

INFORMATION NOTICE

DIVISION OF MOTORIST SERVICES

DATE: 07/02/21 Information Notice (INFO)

SUBJECT: Remote Online Notarization (RON) and Electronic

Signatures Accepted on FLHSMV Forms

Overview:

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) will accept the use of Remote Online Notarization (RON) and electronic signatures on FLHSMV forms. The RON must comply with Florida law and the electronic signature must be agreed to by both parties and be obtained in a digitally secure manner.

Details:

Florida Remote Online Notary (RON):

Florida Remote Online Notarization is authorized and governed by s. <u>117.209</u> and s. <u>117.295</u>, Florida Statutes. Remote online notarization allows an online notary public to connect individuals, banks, law firms and other businesses over the internet. Authorized online notaries physically located in Florida can notarize electronic documents for clients located anywhere in the United States over a secure audio-video connection.

The entire video chat, including identity verification and the notarization of documents, is recorded in real-time and saved for future reference. Documents are signed and stamped digitally, and then stored online. These notarized documents can be submitted with transaction documents.

An example of RON:

 An online notary public physically located in Florida can remotely connect with a principal in California to notarize a document that will be used in Florida and the signing of that document can be witnessed by a person in Oregon and a person in Texas.

Note: RON is not acceptable when the Florida Statutes requires a physical inspection of a vehicle identification number, such as when completing HSMV form 82042.

Electronic Signatures:

In accordance with FLHSMV Policy 9.05 – Electronic Signatures, FLHSMV allows and encourages the use of electronic signatures as an acceptable alternative to an original signature for those documents requiring signature or acknowledgement.

Note:

- 1. Use of an electronic signature is *optional* to the individual parties, each individual transaction, and separately as to each individual transaction.
- 2. Unless otherwise provided by law, an electronic signature has the same force and effect as a written signature.

Exceptions:

FLHSMV will **not** accept an electronic signature **if**:

- Expressly prohibited by law, rule, or federal regulation; or
- Technological limitations, time restraints, or exigent circumstances make the use of an electronic signature impracticable; or
- The electronic signature is on a form that contains an odometer disclosure or statement (Form HSMV 82040 (Title Application), Form HSMV 82101 (Duplicate Title Application), Form HSMV 82993 (Odometer Disclosure Statement), Form HSMV 82994 (Motor Vehicle Reassignment Supplement), Form HSMV 82995 (Motor Vehicle Power of Attorney/Odometer Disclosure), or Form HSMV 82363 (Application for Salvage Title/Certificate of Destruction); and the electronic signature on that form does not meet the requirements of National Institute of Standards and Technology (Assurance Level 2). See, s. 319.225(9), F.S.; 49 CFR § 580.3 (the definition of "sign or signature"); Division of Motorist Services Information Notice INFO 20-010 (March 20, 2020); Division of Motorist Services Information Notice INFO 20-019 (May 6, 2020).

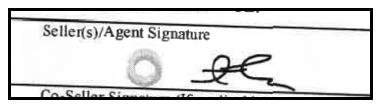
Examples of electronic signatures and authentication pages for forms that contain odometer disclosure or declaration:

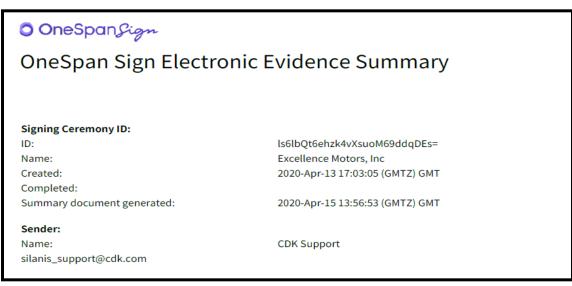
DocuSign Signature and Certificate of Completion,





EFS Provider Solution with Evidence Summary





Conclusion: If you need additional information, please contact your next level of management.