SIGNATURE EXAMPLES

September 2026

This document provides examples for aiding in the understanding of the requirements set forth in 37 CFR 1.4(d)(1)-(4). Additional information regarding signatures is available in MPEP 502.02 and 714.01. This document supersedes all prior versions.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(1)-(4), all signatures must be personally inserted by the named signatory.

S-SIGNATURE EXAMPLES, 37 CFR 1.4(d)(2)

A. BY INVENTORS, AFFIANTS, ASSIGNEES, AND PRACTITIONERS SIGNING AS INVENTORS

	SIGNATURE TYPE	SIGNATURE	TREATMENT
1.	S-Signature within forward slashes, name below	/John T. Smith/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
2.	S-Signature with spaces within forward slashes, name below	/ John T. Smith / John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
3.	S-Signature within forward slashes, name below but no line under the S-Signature	/John T. Smith/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2), as a line is not required, although it is recommended
4.	Script font S-Signature within slashes, name below	/John T. Smith/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
5.	Name above, S-Signature within slashes below	John T. Smith /John T. Smith/	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
6.	S-Signature within slashes, name on right side	/John T. Smith/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
7.	S-Signature within slashes, name below, both signature and name have typos	/Johon T. Smith/ John T. Smmith	**Proper signature** Signer identifiable, typo should be noted in record
8.	S-Signature within slashes, characters between slashes do not match the name below	/S/ John Smith	**Proper signature** Treat as signed, 1.4(d)(2)
9.	S-Signature without slashes, name below	John T. Smith John T. Smith	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to lack of slashes, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
10.	Script font S-Signature without slashes, name below	John T. Smith John T. Smith	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to lack of slashes, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
11.	S-Signature within double slashes, name below	//John T. Smith// John T. Smith	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to extra slashes, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)

12.	S-Signature within slashes	/John T. Smith/	Improper signature Treat as unsigned as no name provided, § 1.4(d)(2)(iii)
13.	Graphic symbol S-Signature within slashes, name below	/☺/ John T. Smith	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to use of graphic symbol, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
14.	Improper punctuation symbols in S-Signature within slashes, name below	/Good?Great!!!/ John T. Smith	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to use of ? and ! symbols, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)

S-SIGNATURE EXAMPLES (continued)

B. BY PRACTITIONERS OF RECORD OR ACTING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY

	SIGNATURE TYPE	SIGNATURE	TREATMENT
1.	S-Signature & reg no. within slashes, name below	/John T. Smith, Reg.# 999999/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
2.	S-Signature & reg no. within slashes, name below but no line under S-Signature	/John T. Smith, Reg.# 999999/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2) a line is not required, although it is recommended
3.	Script font S-Signature within slashes, name & reg. no. below	/John T. Smith/ John T. Smith, Reg. #999999	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
4.	S-Signature within slashes, name below with reg. no.	/Customer Number 555555/ John T. Smith, Reg. No. 999999	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
5.	S-Signature within slashes, name below with reg. no.	/John T. Smith/ John T. Smith, Reg. #999999	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
6.	S-Signature within slashes, and with reg. no. to the right, name below	/John T. Smith/ Reg. #999999 John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
7.	Reg. no. to left of S-Signature within slashes, name below	Reg. #999999 /John T. Smith/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
8.	Name above, S-Signature and reg. no. within slashes below	John T. Smith /John T. Smith, Reg.# 999999/	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
9.	S-Signature and reg. no. within slashes, name on right side	/John T. Smith, Reg.# 999999/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)
10.	S-Signature and reg. no. within slashes, name below; John T. Smith signing his signature for Bill Jones (whose name appears first)	Bill Jones by /John T. Smith, Reg.# 999999/ John T. Smith	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2) Acceptable because of John T. Smith's signature, for himself
11.	S-Signture within double slashes, name and reg. no. below	//John T. Smith// John T. Smith, Reg. #999999	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to extra slashes, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
12.	S-Signature within back slashes, name and reg. no. below	\John T. Smith\ John T. Smith, Reg. #999999	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to back slashes instead of forward slashes, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
13.	S-Signature without slashes, name and reg. no. below	John T. Smith John T. Smith, Reg. #999999	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to lack of slashes, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)

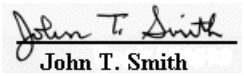
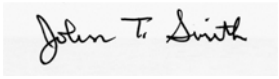
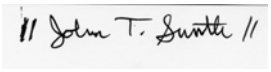
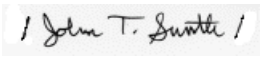
S-SIGNATURE EXAMPLES (continued)

