

Dear Delanna McDuffee:

I am writing to follow up on my previous correspondence regarding Affidavits of Service you have notarized in connection with notices issued to Mr. [REDACTED]

Upon further review, I have identified a continuing pattern of concerns involving three separate Affidavits of Service associated with this matter. Because these affidavits establish how and when legal notice was purportedly served, they directly affect the calculation of grievance deadlines and other procedural rights. It is therefore essential that they accurately reflect the circumstances of service.

The affidavits are summarized as follows:

Affidavit dated April 16, 2026

This affidavit appears incomplete because no method of service was identified before it was signed and notarized. The notice was ultimately served by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department at a later date, raising questions as to whether the affidavit accurately reflected the circumstances of service when it was executed.

Affidavit dated July 8, 2026 (Previously submitted concerns)

This affidavit likewise appears incomplete because the service section listed multiple methods of service, yet none was selected before the document was notarized.

Affidavit dated July 27, 2026

Unlike the prior affidavits, this affidavit appears complete. However, it raises a different concern.

The affidavit states that service was accomplished by:

"POSTING a copy thereof on the main door of the within described premises, no one being in actual possession thereof."

This is more than a selection of a service method. It is a sworn factual representation concerning the change in circumstances under which service was allegedly made in stark contrast to the 2 previous.

Given your position as Secretary of the Housing Authority, your responsibilities involving tenant records, rent collection, and daily interaction with residents, together with your familiarity with Mr. [REDACTED] tenancy, there is a **legitimate question whether you knew or should have known** that this factual representation was inconsistent with information available to you in the ordinary course of your employment.

I am not suggesting that a notary is required to independently investigate every factual statement contained in an affidavit. Rather, my concern is whether a notary, who through the ordinary course of her official duties possesses information that appears inconsistent with a sworn factual representation, should proceed with notarizing that affidavit without first addressing the apparent inconsistency.

This concern is not intended as an allegation of intentional misconduct. Instead, it raises the objective question of whether the inconsistency should have been apparent under the circumstances.

Illinois law recognizes the importance of properly executed sworn affidavits and establishes duties governing notarial acts through the Illinois Notary Public Act, 5 ILCS 312. Because affidavits of service are routinely relied upon to establish legal notice and procedural deadlines, their accuracy is fundamental to the integrity of the process.

This is now the third Affidavit of Service involving the same tenant that has presented concerns regarding either completeness or the accuracy of the factual representations contained within the document. While each affidavit presents a different issue, together they suggest that the procedures surrounding the preparation and notarization of these affidavits warrant careful review.

For your convenience, I have enclosed copies of all three Affidavits of Service.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Respectfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.