

**§1920. Journal**

**1. Journal required.** A notarial officer shall maintain a journal for all electronic and remote notarizations. A notarial officer may maintain a journal for all tangible notarizations. The notarial officer shall retain the journal for 10 years after the performance of the last notarial act chronicled in the journal.

[PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

**2. Tangible medium or electronic format permitted.** A journal under this section may be created on a tangible medium or in an electronic format. A notarial officer shall maintain only one journal at a time to chronicle all notarial acts performed regarding tangible records and one or more journals to chronicle all notarial acts performed regarding electronic records. If the journal is maintained on a tangible medium, it must be a permanent, bound register with numbered pages. If the journal is maintained in an electronic format, it must be in a permanent, tamper-evident electronic format complying with the rules of the Secretary of State.

[PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

**3. Requirements.** An entry in a journal must be made contemporaneously with performance of the notarial act and contain the following information:

A. The date and time of the notarial act; [PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

B. A description of the record, if any, and type of notarial act; [PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

C. The full name and address of each individual for whom the notarial act is performed; [PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

D. If identity of the individual is based on personal knowledge, a statement to that effect; [PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

E. If identity of the individual is based on satisfactory evidence, a brief description of the method of identification and the identification credential presented, if any, including the dates of issuance and expiration of any identification credential; and [PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

F. The fee, if any, charged by the notarial officer. [PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

[PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

**4. Lost or stolen journal.** If a notarial officer's journal is lost or stolen, the officer shall promptly notify the Secretary of State on discovering that the journal is lost or stolen.

[PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

**5. Retention.** On resignation from, or the revocation or suspension of, a notary public's commission, the former notary public shall retain the former notary public's journal in accordance with subsection 1 and inform the Secretary of State where the journal is located.

[PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

**6. Alternative to retention.** Instead of retaining a journal as provided in subsection 5, a former notary public may transmit the journal to the Secretary of State or a repository approved by the Secretary of State.

[PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

**7. Death or incompetency of notary public.** On the death or adjudication of incompetency of a current or former notary public, the notary public's personal representative or guardian or any other

person knowingly in possession of the journal shall transmit it to the Secretary of State or a repository approved by the Secretary of State.

[PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §4 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 651, Pt. A, §8 (AFF).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.