

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §39-4-33

## **§39-4-33. Criminal penalties.**

(a) A notary public who knowingly and willfully commits any official misconduct is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or confined in jail not more than one year, or both fined and confined.

(b) A notary public who recklessly or negligently commits any official misconduct is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.

(c) Any person who acts as, or otherwise willfully impersonates, a notary public while not lawfully appointed and commissioned to perform notarial acts is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or confined in jail not more than one year, or both fined and confined.

(d) Any person who unlawfully possesses a notary's official seal or any papers or copies relating to notarial acts, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.

(e) For the purposes of this section, the term "official misconduct" means any act or conduct that:

(1) May result in the denial, refusal to renew, revocation, suspension or condition commission of a notary public pursuant to section twenty-one of this article; or

(2) Is prohibited by section twenty-three of this article.