

<This is an entirely new rule.>

Rule 1930.11. Signature.

When used in reference to documents filed pursuant to Pa.R.Civ.P. 1901-1959, a “signature” includes a handwritten signature, a copy of a handwritten signature, a computer-generated signature, or a signature created, transmitted, received, or stored by electronic means by the signer or by someone with the signer’s authorization, unless otherwise provided in these rules.

Comment: See *a/so* Pa.R.Civ.P. 76 (defining “signature”).

This rule is intended to permit the use of other forms of signature to be deemed the equivalent of a handwritten or “wet” signature on documents, including, but not limited to, pleadings and verifications. A signatory, regardless of the use of a signature in any permitted form, remains subject to sanctions pursuant to the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure, and penalties and liability as permitted by law. See, e.g., Pa.R.Civ.P. 1023.4; Pa.R.Civ.P. 4019; 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904; 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 2503, 8351.

An original of an agreement, including a stipulation for entry of an agreed upon order, is not required to be filed. A duplicate of the agreement shall be admissible to the same extent as the original unless a genuine question is raised about the original’s authenticity, or the circumstances make it unfair to admit the duplicate. See Pa.R.E. 1003; Pa.R.Civ.P. 1019(i) (requiring a copy of an agreement to be attached to pleading).