

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 14-153
(Executive Order of Suspension)

WHEREAS, Patricia A. Cloughsey is presently serving as a Notary Public of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, this Office received a complaint reporting Patricia A. Cloughsey for notary misconduct, and thereafter initiated an investigation of alleged violations of the laws governing Florida notaries public defined within Chapter 117, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the complainant, Paul J. Vasho, stated his signature on a non-disclosure agreement was notarized by Patricia A. Cloughsey, but he did not sign the document in her presence or acknowledge his signature to her at a later time; and

WHEREAS, in response to the investigation by this Office, Patricia A. Cloughsey submitted a sworn written statement on January 9, 2014, admitting that she notarized the challenged document without the signing party in her presence, in violation of Section 117.107(9), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, in notarizing the challenged document, Patricia A. Cloughsey also failed to include a complete jurat or notarial certificate with all of the required information, in violation of Section 117.05(4), Florida Statutes, and failed to obtain satisfactory evidence that the person whose signature she notarized was the individual named in and executing the instrument, in violation of Section 117.05(5), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2014, this Office notified Patricia A. Cloughsey by certified mail of the above-stated violations, and required that she undertake remedial action to address

her neglect of duty by completing a free-of-charge three-hour notary education course offered on the Florida Department of State website, and thereafter provide proof of completion to this Office; and

WHEREAS, to date, Patricia A. Cloughsey has refused to cooperate with, or respond to, the remedial action required by this Office as part of the investigation of notary misconduct; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of the State of Florida that Patricia A. Cloughsey, be immediately suspended from the public office, which she now holds, upon the grounds set forth in this Executive Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, Governor of Florida, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution and Section 117.01(4), Florida Statutes, find and state as follows:

- A. Patricia A. Cloughsey is a duly appointed Notary Public of the State of Florida, pursuant to Section 117.01, Florida Statutes.
- B. Patricia A. Cloughsey is commissioned as a Florida notary public from October 22, 2010, through October 21, 2014.
- C. Patricia A. Cloughsey notarized an instrument when the signing party was not in her presence at the time of the notarization, in violation of Section 117.107(9), Florida Statutes.
- D. Patricia A. Cloughsey failed to include a complete jurat or notarial certificate on the notarized document, in violation of Section 117.05(4), Florida Statutes.
- E. Patricia A. Cloughsey failed to obtain satisfactory evidence that the person whose signature was notarized was the individual described in and executing the instrument, in violation of Section 117.05(5), Florida Statutes.

F. Patricia A. Cloughsey refused to cooperate with an investigation by the Executive Office of the Governor, as required by Section 117.01(4)(c), Florida Statutes.

BEING FULLY ADVISED in the premise, and in accordance with the Florida Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, this Executive Order is issued:

Section 1. Patricia A. Cloughsey is suspended from the public office which she now holds: Notary Public of the State of Florida.

Section 2. Patricia A. Cloughsey is prohibited from performing any official act, duty, or function of this public office; from receiving any pay or allowance; and from being entitled to any of the emoluments or privileges of this public office during the period of suspension, which shall begin today until further Executive Order is issued, or as otherwise provided by law.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 2nd day of May, 2014.

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

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