



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
TERRI LYNN LAND, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

March 22, 2007

Dear Michigan Notary Public:

Let me congratulate you on your decision to serve the people of Michigan as a notary public. As a currently commissioned notary public in Michigan, you are a valuable asset to the general public and the business community. To continue to faithfully perform your notarial duties appropriately, it is necessary for you to remain current in your knowledge of notary public law changes and amendments.

The Michigan Notary Public Act, 2003 PA 238, was amended three times in 2006 as follows:

- 2006 PA 155, effective May 26, 2006
- 2006 PA 426, effective October 5, 2006
- 2006 PA 510, effective April 1, 2007

A brief summary of the amendments is available at [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos). In particular, you should be aware of the following:

- The standard notarization format was changed to eliminate the duplicative requirement of noting both the county of commission and county in which the notarial act was performed when conducting services in the notary's county of commission. It also added the requirement to include the date the notarial act was performed (MCL 55.287).
- MCL 55.265 was expanded to include definitions for lineal ancestor and lineal descendant, with MCL 55.291 clarifying family member relationships for whom a notary public may not perform notarial acts (including but not limited to spouse, parents, children, in-laws, steps and half-relatives).
- The requirement that a notary public not notarize any record containing a blank space was also eliminated, clearing up confusion about notarization of standard form documents (MCL 55.291).

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the updated information about the notary public program on our Web site, [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos). Simply click on the "Notary & Document Certification" link on the left of our home page. There you will also find a link to a complete copy of the 12-page Michigan Notary Public Act, as it is your obligation to read and understand the Act when you perform notarial services. Improper notarization may put you, your surety bond and your commission at risk. If you are unable to find information you are looking for on our Web site, or need further clarification, please e-mail us through the "Contact SOS" link, or call 888-SOS-MICH with your comments.

I want to personally thank you for your public service and your continued commitment to uphold the laws of our great State of Michigan. Your dedication is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terri Lynn Land".

Terri Lynn Land  
Secretary of State