B. BY PRACTITIONERS OF RECORD OR ACTING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY (continued)

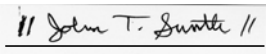
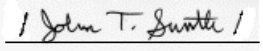
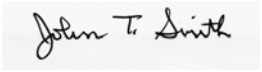
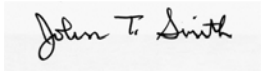
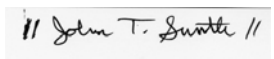
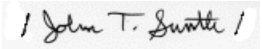
14.	Script font S-Signature without slashes, name and reg. no. below	*John T. Smith* John T. Smith, Reg. #999999	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to lack of slashes, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
15.	Graphic symbol S-Signature within slashes, name and reg. no. below	/☺smileyface/ John T. Smith, Reg #999999	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to usage of graphic symbol, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
16.	Improper punctuation symbols in S-Signature within slashes, name and reg. no. below	/Good?Great!!!/ John T. Smith, Reg #999999	Improper signature Treat as unsigned due to use of ? and ! symbols, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
17.	S-Signature within slashes and reg. no. to right	/John T. Smith/ Reg #99999	Improper signature Treat as unsigned as no name provided, § 1.4(d)(2)(iii)
18.	S-Signature within slashes and name below	/John T. Smith/ John T. Smith	Improper signature Treat as unsigned as no registration number provided, § 1.4(d)(2)(ii)
19.	S-Signature and reg. no. with only 1 slash, name below. John T. Smith signing his signature for Bill Jones (whose name appears first)	Bill Jones by/ John T. Smith, Reg.# 999999 John T. Smith	Improper signature Treat as unsigned as no slash mark is after signature, § 1.4(d)(2)(i)
20.	S-Signature and reg. no. within Slashes, John T. Smith signing His signature for Bill Jones (whose Name appears first	Bill Jones by /John T. Smith, Reg.# 999999/	Improper signature Treat as unsigned as no signer name provided, § 1.4(d)(2)(iii)
21.	S-Signature of design practitioner	/Emmitt Jones/ Emmitt Jones Reg.# 999997Design	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed; the design practitioner indicated their design practitioner status by placing the word “design” adjacent to the last forward slash of their S-signature, 1.4(d)(2)(ii)
22.	S-Signature of design practitioner	/Emmitt Jones Reg. #999997DES/ Emmitt Jones	**Proper Signature** Treat as signed; the design practitioner indicated their design practitioner status by placing the word “design” (in any format) adjacent to the last forward slash of their S-signature, 1.4(d)(2)(ii)

HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURE EXAMPLES, 37 CFR 1.4(d)(1)

A. BY INVENTORS, AFFIANTS, ASSIGNEES & PRACTITIONERS OF RECORD

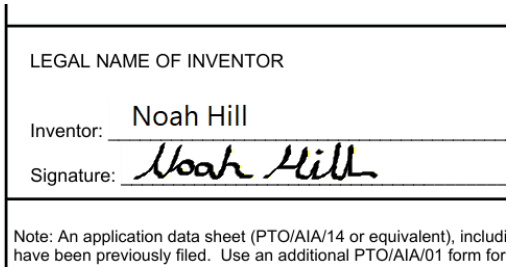
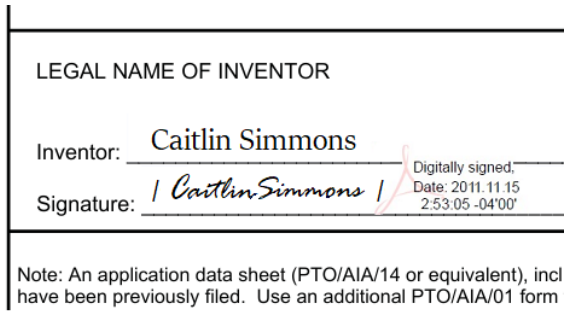
	SIGNATURE TYPE	SIGNATURE	TREATMENT
1.	Handwritten with name below	 John T. Smith	**Proper signature** No change, recommended for non-practitioners to include name
2.	Handwritten with name and registration number below	 John T. Smith, Reg. No. 999999	**Proper signature** No change, recommended for practitioners to include name and reg. no.
3.	Handwritten		**Proper signature** No change, name not required, § 1.4(d)(1)
4.	Handwritten within multiple slashes		**Proper signature** No change, name not required, slashes not required or prohibited, §1.4(d)(1)
5.	Handwritten within slashes		**Proper signature** No change, name not required, slashes not required or prohibited, §1.4(d)(1)

