GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order 2020-26

Remote Online Notarization

WHEREAS, both the State of Arizona and the Federal government have declared a public health emergency to address the 2019 coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the disease caused by COVID-19 is contagious and can be fatal, resulting in the World Health Organization declaring it a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has experienced community spread of COVID-19 in all counties and continues to spread across the country and state, posing an increasing threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, due to the spread of COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance encouraging people to telecommute and recommending that people adopt social distancing practices by maintaining a distance of at least six feet from each other; and

WHEREAS, even with this guidance, essential business operations need to continue to limit the impact that COVID-19 is having on the economy and ensuring citizens can continue to get essential needs met such which often require notarized documents; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Arizona State Legislature passed SB1030, *Remote Online Notarization*, implementing statute: A.R.S. §§ 41-371 through 41-380, allowing for signers and notaries to meet using the internet and audio-video technology to verify identity; and

WHEREAS, A.R.S. §§ 41-371 through 41-380, had broad bipartisan support and will take effect July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, due to current circumstances, immediate implementation of A.R.S. §§ 41-371 through 41-380, would benefit individuals and multiple sectors of the economy including, but not limited to, bankers, real estate agents, legal companies and healthcare professionals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, hereby order as follows:

1. Effective Friday, April 10, 2020, Remote Online Notarization may be used for notarial acts as valid witness to execution of documents, provided that procedures outlined in

A.R.S. §§ 41-371 through 41-380 and rules promulgated by the Secretary of State are followed.

2. The rules (Arizona Administrative Code, Title 2. Administration; Chapter 12. Office of the Secretary of State, Article 13. Remote Online Notarization) adopted by the Secretary of State shall ensure a secure identity verification process is used through online audio-video technology and allow the notary and signer to converse in real-time as the signatures and tamper-proof seals are placed on the electronic document.

3. All records of the notarization must be saved and backed up by the notary public in accordance with law.

4. This order shall remain in place until the law takes effect on July 1, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this eighth day of April in the Year Two Thousand Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State