

# The Pre-Filing Signature Check

Run this on every package before it leaves your hands. New USCIS rule effective July 10, 2026.

- 1. Check the form edition and its signature instructions.**  
Requirements vary from form to form.

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- 2. Right person, right block.**  
Petitioner, applicant, or authorized signatory signs the certification. The attorney signs the G-28 only.

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- 3. True wet-ink signature, or a clean scan of one.**  
No typed names, no e-sign tools outside USCIS filing, no stamps, no pasted images.

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- 4. The signature belongs to THIS form.**  
Not copied from another document or lifted from a signed blank page. Each form needs its own.

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- 5. Every form is individually signed.**  
No single signature standing in for a stack of petitions.

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- 6. Present, complete, and dated.**  
Everywhere the form requires it.

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- 7. Retain originals plus proof of authority.**  
Keep the signed originals, proof of the signatory's authority, and dated transmittal correspondence. USCIS may request originals under 8 CFR 103.2(b)(5).

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- 8. Second set of eyes before it ships.**  
A named reviewer confirms steps 1 through 7. Built in as a step, not a favor someone remembers to ask for.

## WHAT COUNTS

**VALID:** wet-ink signature; a scan, photocopy, or fax of a form bearing an original wet-ink signature; a secure e-signature only inside a USCIS online-filing system.

**INVALID:** typed names; software or e-sign tools outside USCIS e-filing; stamps (except narrow cases); copy-pasted or image-affixed signatures; a signature from another document or a signed blank page; or a signer other than the authorized person.

Sources: 8 CFR 103.2(a)(7)(ii)(A); 91 FR 25479 (May 11, 2026), effective July 10, 2026. General information only, not legal advice.