B. BY PRACTITIONERS SIGNING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY

1.	Handwritten	 John T. Smith, Reg. No. 999999	**Proper signature** See § 1.4(d)(1). Name in addition to signature is required by § 1.34, see 1283 OG 148 (June 22, 2004)
2.	Handwritten within multiple slashes	 John T. Smith, Reg. No. 99999	**Proper signature** Slashes not required or prohibited, §1.4(d)(1) Name in addition to signature is required by § 1.34, see 1283 OG 148 (June 22, 2004)
3.	Handwritten within slashes	 John T. Smith, Reg. No. 99999	**Proper signature** Slashes not required or prohibited, §1.4(d)(1) Name in addition to signature is required by § 1.34, see 1283 OG 148 (June 22, 2004)
4.	Handwritten with reg. no.	 Reg. No. 99999	Improper signature Treat as unsigned; no name provided as required by § 1.34, see 1283 OG 148 (June 22, 2004)
5.	Handwritten with name	 John T. Smith	Improper signature Treat as unsigned; no registration number provided as required by § 1.34, see 1283 OG 148 (June 22, 2004)
6.	Handwritten with slashes		Improper signature Treat as unsigned; no name and registration number provided as required by § 1.34, see 1283 OG 148 (June 22, 2004)
7.	Handwritten with slashes		Improper signature Treat as unsigned; no name and registration number provided as required by § 1.34, see 1283 OG 148 (June 22, 2004)

GRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS OF SIGNATURES, 37 CFR 1.4(d)(3)

Note: In order for a graphic representation of a signature to be proper under 37 CFR 1.4(d)(3), it must be on correspondence submitted via the USPTO's patent electronic filing system.

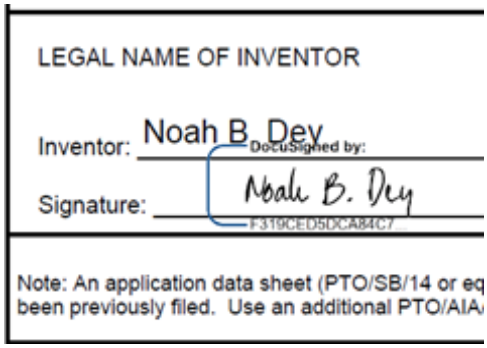
SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE TYPE and TREATMENT
1. 	**PROPER** - This is an example of a graphic representation of a handwritten signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(3)) for a document submitted via the Office's patent electronic filing system. The signature was created by the signer using a stylus. Because it is a graphic representation of a handwritten signature, it does not require slashes.
2. 	**PROPER** - This is an example of a graphic representation of a handwritten signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(3)) for a document submitted via the Office's patent electronic filing system. The use of commercial software does not preclude the signature from being proper under 37 CFR 1.4(d)(3). The inclusion of slashes does not make the signature improper.
3. 	**IMPROPER** – This is an example of a signature which is not proper under 37 CFR 1.4(d)(3); a graphic representation of an S-signature is required to meet the form requirements of 37 CFR 1.4(d)(2), and therefore must be between forward slashes.

ADDITIONAL ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES, 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)
effective March 22, 2024

SIGNATURE

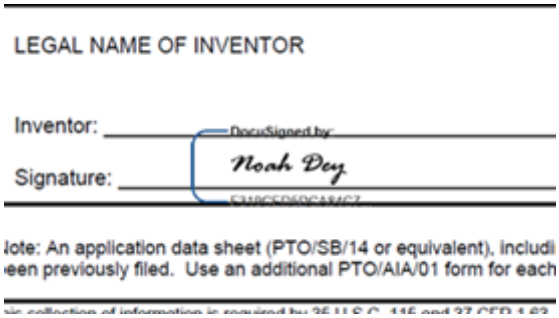
SIGNATURE TYPE and TREATMENT

1.



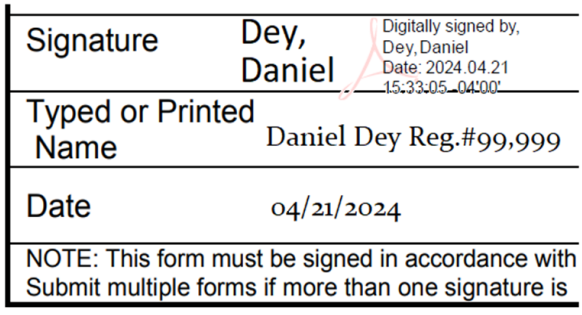
PROPER - This is an example of an electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) made with a commercial signature software platform. This example is acceptable because it indicates that the document was electronically signed using document-signing software and it includes the signatory's first and last name adjacent the signature.

2.



IMPROPER - This is an example of an improper electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) made with a commercial signature software platform. This example is unacceptable because, although it includes the signature as entered by the document-signing software, it does not include the signatory's name immediately below or adjacent to the electronic signature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)(ii).

