

# ALTA Press Release

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AMERICAN  
LAND TITLE  
ASSOCIATION

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**For Immediate Release**

## **American Land Title Association Supports Effort to Improve Real Estate Closing Process**

*Encourages Clear Legislation, Regulation to Ensure Remote Electronic Notarization  
Protects Consumers, Industry*

**Washington, D.C., February 15, 2017** — The [American Land Title Association](http://www.alta.org) (ALTA), the national trade association of the land title insurance and real estate settlement industry, sent a letter to the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) offering support of efforts to promote the understanding of remote electronic notarizations.

In the letter, ALTA offered eight suggestions to help guide the development of clear statutes, regulations and standard practices that authorize and recognize remote electronic notarization. The guidance is necessary to give certainty that remote and video notarizations will be accepted as valid transactions by county recorders, state courts and bankruptcy trustees.

“The title insurance and settlement industry seeks assurance that a remotely electronically notarized document will receive the same legal certainty, and provide effective constructive notice, under state law as a traditional, wet-signed, face-to-face, personal appearance notarization,” said Michelle Korsmo, ALTA’s chief executive officer. “Though states have long accepted traditional notarizations conducted in other states, it is currently unclear as to whether remote electronic notarizations will receive the same treatment.”

ALTA believes the following elements should be included in remote electronic notarization statutes:

1. Adequate safeguards to protect the public and the parties relying on notarization from fraud
2. Proven methods of authenticating identity of the signer through a multi-factor identification process
3. Confidence that a remotely electronically notarized document is recordable in the local land records, and that once recorded will serve as effective constructive notice upon which the public can rely
4. A determination of whether the state will recognize remote notarial acts performed by out-of-state notaries
5. Require an indication on the notarized document to specify how the signer appeared before the notary

6. Tamper-evident technology is used to assure the integrity of a remotely electronically notarized document
7. Require the retention of records for a remote electronic notary for a period of at least seven years
8. Clarity and consistency within statutes that require the use of notaries and witnesses to give guidance as to the impact of remote notarization on these other processes

For more, you may [download ALTA's letter](#) .

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### **About ALTA**

The [American Land Title Association](#), founded in 1907, is the national trade association representing more than 6,200 title insurance companies, title and settlement agents, independent abstracters, title searchers, and real estate attorneys. With offices throughout the United States, ALTA members conduct title searches, examinations, closings, and issue title insurance that helps protect the property rights of millions of American homebuyers every year.