

New York Notary Practice Questions (25)

Original practice questions written from official New York sources. They are not questions from the official exam. These 25 are not on our free 20-question online test or the timed practice exam. Answer key with the official source for each answer is on the last pages.

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1. **Instead of a photo ID, which alternative does 19 NYCRR 182.5 allow?**
 - A. A library card alone
 - B. At least two current documents from an institution, business, or government bearing at least the person's signature
 - C. A notarized letter from a friend
 - D. One expired passport
2. **A person performs notary functions before taking and filing the oath of office. Under Public Officers Law 15, this is:**
 - A. Allowed for 30 days
 - B. A felony
 - C. A misdemeanor
 - D. A violation
3. **What is a “statute of frauds”?**
 - A. A limitations period
 - B. A criminal statute on forgery
 - C. State law requiring certain contracts to be in writing (or partly performed) to be enforceable
 - D. A law against notary fraud
4. **What may result from a non-attorney notary engaging in the practice of law?**
 - A. A \$10 fine
 - B. Only a warning
 - C. Removal from office and possible imprisonment, fine, or both
 - D. Nothing, if no fee was charged
5. **A county clerk staff member appointed as a notary under County Law 534 is exempt from what?**
 - A. The exam fee and application fee
 - B. The 4-year term
 - C. The oath of office
 - D. The exam itself
6. **What is a “subordination clause”?**
 - A. A clause naming an executor
 - B. A clause waiving notice
 - C. A clause ending a lease
 - D. A clause allowing a later mortgage to take priority over an existing one

7. **Under RPL 303, when may an officer take an acknowledgment?**
- A. Only if the person signs in front of them
 - B. Only for real property
 - C. Only if they know, or have satisfactory evidence, that the person is the one described in and who executed the instrument
 - D. Whenever the person presents any document
8. **How much of the application fee does the Secretary of State send to the county clerk where the appointee resides?**
- A. \$60
 - B. \$20
 - C. \$10
 - D. \$40
9. **May a New York notary take an acknowledgment on a Sunday?**
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Only for real property
 - D. Only in emergencies
10. **A notary employed by a bank is asked to protest a note held by the bank in which the notary has a financial interest. May they?**
- A. Yes, if they disclose it
 - B. No
 - C. Yes, as a bank employee
 - D. Yes, for a reduced fee
11. **May a member of a religious order be appointed and act under their religious name?**
- A. Only with a court order
 - B. Only if it matches their passport
 - C. Yes
 - D. No
12. **What is “duress”?**
- A. Unlawful constraint forcing a person to act against their will
 - B. A type of lien
 - C. A delay in asserting rights
 - D. A court decree
13. **Which document may a non-attorney New York notary draw up for a customer?**
- A. A power of attorney
 - B. None of these; drawing legal papers like wills, deeds, leases, and affidavits is prohibited
 - C. A lease
 - D. A will

14. **If the principal is outside the United States, the record must, among other options:**
- A. Be filed with or relate to a matter before a U.S. public official, court, or entity under U.S. jurisdiction
 - B. Be written in English
 - C. Be approved by a consul
 - D. Involve less than \$10,000
15. **Which document must an exam-taker submit with the application to show they passed?**
- A. A certificate of official character
 - B. A bond
 - C. A "pass slip"
 - D. A seal impression
16. **An attorney-notary may substitute what words for "Notary Public" in the Section 137 statement?**
- A. "Commissioner of Deeds"
 - B. "Officer of the Court"
 - C. "Attorney and Counselor at Law"
 - D. "Esquire"
17. **Is a New York notary required to perform notarizations using communication technology?**
- A. No
 - B. Yes, once registered
 - C. Only for out-of-state signers
 - D. Yes, if requested
18. **After a safe deposit box is opened under Banking Law 335, within how many days must a copy of the notary's certificate be mailed to the lessee?**
- A. 30 days
 - B. 10 days
 - C. 5 days
 - D. 60 days
19. **Under 182.5(d), may personal knowledge satisfy identity for an electronic notarial act?**
- A. No, never
 - B. Only with credential analysis
 - C. Only for relatives
 - D. Yes, if all other Part 182 requirements are met
20. **Under 19 NYCRR 182.3(b), on what grounds MAY a notary refuse to perform a notarial act?**
- A. The signer's political views
 - B. The signer lives in another county
 - C. Not being satisfied the principal is competent, or that the signature is knowingly and voluntarily made
 - D. The document is long

