

From: [Donna Manis](#)
To: [SoS Rulemaking](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed changes to Notary rules for 8-16-22
Date: Monday, August 15, 2022 4:29:28 PM

I am unable to attend tomorrow's meeting, but would like to offer my comments on the proposed notary rules for deaf, hearing-impaired, and deaf-blind.

As a notary and as a mother of a hearing-impaired individual, the proposed new rules appear to place an undue burden on this particular demographic.

1. For those that use sign language (not everyone does), it forces them to first find an organization that might/might not have the requisite professionals you require. Sometimes, time is of the essence for some notary needs, and finding someone to fulfill these requirements can become onerous. What verification/identification would then be required of the professional to show the notary? Also, they may now have to pay this professional for their services and possibly for any transportation costs incurred. For those that work low-end jobs, this can create a financial burden. Some might even desire another friend or family member to accompany them since the professional is a stranger to them. More complications.

2. For those that are oral and do not use sign language, they just need a bit of assistance in understanding what the notary is asking them. Some have a high register loss, others a low register loss and cannot always understand the notary. Beards, mustaches, and even rates of speech are also impediments for this group.

3. There are several sign languages in use, not just one, and there are also other forms by which they communicate (Cued Speech, for example). Not all forms of communication can give a word-for-word understanding of a document.

4. If the document is in English, both they and the notary can read it and more than likely, trusted family or friends have explained it to them prior to meeting with the notary.

Family and friends are at the forefront for many hearing-impaired, deaf, and deaf-blind individuals as they participate in society. They know the individual's limitations and how best to assist them in understanding things.

Notaries are observant enough to know when someone is being coerced into signing a document that they do not want or do not understand. Similar to how we observe the elderly.

I ask that you please reconsider placing onerous rules on this particular demographic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donna Manis