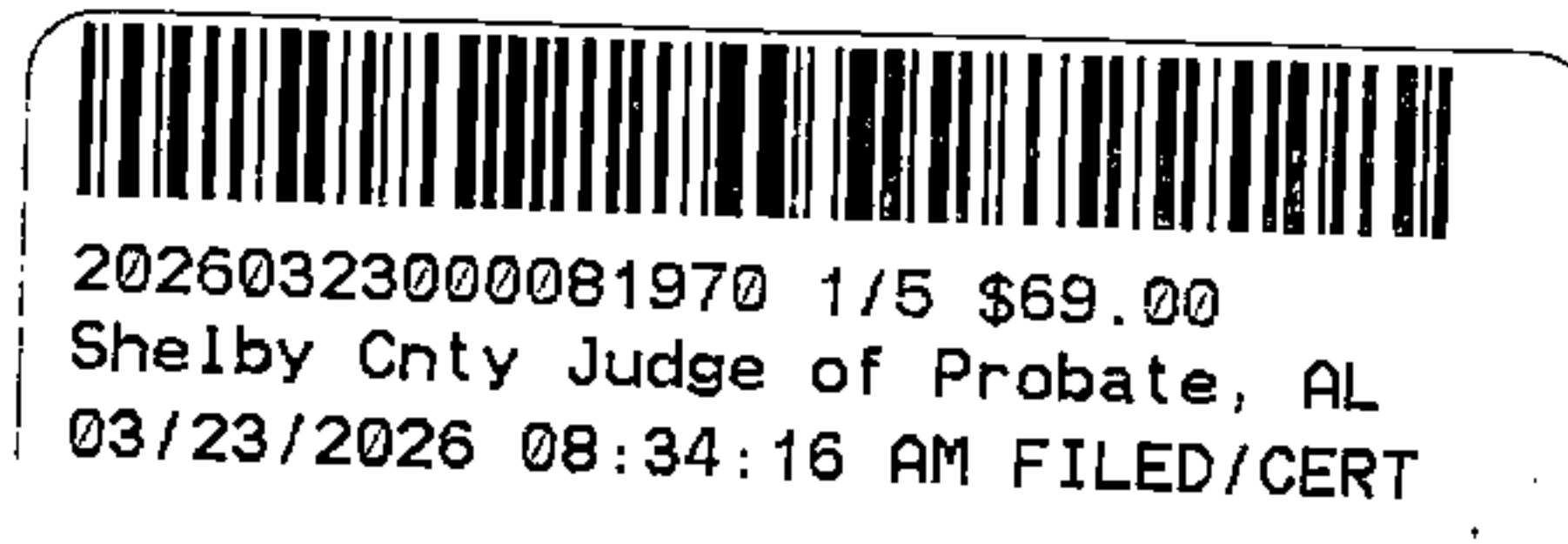


MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY

MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) P.O. BOX 14498, DES MOINES, IA 50306-3498
PHONE: (800) 876-6827 FAX: (800) 833-1211



