



County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

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# Notary Public Seal

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Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://ctas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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# Notary Public Seal

Reference Number: CTAS-670

The notary must purchase an official seal. The secretary of state prescribes the design of the seal, which is to be imprinted by a rubber or other type stamp in any color other than black or yellow as long as it is clearly legible and appears black on a non-color copier; however, the law provides that a document will not be invalid nor will there be any criminal or civil liability if a notary uses the wrong color ink. Also, the use of an embossed notary seal after May 12, 2003, does not render an acknowledgment defective. The seal must be surrendered to the county legislative body upon expiration of the notary's term of office or resignation and the personal representative must surrender the seal in the event of the death of the notary. T.C.A. § 8-16-114. The current design prescribed by the Secretary of State is circular, and has the notary's name (as commissioned) printed at the top, the county of election at the bottom, and State of Tennessee Notary Public in the center. The county clerk may obtain the official seal for the notary public at the notary's request. For providing this service the county clerk may charge a fee not exceeding twenty percent (20%) of the cost of the seal. T.C.A. § 8-16-114.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/notary-public-seal>