



# EXECUTIVE BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## Jan Soto

**To:** Supervisor of Elections Matan Dalal  
**CC:** Student Body President Meg Hall, Chief Justice Julia Gamarra, Assistant Supervisor of Elections Caitlin Moore, Student Government Advisor Shane Juntunen, Student Government Advisor Brodie Taylor  
**From:** Attorney General Jan Soto  
**Date:** 01/24/2022  
**Subject:** **Opinion Revisiting the Notarization of Violation Affidavits**

Hello Matan,

The question posed asks whether Knight Connect forms eliminate the need to notarize violation affidavits.<sup>1</sup> It does not.

Chapter 606.14(D) of Title VI requires that all violation affidavit forms must be notarized for them to be considered valid by the Election Commission.

A past opinion specifically considered whether “a Knight Connect form constitute[s] notarization?”<sup>2</sup> It was held that notarization was inappropriate for a Knight Connect form due to the outstanding circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup> Nonetheless, it did not provide any guidelines to determine when a health risk poses a substantial burden on students filing violation affidavits.

UCF’s policy on the mode of operations – either in person or virtual - is the determinative factor. Currently, EP – 20-1.8 governs COVID-19 campus policy. We remain in an in-person modality under that policy today.<sup>4</sup> Thus, until university policy requires a return to any virtual format, all violation affidavits must be notarized.

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<sup>1</sup> *Opinion on Knight Connect Forms Constituting Notarization*, Student Government Executive Branch, Attorney General Erving Rodriguez (February 2021), <https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/02/Attorney-General-Opinion-2.19.21-1.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *EP-20-1.8 COVID-19 Return to Campus Policy*, Office of the President, University of Central Florida, pg. 3 (August 2021) (The precautionary measures described above, and the procedures below are intended to minimize the spread of COVID-19 at UCF as faculty, staff, students, and visitors engage in work, instruction, and other activities on campus), <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf>.



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Notarization will continue to be enforced under Chapter 606.14(D) of Title VI unless the university determines that it poses a substantial risk to student's health by moving to a virtual format.

Individuals are encouraged to wear masks and observe all precautionary measures when notarizing affidavits. Student Legal Services offers free notarization services to all students.<sup>5</sup>

If you have any further questions on notarization, let me know!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Soto".

**Jan Soto**  
Attorney General

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<sup>5</sup> Student Legal Services is located on the third floor of the Student Union to the right as you exit the elevators. Notary is not available online.

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