NOTARY PUBLIC BOND STATE OF ALABAMA

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
County of SHELBY

BOND No. 101762236

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

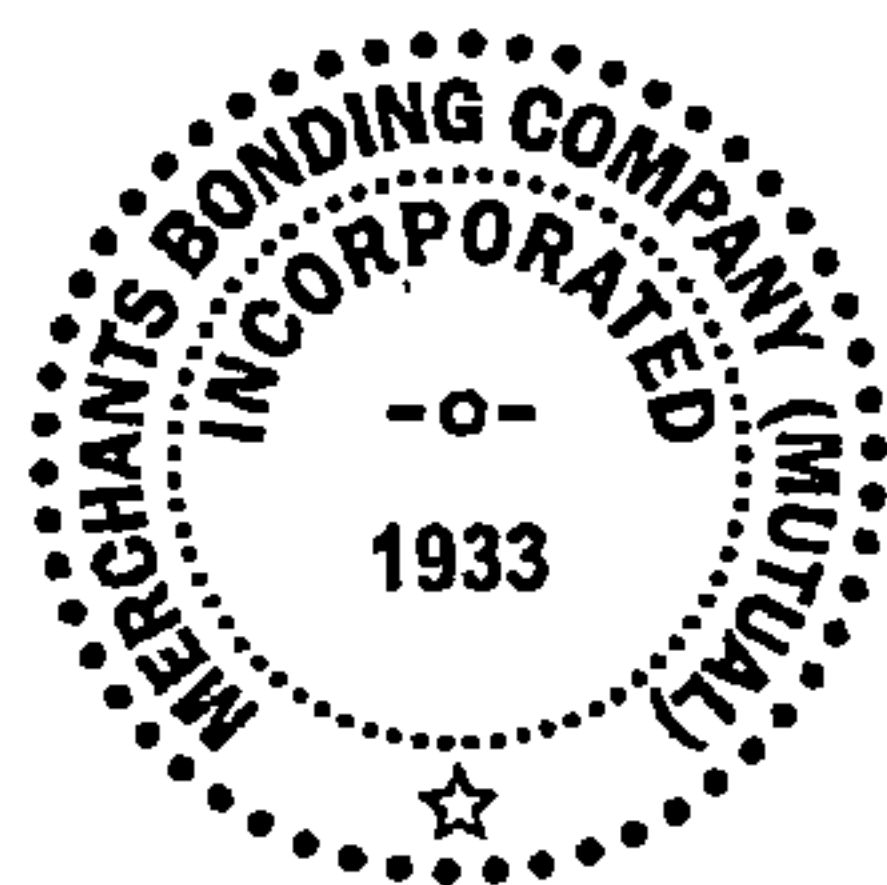
That WALFORD A PICKERING, as Principal,
and Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual), a corporation duly licensed to do business in the State of Alabama,
as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Alabama
in the sum of \$50,000.00, for the payment of which well and truly to be made and done, we bind
ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, firmly by these presents.

WHEREAS, the above-named Principal has been duly appointed Notary Public for the term of four (4) years from the
date of Notary Commission.

EXP 1-28-2030

NOW, THEREFORE, the condition of this bond is that if the named Principal shall faithfully discharge the duties of the
office of Notary Public during his/her continuance therein, then this obligation shall be null and void; otherwise, it shall
remain in full force and effect.

Sealed with our seals and dated this 23rd day of March, 2026



Walford A Pickering
WALFORD A PICKERING Principal

Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual)

By: Vincent Jacobellis
Vincent Jacobellis Attorney-in-Fact Attorney-in-Fact

Approved and filed this 23rd day of March, 2026

By: Alexis Beyl

THE STATE OF ALABAMA

County of SHELBY

OATH OF OFFICE



20260323000081970 2/5 \$69.00
Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
03/23/2026 08:34:16 AM FILED/CERT

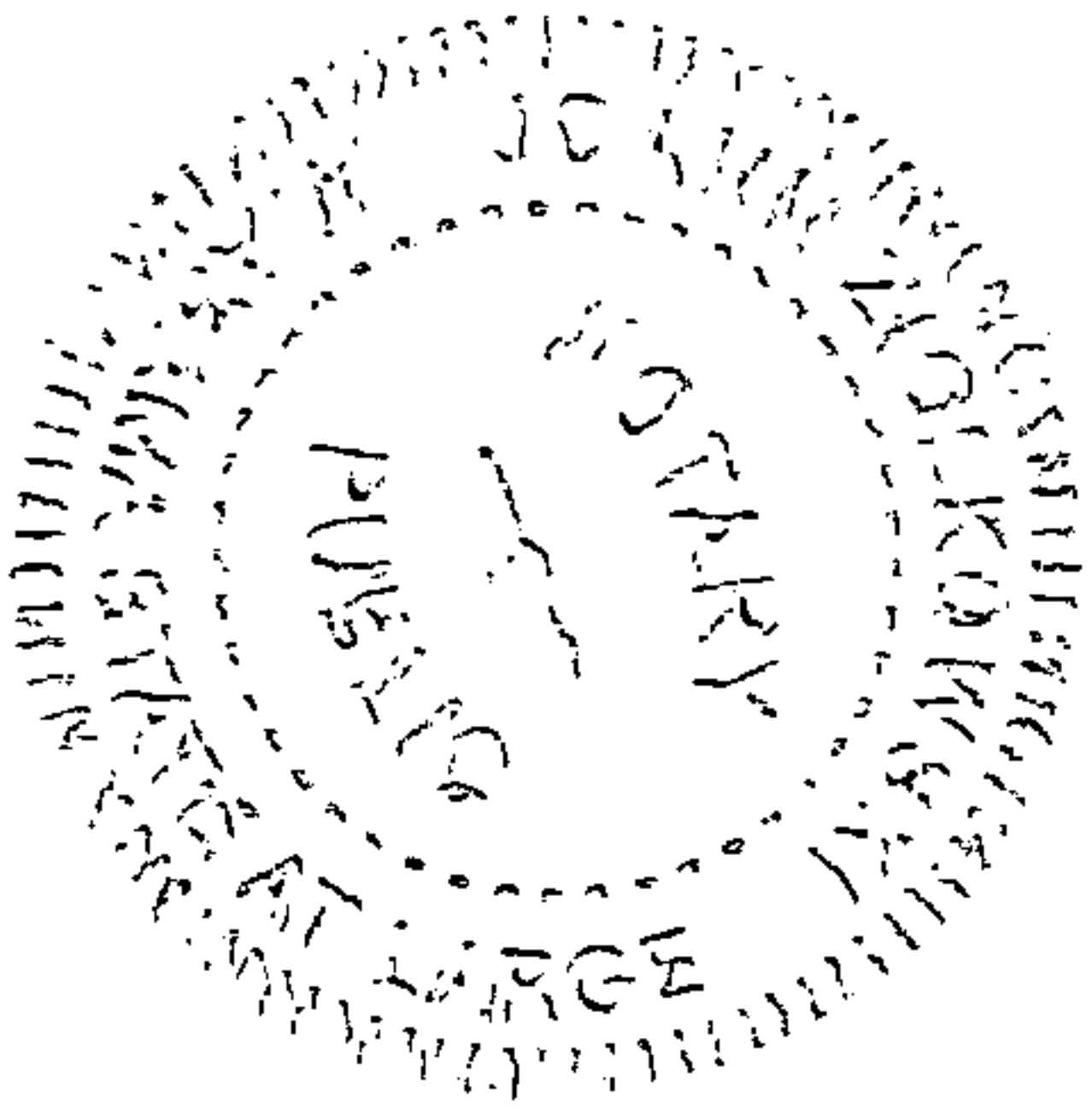
I, WALFORD A PICKERING, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alabama, so long as I continue to be a citizen thereof, and that I will faithfully and honestly discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter, to the best of my ability.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd
day of March, 2026

[Signature]
Notary Public

[Signature]
WALFORD A PICKERING Principal

12-3-2029
Commission Expiration Date



MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY™

POWER OF ATTORNEY



20260323000081970 3/5 \$69.00
 Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
 03/23/2026 08:34:16 AM FILED/CERT

Know All Persons By These Presents, that MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) and MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC., both being corporations of the State of Iowa, and MERCHANTS NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY, an assumed name of Merchants National Bonding, Inc., (herein collectively called the "Companies") do hereby make, constitute and appoint, individually,

Vincent Jacobellis

their true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact, to sign its name as surety(ies) and to execute, seal and acknowledge any and all bonds, undertakings, contracts and other written instruments in the nature thereof, on behalf of the Companies in their business of guaranteeing the fidelity of persons, guaranteeing the performance of contracts and executing or guaranteeing bonds and undertakings required or permitted in any actions or proceedings allowed by law.

This Power-of-Attorney is granted and is signed and sealed by facsimile under and by authority of the By-Laws adopted by the Board of Directors of the Companies.

"The President, Secretary, Treasurer, or any Assistant Treasurer or any Assistant Secretary or any Vice President shall have power and authority to appoint Attorneys-in-Fact, and to authorize them to execute on behalf of the Company, and attach the seal of the Company thereto, bonds and undertakings, recognizances, contracts of indemnity and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof."

"The signature of any authorized officer and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile or electronic transmission to any Power of Attorney or Certification thereof authorizing the execution and delivery of any bond, undertaking, recognizance, or other suretyship obligations of the Company, and such signature and seal when so used shall have the same force and effect as though manually fixed."

