



State of Wisconsin
Department of Financial Institutions

Tony Evers, **Governor**

Kathy Blumenfeld, **Secretary**

January 27, 2021

On behalf of the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and the Remote Notary Council, we are writing to update interested organizations and notaries regarding the implementation of remote online notarization in Wisconsin.

Act 125

On March 3, 2020, Governor Evers signed bipartisan legislation ([Wisconsin Act 125](#)) authorizing remote online notarization in Wisconsin for the first time. Act 125 created the five-member Remote Notary Council and established several requirements to safeguard the integrity of the notarial process and help ensure that remote online notarial acts performed by Wisconsin notaries are accurate, authentic, adequately preserved, and secure. Among other safeguards, the law requires notaries performing remote online notarizations to utilize technologies that have been approved under the standards of the Remote Notary Council and DFI. Act 125 does not permit the use of unapproved technologies in performing remote online notarizations.

The Remote Notary Council and RON Technology Approvals

The Council has held 10 public meetings since July, developing standards and interviewing representatives from more than a dozen organizations that have sought state approval of their communication technologies for purposes of remote online notarization. Several have been approved so far, and DFI maintains a [list of approved technology providers](#) that make their remote online notarization technologies commercially available to Wisconsin notaries and/or organizations that employ them. Wisconsin notaries may utilize these approved technology providers to perform remote online notarizations.

Alternatively, rather than using one of these approved commercial providers, organizations or individuals may develop their own RON technology systems for internal or commercial use, subject to the same requirements of review and approval. Applications for approval of RON technology are available [here](#).

Guidance for Notaries

In consultation with the Council, DFI has developed [guidance for notaries seeking to perform remote online notarial acts](#). The guidance is intended to help notaries understand and comply with the requirements of Act 125. In addition, DFI and the Council have also developed guidance on two subjects of particular importance under the new law: [guidance on the acceptable means of identity proofing](#) for remote online notarizations, and [guidance on how to determine whether the notary's personal knowledge of the signer's identity](#) is sufficient to dispense with the need for identity proofing. All departmental guidance on remote online notarization in Wisconsin is compiled on [this page](#), which will be updated as necessary while the work of DFI and the Council proceeds.

Public Input is Welcome

Remote online notarization is new to Wisconsin and most other states, and public input is invaluable to DFI and the Council as they continue their efforts to implement Act 125. Please email DFINotary@dfi.wisconsin.gov with any suggestions, concerns, or questions regarding remote online notarization in this state.