas of Central Florida since 1970. We handle the notarization of signatures on legal documents like Powers of Attorney, Advanced Healthcare Directives, Concealed Weapons Permits, Living Wills, and car bills of sale, etc. for the general public along with drilled safe deposit box inventories for local banks, construction related permits for contractors, and mortgage loan document signings for title companies. We can also officiate at your wedding and help you with writing your vows if needed. We travel to private residences, offices, hospitals, nursing homes, jails and even your favorite coffee shop or ball field to handle your notarization needs.

