

PATTY BAKER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Notary Education and Journal Requirements for Georgia Notaries Announced

Cherokee County, GA– Patty Baker, Clerk of Courts for Cherokee County, announces important changes to notary requirements in the state of Georgia following the passage of **House Bill 1292** during the 2024 legislative session. Effective **January 1, 2025**, these changes introduce mandatory notary education and the requirement to maintain a detailed journal for specific notarial acts.

Mandatory Educational Training

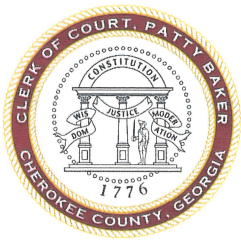
Beginning January 1, 2025, all notary applicants, including those renewing their notary commissions, will be required to complete an approved **educational training course**. This course will cover essential duties and responsibilities of notaries public as defined in Chapter 17 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA). The course will be available on the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority's eLearn platform starting December 1, 2024, and participants will receive a **certificate of completion, which must be submitted along with their notary application to the Clerk of Superior Court.**

Journal Requirements

In addition to the educational course, House Bill 1292 mandates that notaries public maintain a **journal of notarial acts** for any request made by a “self-filer.” A self-filer is defined as a person involved in real estate transactions who is not a licensed professional in fields such as real estate, law, or banking. The journal must document the following details for each notarization:

- Self-filer's name, address, and phone number
- Date, time, and location of notarization
- Government-issued ID presented (or personal knowledge confirmation)
- Signature of the requestor
- Type of document notarized

This new requirement is designed to increase transparency and safeguard the legal integrity of notarized documents.



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Notary Training and Resources Available

To ensure notaries are equipped to comply with these changes, the **Cherokee County Clerk of Courts Office** is planning a notary training session, open to all current and prospective notaries, with details forthcoming. Additionally, we encourage all notaries to stay informed through our website and social media channels, where further updates will be posted.

“These changes are substantial for many notaries, especially those who have been commissioned for years,” said Clerk Patty Baker. “We are committed to providing the necessary resources and training to ensure all notaries understand and comply with these new requirements.”

This press release serves as an essential notification to all notaries and community members in Cherokee County. Please share this information with any current or prospective notaries.

Patty Baker
Clerk of Courts, Cherokee County, Georgia