Scanning in and Using a Signature

In another thread, someone commented about scanning in a signature and using it to put on pleadings. I want to do something to add to letters. How does this work?

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You sign multiple times on a white sheet of paper, scan it in (often in color), crop out the best/most representative version*, and save it as a GIF or PNG with a transparent background. Then add the graphic as a signature in Acrobat, and you can sign whatever you like.

* I use IrfanView for all this basic graphic editing. Really easy. And it's free software.

Michael Koenecke, Texas

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Here's a good, simple tutorial:

https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Insert-a-signature-f3b3f74c-2355-4d53-be89-ae9c50022730

Seth Combs, Kentucky

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Create a Custom Stamp in Acrobat using an image of your signature. Then print correspondence and pleadings to PDF, use the stamp to sign.

David Masters, Colorado

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I was referred by Mike Phillips to someone who could turn my signature into a vector graphic for a reasonable fee. Once I got the .png file back, it was a simple matter of creating a custom stamp in Adobe Acrobat - I googled it and found a step by step tutorial for doing that on the internet.

Eugene Lee, California

It's pretty easy in Adobe Acrobat. If you have the professional version, it allows you to insert a signature in a PDF.

Josh Friedman, Illinois

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There are several tutorials online on ways to do this. I had to download a free program that would make the background transparent and would darken my signature. It took about 45 mins or an hour, but it is well worth it.

Dan Gerber

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We now have mandatory eFiling in Texas.
The rules allow the signing of pleadings by keying an /s/ followed by the keyed name, for example, /s/ John Smith.
I do not know what would happen if the filer inserted a signature exemplar instead of using the '/s/.' Probably nothing.
In instances where you/we wish to insert a signature exemplar in something, the tips here are helpful.

Rob V. Robertson, Texas

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In Adobe, you can use your webcam to capture your signature on paper and then sign documents. You only need to capture your signature once to save it in the program.

Michael Wright

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I recall an attorney in my state had clients sign and then it was digitized [or pretty much gif or something] and it was used to paste into declarations. The bar reprimand said something about the person not actually signing it and did not give authority...

I know attorneys that have a stamp signature. I hope to someday trust a person enough to stamp my name on pleadings.

It is simple cut and paste - but what about the original? So many things can go wrong...

P. Jayson Thibodaux, Washington

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I'm late to this thread, but I think it is important for those of you who use a signature stamp in Acrobat, or elsewhere, that you be aware that many times it can be lifted right off of the document on which you stamp it, if you do not protect it from being copied.

In Acrobat XI Pro, one can go to:

1.  File > Properties and choose the security you want by selecting "Password Security" option in the "Security Method" drop-down

OR (Alternative method to arrive at the same place)

2.  Tools > Protection > More Protection drop-down, select "Security Properties" and choose the security you want by selecting the "Password Security" option

OR

3.  Tools > Protection > Restrict Editing and insert a password

(then be sure to save that document so it applies the security).

Once you have properly applied the security, the signature stamp cannot be selected and copied.

Now that I've offered that recommendation, I think it may be time for me to create a better stamp, using some of the information others have offered in this thread.

Mark E. Peneguy, Louisiana