

What is Remote Online Notarization

(often shortened to **RON**) is when a notary and a signer complete the notarization process **entirely online** using audio-video technology, instead of meeting face-to-face in person.

Here's how it works step by step:

1. **Identity Verification** – The signer's identity is verified through secure methods like credential analysis (checking ID documents) and knowledge-based authentication (answering personal questions).
2. **Video Session** – The signer and the notary connect live through a secure video platform. Both can see and hear each other in real time.
3. **Electronic Documents** – The document to be notarized is uploaded to the secure platform. The signer reviews it and signs electronically.
4. **Electronic Notarization** – The notary applies an electronic seal and digital signature to the document, making it legally notarized.
5. **Recording & Storage** – The session is usually recorded and securely stored, providing a record in case it's ever questioned.

✅ **Pros:** Convenient (no travel), faster turnaround, available across distances.

❌ **Cons:** Not legal in all states, requires reliable technology, and some institutions may prefer traditional notarization.

Which States Allow Remote Online Notarization (RON)?

Remote Online Notarization (RON) has continued to expand across the United States, giving notaries the ability to perform notarizations completely online. Virginia was the first state to enact RON legislation in 2011, followed by Montana in 2015. Since then, many states have passed laws making RON a permanent option.

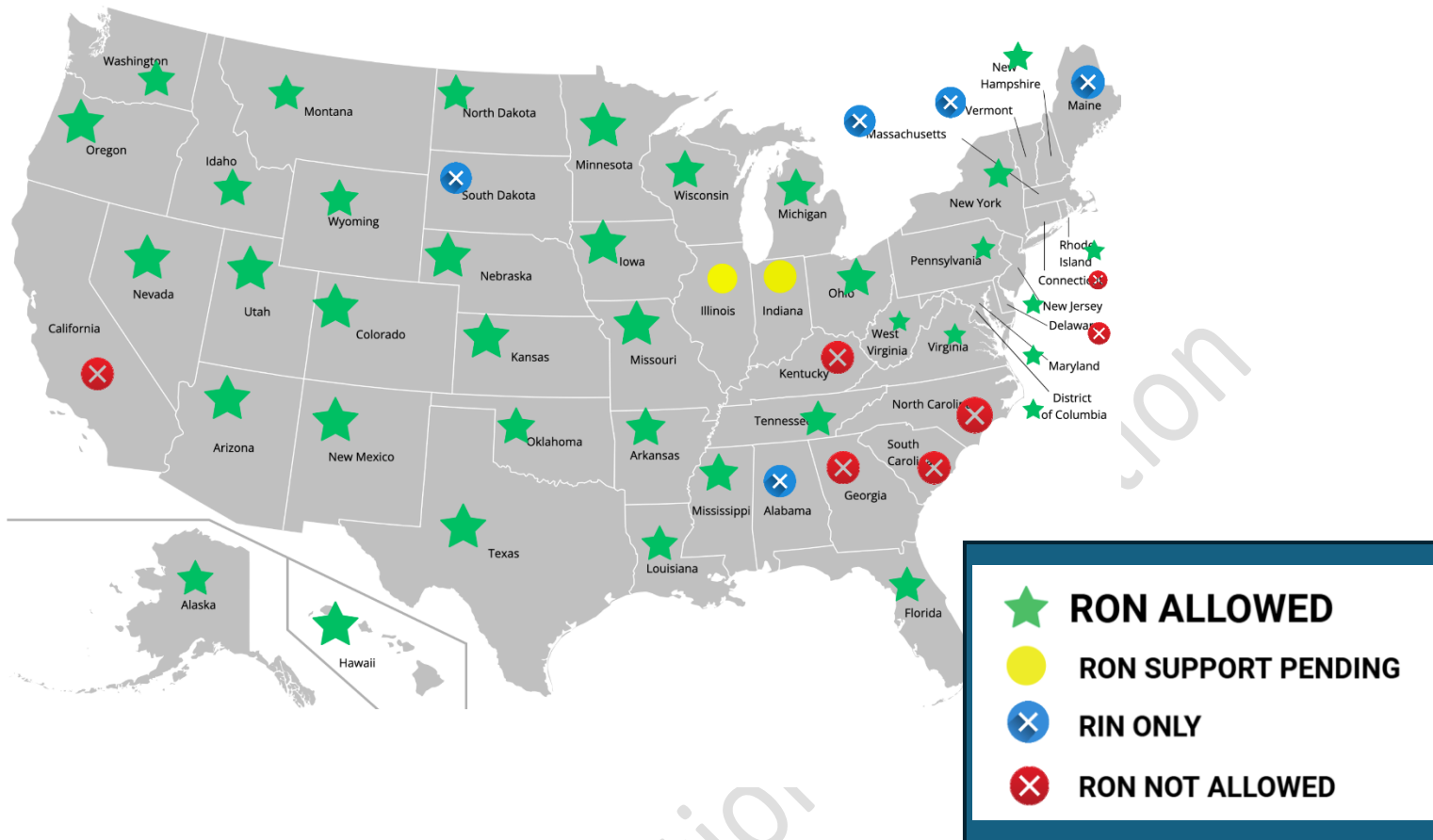
States with Permanent RON Laws:

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Because legislation can change, notaries should always confirm the most up-to-date requirements with their state's commissioning authority.

Common acronyms and what they mean

- **RON** — Remote Online Notarization
A notarial act completed online in real time by video. The document, signature, and notary seal are electronic. Identity is verified with tools like knowledge based authentication and credential analysis. The session is usually recorded.
- **RIN** — Remote Ink Notarization or Remote Ink-signed Notarization
The notary and signer meet by live video, but the signer uses wet ink on paper. The notary completes the paper certificate, often after receiving the original by courier. Many states only allowed this on a temporary or limited basis.
- **IPEN** — In Person Electronic Notarization
The notary and signer meet in person, but the document and notary seal are electronic.
- **KBA** — Knowledge Based Authentication
Identity check using question sets pulled from public and credit data.
- **Credential Analysis**
Automated validation of a government ID image to confirm it is genuine and matches the person.
- **TSP** — Technology Service Provider
The platform that hosts the RON session, manages identity proofing, e-signatures, e-seals, recording, and audit trail.
- **eSignature**
An electronic signature applied to a digital document.
- **eSeal**
An electronic version of the notary seal applied to an electronic document.
- **REN** — Remote Electronic Notarization
A term some states use as a synonym for RON.



States That Currently Allow Remote Online Notarization on a Temporary Basis

- **Alabama** – Authorized under Senate Bill 275
- **Georgia** – Authorized by Executive Order 06.30.21.02
- **Maine** – Authorized until June 23, 2023, under Executive Order 37 FY 19/20
- **Mississippi** – Authorized under Executive Order No. 1467
- **Rhode Island** – Permits online notarization on a temporary basis

States That Do Not Permit Remote Online Notarization

- **Connecticut** – RON was temporarily allowed during COVID-19, but this authority expired on July 1, 2021
- **California** – Remote online notarization is not permitted at this time
- **Delaware** – Delaware does not authorize RON, but state law does not prevent individuals or businesses from using a commissioned remote notary from another state that allows it
- **District of Columbia** – RON is not permitted at this time
- **Massachusetts** – RON was temporarily allowed during COVID-19, but this authority expired on December 15, 2021