21. **How does an affidavit differ from a deposition?**
- A. An affidavit is an ex parte statement
 - B. A deposition can't be taken by a notary
 - C. An affidavit requires both parties
 - D. A deposition is never under oath
22. **An out-of-state attorney admitted in New York keeps a law office in New York. For notary purposes, where are they deemed to reside?**
- A. Their home state
 - B. The county where the NY office is maintained
 - C. Albany County
 - D. New York County
23. **What does "attest" mean?**
- A. To witness the execution of an instrument at the maker's request and sign as a witness
 - B. To notarize
 - C. To swear an oath
 - D. To certify a copy
24. **What is the registration fee to become a New York electronic notary?**
- A. \$10
 - B. \$25
 - C. \$60
 - D. \$15
25. **Under Judiciary Law 484, a non-attorney may not receive compensation for preparing:**
- A. Photocopies
 - B. Grocery lists
 - C. Business letters
 - D. Deeds, mortgages, leases, wills, or other instruments affecting real estate or estates

Answer key and sources

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| 1 | B | Section 182.5(b)(2) allows two current documents with at least the signature.
Source: 19 NYCRR 182.5(b)(2), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 2 | C | The booklet says this is a misdemeanor; a notary is a public officer.
Source: Public Officers Law § 15, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 3 | C | That is the booklet's definition.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Definitions (Statute of Frauds), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 4 | C | The booklet says these activities subject the notary to removal and possible imprisonment or fine.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Professional Conduct, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 5 | A | They are exempt from the examination fee and the application fee.
Source: County Law § 534, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 6 | D | That is the booklet's definition.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Definitions (Subordination Clause), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 7 | C | RPL 303 states the requisite of an acknowledgment.
Source: RPL § 303, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 8 | B | Section 131(5) apportions \$20 to the county clerk.
Source: Exec. Law § 131(5), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 9 | A | The booklet says a notary may administer an oath or take an affidavit or acknowledgment on Sunday.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Definitions (Sunday), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 10 | B | Section 138 bars protesting instruments in which the notary is a party or has a financial interest.
Source: Exec. Law § 138, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 11 | C | The booklet cites a 1930 Attorney General opinion allowing it.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Definitions (Signature of Notary Public), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 12 | A | Duress: unlawful constraint.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Definitions (Duress), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 13 | B | The booklet lists wills, deeds, leases, powers of attorney, affidavits, and more as prohibited.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Professional Conduct, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 14 | A | Section 135-c(4)(a) lists the U.S.-nexus conditions.
Source: Exec. Law § 135-c(4)(a)(1), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 15 | C | The Introduction says applicants must submit a pass slip.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Introduction, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 16 | C | Section 137 allows that substitution.
Source: Exec. Law § 137, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 17 | A | Section 135-c(9) says nothing requires a notary to perform an electronic notarial act.
Source: Exec. Law § 135-c(9), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 18 | B | A copy goes to the lessee's last known address within 10 days.
Source: Banking Law § 335, https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 19 | D | Section 182.5(d) allows the electronic notary's attestation of personal knowledge.
Source: 19 NYCRR 182.5(d), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |
| 20 | C | Section 182.3(b) allows refusal on competence or voluntariness grounds.
Source: 19 NYCRR 182.3(b), https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1 |

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- 21 **A** The booklet says an affidavit is an ex parte statement.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Definitions (Affidavit), <https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1>
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- 22 **B** Section 130(2) deems them a resident of the county where the office is.
Source: Exec. Law § 130(2), <https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1>
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- 23 **A** Attest: witness execution and subscribe as a witness.
Source: Notary Public License Law (Sept. 2026), Definitions (Attest), <https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1>
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- 24 **C** 19 NYCRR 182.11(b) sets a non-refundable \$60 registration fee.
Source: 19 NYCRR 182.11(b), <https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1>
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- 25 **D** Section 484 lists those instruments.
Source: Judiciary Law § 484, <https://dos.ny.gov/notary-public-license-law-1>
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