



Office of the Governor  
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196  
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor



SECRETARY OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

2009 APR -9 AM 11:37

EXECUTIVE ORDER

09-08

April 8, 2009

NOTARY PUBLIC CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 30 of Title 42 of the Rhode Island General laws the Offices of Governor and Secretary for State are responsible for the appointment, registration and disciplining of notaries public; and

WHEREAS, incidents of notary public misconduct are on the rise and there are currently no statutes, rules or regulations in Rhode Island regarding standards of notary conduct; and

WHEREAS, an advisory code of conduct for notaries public would help protect Rhode Island citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has the authority to remove notaries public for cause pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-30-10; and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order is intended to spell out the procedures for removing such notaries and to conform with due process requirements in the exercise of that power.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. By execution of this executive order, I hereby endorse the provisions of the document entitled, "Standards of Conduct for Notaries Public in the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations," which has been drafted and approved by the legal divisions of both my office and that of the Secretary of State, and reflects codes of conduct adopted in other states such as our neighboring state of Massachusetts.

2. All notaries public in the State of Rhode Island are encouraged to act in accordance with the provisions of this document in order to better protect and serve the citizens of the State of Rhode Island.

3. Copies of aforementioned document can be obtained through the legal divisions of the Office of the Governor or Secretary of State and those divisions are prepared to answer any questions that may arise from the document.

4. I also hereby delegate my authority to discipline notaries public pursuant to R.I.Gen.Laws §42-30-10 to the Department of Administration, which shall investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate claims and charges against notaries pursuant to R.I.Gen.Laws §42-30-10 and the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 35 of Title 42 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The Department of Administration may seek help from other agencies in order to accomplish this charge as it may deem necessary.

So Ordered:

  
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Donald L. Carcieri

Dated: 4/9/09