

New Seal of the Delaware Secretary of State

As of January 15, 2011

Beginning January 15, 2011, the Delaware Secretary of State has a new Seal of Office. Old seals are no longer to be used. Any documents issued prior to January 15, 2011 with the old seal are still valid.



The previous seal had written upon it the phrase “Secretary’s Office.” In recent years this has caused some confusion because of the many cabinet secretaries in the state. For that reason, we have changed “Secretary’s Office” to “Secretary of State.”

Historically speaking, when the seal was originally created in 1794 there was only one Secretary: the Secretary of State. It was only in 1970, when the cabinet form of government was adopted in Delaware, that we first had titles such as Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Finance, and Secretary of Health and Social Services.

The dates listed on the previous Secretary’s Seal referred to the dates that the seal was modified. This was also the case with the State Seal, until legislation was passed in 2004 to replace those dates with meaningful dates in the State’s history.

In keeping with that same historical spirit, we have replaced the dates on the Secretary’s Seal with 1776 and 1970. The first commemorates the year the office of Secretary of State was constitutionally created. The second represents the founding year of the modern Department of State.

In addition to some of the changes, there was an effort to restore many of the features that had been lost over the years. A version of the Seal from 1794 found in the Delaware Public Archives was used as the basis for the “new” seal.

In a side-by-side comparison, it is easy to spot a number of differences between the pre-2011 seal and the present one, including color changes. Some are less noticeable. One of the original features to be restored was the group of flowers on either side of the bottom scroll. At some point in the Seal’s history the flowers had been removed. In restoring them, the choice was made to use peach blossoms, which since 1895 have been Delaware’s State Flower.

If you have any questions about the new seal or its use, please contact Christopher Portante at christopher.portante@state.de.us or (302) 739-4111.