3.

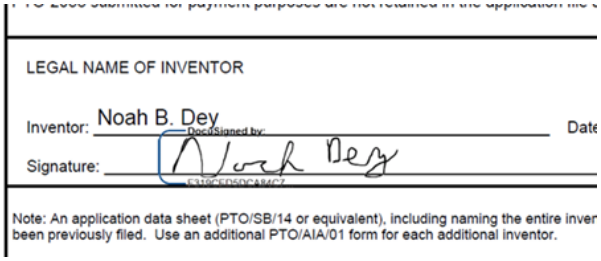


PROPER - This is an example of an electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) made with a commercial signature software platform. This example is acceptable because it indicates that the document was electronically signed using document-signing software and it includes the signatory's first and last name immediately below the signature. A registered practitioner when signing pursuant to 37 CFR 1.33(b) must include their registration number either as part of the electronic signature, or immediately below or adjacent the signature to be proper.

SIGNATURE

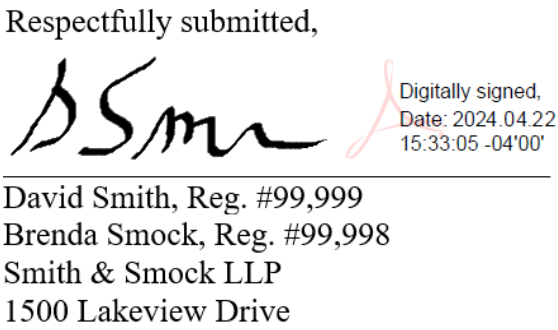
SIGNATURE TYPE and TREATMENT

4.



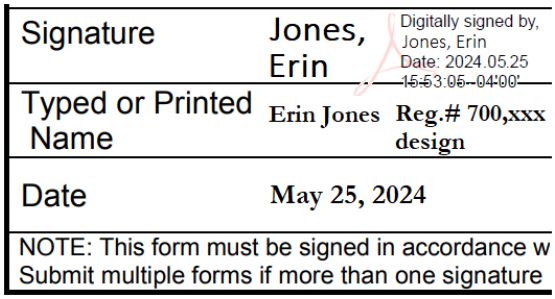
PROPER - This is an example of an electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) made with a commercial signature software platform. This example is acceptable because it indicates that the document was electronically signed using document-signing software and it includes the signatory's first and last name adjacent the signature. If submitted via the USPTO patent electronic filing system, this example would also qualify under 37 CFR 1.4.(d)(3).

5.



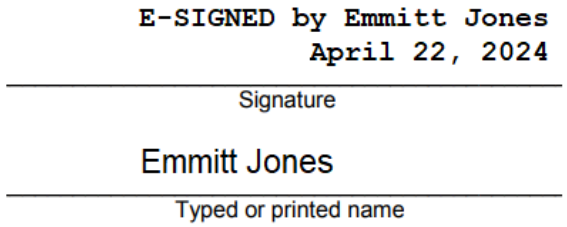
IMPROPER - This is an example of an electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) made with a commercial signature software platform. This example is unacceptable because it does not indicate the signer's name in a manner reasonably specific enough that the signer can be readily recognized in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)(ii). The signature block lists multiple names and it is unclear whose signature is present.

6.

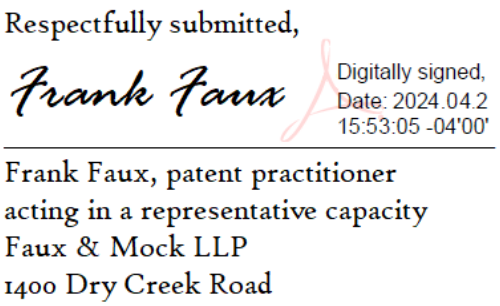


PROPER - This is an example of an electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) for a design patent practitioner made with a commercial signature software platform. This example is acceptable because the word "design" is adjacent to the design practitioner's signature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)(i).

7.



IMPROPER - This is an example of an electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) made with a commercial signature software platform. This example is unacceptable because the signature data is not preserved for later inspection in the form of a digital certificate, token, or audit trail.

SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE TYPE and TREATMENT
8.  	**IMPROPER** – This is an example of an electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) which may have been made with a commercial software platform. This example is unacceptable because it does not have an indication that the page or form was electronically signed using document-signing software.
9.  	**IMPROPER** – This is an example of an electronic signature (37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)) made with a commercial software platform. This example is unacceptable because the registration number of the practitioner is not supplied as required by 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4)(i) and 1.34.