

Misdemeanors

(1 year or less in jail or prison)

- Every officer authorized by law to make or give any certificate or other writing is guilty of a misdemeanor if he or she makes and delivers as true any certificate or writing containing statements which he or she knows to be false.
- The respondent has thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the commission revocation to deliver all notary public records and papers, including the notary public journal, to the clerk of the county in which the current oath of office as a notary public is on file. If the respondent willfully fails or refuses to deliver all notary public records and papers to the county clerk within that time, the respondent is guilty of a misdemeanor and is personally liable for damages to any person injured by the action or inaction.
- Any person who solicits, coerces, or in any manner influences a notary public to perform an improper notarial act knowing the act is improper, including any act required of a notary public in connection with the notary journal, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- Every person who willfully obtains the personal identifying information of another person, including the name, address, checking account information, tax identification number, driver's license information, or other personal identifying information, and who uses that information for any unlawful purpose, including intending to obtain, or attempting to obtain, credit, goods, services, real property, or medical information without the consent of that person, is guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony at the discretion of the court.
- A notary public is guilty of a misdemeanor if the notary public willfully fails to keep his or her notary public seal under the notary public's direct and exclusive control or if the notary public willfully surrenders the notary public's seal to any person not authorized to possess it.
- A notary public is guilty of a misdemeanor if the notary public willfully fails to properly maintain the notary public's journal.
- If any person shall knowingly destroy, deface, or conceal any records or papers belonging to the office of a notary public, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and be liable in a civil action for damages to any person injured as a result of such destruction, defacing, or concealment.
- It shall be a misdemeanor for any person who is not a duly commissioned, qualified, and acting notary public for the State of California to do any of the following:
 - Represent or hold himself or herself out to the public or to any person as being entitled to act as a notary public.
 - Assume, use or advertise the title of notary public in such a manner as to convey the impression that the person is a notary public.
- Any notary public who willfully fails to perform any duty required of a notary public under Section 8206 ([see all laws under 8206](#)), or who willfully fails to keep the seal of the notary public under the direct and exclusive control of the notary public, or who surrenders the seal of the notary public to any person not otherwise authorized by law to possess the seal of the notary, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor