

To: All Maryland Policy Issuing Agents of WFG National Title Insurance Company From: WFG Underwriting Department Date: April 13, 2020 Bulletin No.: MD 2020-06 Subject: State of Maryland Revised Notary Guidance

On April 10, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan revised his Emergency Order No. 20-02-30-04 dated March 30, 2020, which temporarily waives the in-person requirement for notarizing documents. The revised guidance can be found here:

https://sos.maryland.gov/Notary/Documents/Remote-Notary-Guidance-w-FAQs-UPDATED-April-10-2020.pdf

Note that the revised guidance requires the use of "purpose-designed" technology to conduct remote notarizations. This means communications technology specifically designed for video-conferencing, which includes secure communications. In particular, the use of Zoom.com to perform remote notarizations is prohibited.

The revised guidance also states that certain platforms are not designed specifically for remote notarizations, including Go To Meeting, Microsoft Team, Google Meet, and Skype. Although these services could theoretically be used to conduct remote notarizations under the Governor's Order, <u>WFG</u> National Title requires the use of the following platforms only to conduct remote notarizations:

- DocVerify
- Nexsys® Clear Sign
- Notarize
- NotaryCam®
- Pavaso

Except for any changes set forth in this Bulletin, WFG's guidance in Bulletin MD 2020-05, which can be found <u>here</u>, remains in full force and effect.

For additional information, contact Ned Livornese, WFG's Maryland underwriter, at <u>nlivornese@wfgnationaltitle.com</u> or 443-286-5964, or John Micciche, Maryland Agency Manager, at <u>jmicciche@wfgnationaltitle.com</u>, or 410-913-1884.

NOTE: The information contained in this Bulletin is intended solely for the use of employees of WFG National Title Insurance Company, its title insurance agents and approved attorneys. Disclosure to any other person is expressly prohibited unless approved in writing by the WFG National Title Insurance Company's Underwriting Department.

The Agent may be held responsible for any loss sustained as a result of the failure to follow the standards set forth above.