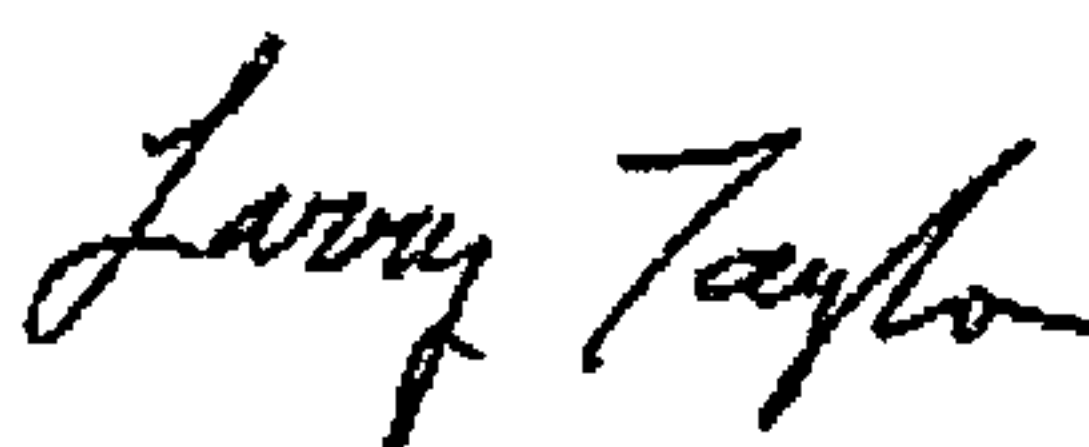
In connection with obligations in favor of the Florida Department of Transportation only, it is agreed that the power and authority hereby given to the Attorney-in-Fact includes any and all consents for the release of retained percentages and/or final estimates on engineering and construction contracts required by the State of Florida Department of Transportation. It is fully understood that consenting to the State of Florida Department of Transportation making payment of the final estimate to the Contractor and/or its assignee, shall not relieve this surety company of any of its obligations under its bond.

In connection with obligations in favor of the Kentucky Department of Highways only, it is agreed that the power and authority hereby given to the Attorney-in-Fact cannot be modified or revoked unless prior written personal notice of such intent has been given to the Commissioner - Department of Highways of the Commonwealth of Kentucky at least thirty (30) days prior to the modification or revocation.

In Witness Whereof, the Companies have caused this instrument to be signed and sealed this 28th day of January, 2026.

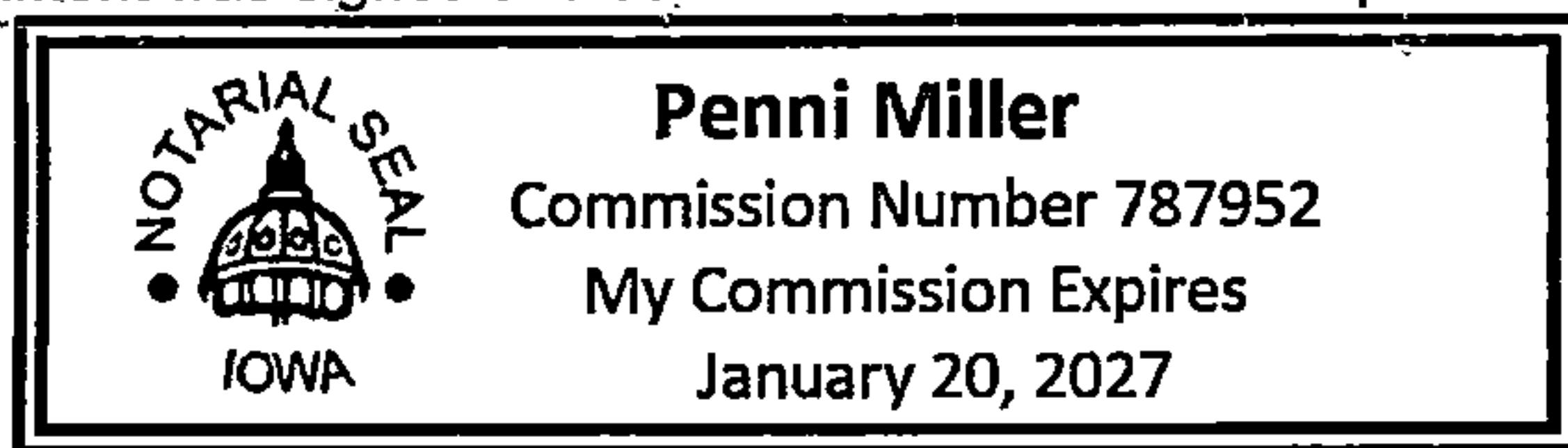



MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL)
 MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC.
 MERCHANTS NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY

By 
 President

STATE OF IOWA
 COUNTY OF DALLAS ss.

On this 28th day of January, 2026, before me appeared Larry Taylor, to me personally known, who being by me duly sworn did say that he is President of MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL), MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC., and MERCHANTS NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY; and that the seals affixed to the foregoing instrument are the Corporate Seals of the Companies; and that the said instrument was signed and sealed in behalf of the Companies by authority of their respective Boards of Directors.




