

**From:** Sylvén Watson  
**To:** [SoS Rulemaking](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - working draft notary rules  
**Date:** Monday, March 5, 2018 9:27:02 PM

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Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the development of Colorado's proposed amendments for the Notary Program Rules. I agree that rules and regulations must be revisited and revised from time to time, however I have concerns about these proposals.

I do not understand the basis for *New Rule 4*. A Notary's journal is their own, and the Notary should maintain possession of their journal in all cases. I propose that it might be more efficient to prohibit a Notary's firm or employer from possessing a Notary's journal, except in the unfortunate occurrence of the death of a Notary, in which case the firm or employer should be required to surrender the journal to the Secretary of State if it has been left at the firm or place of employment by the Notary.

I am concerned about new rules requiring a *renewing* Notary to complete training and pass an exam (New Rule 2.1.3). I believe most Colorado notaries are very busy working people. Many of us are employed in positions that require us to attend hours of training yearly to maintain licenses or certifications. Others of us may be in academic degree programs that require a large portion of our off-duty time. I live in a rural part of the state and have participated in many trainings delivered by various State of Colorado departments throughout my public service career. Commonly, trainings are offered only in the Denver area which requires extra expense and time for travel away from work and home, in addition to fees for the trainings. Notarial acts do not require legal knowledge or proficiency beyond comprehension of state regulations and possessing a working knowledge of the various situations and reasons for notarial acts in a Notary's local area.

In lieu of requiring renewing Notaries to "successfully complete training and pass the exam", perhaps requiring verification by attestation that a Notary has received and reviewed a copy of the current regulations might satisfy concerns for renewals. Another alternative might be to require a specific level of education, verifiable with an academic institution's transcript, for renewing certification, or state sanctioned training and exam if the level of education has

not been achieved. It may be feasible to require Notaries under disciplinary action to undergo training and testing to regain satisfactory standing. I agree that training and examination for *new* Notary applications should be a Colorado requirement to ensure understanding of Colorado's regulations, but renewing Notaries should already possess the necessary knowledge of the regulations they work under.

I am proud of my Notary certification with the State of Colorado, and the ability it gives me to assist coworkers and Colorado residents when their lives require a document to be notarized. Please consider the economic and qualitative impacts of these proposed rules. I recommend prohibiting a firm or employer from possessing an individual Notary's journal and recommend abandonment of training and testing requirements for Notary renewals.

Cordially,  
Sylvan Watson