



# North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board

2023 Update

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Mike McCarty,  
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Chair

Larry Mares,  
Craven  
Vice Chair

Debbie Atkinson,  
Wake  
Secretary/Treasurer

Patrick Armeen,  
Mecklenburg

Deanna Brena,  
Robeson

Henry King,  
Chowan

Jim Storie,  
Avery

Jack Walder,  
Wake

Hunt Willis,  
Wake

Executive Director:  
Barden Culbreth

Legal Counsel:  
Reed Fountain

## Exam Schedule:

Please review the testing schedule on the website under the "Exam" Tab.



### 2023 Board Members

NC Locksmith Licensing Board members gathered for their final meeting of 2022. (L-R) Patrick Armeen, Mike McCarty, Jim Storie, Jack Walder, Larry Mares, Jon Jeffries, Debbie Atkinson, and Deanna Brena. (Not Pictured: Henry King and Hunt Willis)

### Board Establishes new test sites

Alamance Community College and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College are the latest sites where the NC Locksmith License Exam is being administered.

### Certemy

In 2021, the Board launched its online application system, Certemy.

As you use Certemy, please read the instructions carefully and follow the steps outlined.

The Board still accepts paper applications, which are available on the main website.

### Enforcement Update

In 2022, the Board received 17 unique complaints.

Many complaints of unlicensed activity were resolved by the accused complying with the licensing law.

In 2022, the Board issued 1 injunction and suspended 1 license.

One unlicensed person faces potential jail time or cash penalty for not following a judge's order to stop doing locksmithing. The Board is pursuing this matter in criminal court.

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## “Why doesn’t the Board do more?”

The Board knows that licensed locksmiths have serious concerns about how their fees are spent.

### Here are the facts:

Fees are the **only** source of Board revenue\*. If you want the Board to do more, the Board must pay for it.

The Board is required by state law to be audited every year. **These audits are available to the public.** Under the “Meetings” tab on the Board website, you can access these annual reports and see exactly how your fees are being spent.

### Board Math

There are approximately 1,200 licensed locksmiths in North Carolina.

**At time of this writing**, the renewal fee is \$200, which is paid every 3 years.

If 1/3 of the 1,200 licensees renew each year, then the Board can expect to collect about \$80,000 in revenue. Unfortunately, these renewals are not evenly distributed so there are peak and valley years in revenue.

The average complaint investigation can cost the Board between \$500 and \$1,500.

If the Board takes an unlicensed person doing locksmithing to court, then the costs can be several thousands of dollars.

The Board tries to be a conservative steward of your fees.

In order to keep expenses low, the Board outsources its day-to-day management to a private company in Raleigh. This saves the Board money on staff compensation, office rent, equipment purchases, and monthly utilities.

Doing more to go after unlicensed locksmiths requires **time, money, patience and partnerships.**

The Board needs your help to raise awareness of fraudulent locksmithing to your local law enforcement, district attorneys, sheriffs, and police chiefs. When you have customers complaining about services by an unlicensed locksmith, encourage them to contact the Board, law enforcement, and the Consumer Complaint Division at the Attorney General’s office.

*\*The Board does recoup some costs of materials from the sale of study guides.*