

NOTARY NEWS

CommuniMatics Mobile Notary Services
Where making it Official meets CONVENIENCE!



CommuniMatics
MOBILE NOTARY SERVICES

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Notary Trivia

Order of the Knights Templar: 1099-1307

The Knights Templar were a monastic military order formed at the end of the First Crusade with the mandate of protecting Christian pilgrims on route to the Holy Land. From humble beginnings, within two centuries they had become powerful enough to defy all but the Papal throne, and created the modern system of banking, mortgages and loans. The Clergy of the Order were highly educated and became the critically important Notaries for all Templar business, official documents, orders and proclamations.



Happy Thanksgiving

BEWARE of Holiday Scams!

As we get into this holiday season, I hope everyone is in the spirit of brotherly love and great season of cheer. I am also hoping everyone is bracing and properly preparing themselves for the new round of Holiday Scams. I will highlight 3 Holiday Scams that seem to be making the rounds this year.

- 1. FedEx / UPS follow-drop-pickup scam.** This scam was actually highlighted on the "Today Show" in 2013 but it bears repeating. This scam has a couple different ways it can be done. It involves criminals following FedEx and UPS trucks in residential neighborhoods and watching for them to make drops at the front doors of homes. When the driver leaves the criminals run over, pickup the packages and take off. As an alternative you may want to have your packages delivered to a location that they can be received by an actual person.
- 2. Checks in the mail scam.** During this time of year many of you, like me, send checks to love ones that are quite a distance away. Sometimes we put those checks in the mailbox in front of our home and place the flag up telling our mail carrier to pick up this mail. The problem with this is that it also sends a signal to criminals to intercept checks, gift cards or other items of value. With checks, criminals can lift ink off (using things you can buy at any hardware store) and rewrite the check to themselves for a higher amount. To ensure your packages arrive on time take them directly to the post office or hand them directly to your mail carrier.
- 3. Smash and Grab.** This scam can also have several different variations. This scam involves criminals targeting older people and women at shopping malls or retail stores. Once the person gets out of their vehicle the criminals run up and grab their purse or wallet. Not for money but to get access to the person's drivers license or state issued identification information. Local news reports that these criminals have gone so far as to dress in a disguise as the victims and visit the victims bank to gain access to their accounts, sometimes trying to get Powers of Attorney notarized to gain access to the victims finances.

CONTACT US:

PHONE: 407-401-8360

EMAIL: Nell.Colbert@CommuniMatics.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CommuniMaticsMobileNotaryService>

Follow us on Twitter: @necolbert

Visit our website: <http://www.communitatics.com>



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Holiday Safety Tips

Holiday time is supposed to be a joyous time of the year BUT the bad guys have other ideas—ideas to make their holidays bright and yours, not so much! Here are some simple tips to help you keep you and your home safe during the holiday season:

Keeping your home safe:

- Keep your shrubs near your home trimmed so that would be burglars won't have a place to hide as they break into your home.
- Be sure that the gifts under your tree are not visible through windows and doors.
- Keep your outside lights on from dusk until dawn during the holiday season; remember, thieves love the darkness.
- If you have repairmen coming to your home during the holidays, be sure to check their company identification before letting them inside your home and always stay with them as they work; sometimes temptation gets the best of some folks and little things can disappear into pockets and toolboxes.

Keeping yourself safe:

- Always park under or near a light when shopping at night.
- Never leave anything visible in your car—put them in your trunk. If it can be seen, it's easy to grab.
- If you get overloaded while shopping and return to your car to store your packages, after putting them in your trunk, move your car to a different area of the parking lot. Many times thieves watch parking lots for people who store purchases but then return to the store for more shopping.
- NEVER walk to your car in the mall parking lot by yourself after dark. Most malls have security personnel who are available to escort you to your car—use them! But better yet, shop with a friend; it's a lot more fun and safer, too.
- Ladies, please leave your purse at home! Use a fanny pack and carry only your ID and the credit card or cards you plan to use.
- If you have your credit card in your hand while waiting in line, be sure to cover up the card number. Someone behind you could be writing down your card number.
- If at all possible, do not use a debit card for point of sale purchases unless your card has been changed out for a card containing the EMV chip. You never know who's watching as you enter your PIN.

I hope you find these simple tips useful in helping you have a wonderful holiday season.



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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.