 Notary Public

(Expiration of notary's commission does not invalidate this instrument)

I, Elisabeth Sandersfeld, Secretary of MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL), MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC., and MERCHANTS NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the POWER-OF-ATTORNEY executed by said Companies, which is still in full force and effect and has not been amended or revoked.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Companies on this 28th day of January, 2026.




 Secretary

Allison S. Boyd
Judge of Probate

Kimberly A. Melton
Chief Clerk



Judicial Division - (205) 670-5210

Recording Division - (205) 670-5220



20260323000081970 4/5 \$69.00
Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
03/23/2026 08:34:16 AM FILED/CERT

Probate Court of Shelby County, Alabama

Post Office Box 825 • Columbiana, Alabama 35051

website: www.shelbyal.com/285/Probate-Court

Below you will find your Commission as a Notary Public. Please detach the commission card and keep it in a secure place. If your commission is being renewed this card will replace any previously issued commission card. Note that your commission card indicates the term of your current commission and it is important that you begin the renewal process in advance of the expiration of your commission to ensure there is no break in service.

The office of Notary Public is a serious and responsible public office and should not be taken lightly. Abuse of the office or irresponsibility in the performance of notarial duties can result in grave consequences. If a Notary Public has doubts about the propriety of any action, he or she should seek competent professional advice before he or she acts.

A Notary Public is a public officer whose function it is:

1. To administer oaths; and
2. To attend and certify, by his signature and official seal, certain classes of documents, in order to give them credit and authenticity; and
3. To take acknowledgments of deeds and other conveyances and certify the same; and
4. To perform certain official acts, chiefly in commercial matters, such as the protesting of notes and bills, the notice of foreign drafts, and marine protests in cases of damage.

You will need to obtain your notarial seal prior to performing any official acts. It is required that your notarial seal reflect your name as stated in the below commission card.

NOTARY PUBLIC COMMISSION

In the name of the State of Alabama and pursuant to the authority granted me as Judge of Probate for Shelby County, I hereby Commission Walford A Pickering as Notary Public for the State at Large for the term beginning on 3/23/2026 and ending on 1/28/2030.



Allison S. Boyd

ALLISON S. BOYD
JUDGE OF PROBATE





20260323000081970 5/5 \$69.00
Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
03/23/2026 08:34:16 AM FILED/CERT

Notary Case # 2026-00021

State of Alabama	APPLICATION FOR NOTARY PUBLIC COMMISSION (MUST BE A RESIDENT OF COUNTY WHERE APPLICATION IS MADE)	In the Probate Court of <u>Shelby</u> County
------------------	--	---

\$10.00* APPLICATION FEE IS DUE AT THE TIME APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED.

Date: 1/9/2026

- Name: Walford A. Pickering
(Print your name as it appears on driver's license, non-driver ID, or other current valid photo ID)
- Home Address: 200 Red Bay Drive Apt/Suite #: _____
- City/State/Zip: Maylene, Alabama 35114 County of Residence Shelby
- Mailing Address (If Different): N/A
- Date Of Birth: 04/19/1968 Email Address Walford.A.Pickering@WellsFargo.com
- Phone Numbers: Work 2059481308 Home 2057777894
- Have you ever been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude? ___ YES NO (If YES, Please Provide Details On Page 2)
- Are you currently a debtor in a bankruptcy proceeding? ___ YES NO
- Are you currently under an order adjudicating you incapacitated? ___ YES NO
- Are you currently or have you ever been a commissioned notary public in Alabama?
___ YES (County _____ Expiration Date: _____) NO
- WALFORD A. PICKERING
(Print Your Name Exactly As It Is To Appear On Notary Commission)

BY SIGNING BELOW I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN (PAGES ONE AND TWO) IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I AM ABLE AND WILLING TO COMPLETE THE MANDATORY TRAINING FOR NOTARY PUBLICS (UNLESS EXEMPT BY LAW) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS APPLICATION. I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I UNDERSTAND THAT THE \$10.00* APPLICATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE (I.E. TIME DEADLINES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED.)

ALL STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION ARE MADE UNDER THE FEAR OF THE PENALTY OF PERJURY. THE CRIME OF PERJURY IS PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT.

Signature: *Walford A. Pickering*

This should be your usual signature and match the name printed on Line 11.
THIS SHOULD BE THE SIGNATURE YOU USE WHEN NOTARIZING A DOCUMENT

* \$10.00 Application Fee PLUS any applicable county fees

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2026
 Allison S. Boyd
 Judge of Probate

Ver. 11.13.23