

IN THE TRIAL COURT OF THE SAC & FOX TRIBE OF THE MISSISSIPPI IN IOWA COURT
MESKWAKI TRIBAL COURT
Meskwaki Settlement
307 Meskwaki Road
Tama, IA 52339-9629

ISSUED

JAN 28 2021

IN RE: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ORIGINAL SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS DUE TO COVID-19	AO-2021-002 ORDER	<small>MESKWAKI NATION TRIBAL COURT SAC & FOX TRIBE OF THE MISSISSIPPI IN IOWA</small>
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In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Meskwaki Tribal Court has allowed parties to file their documents and pleadings electronically or by mail since March 2020 in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure to the parties. As the risk from the pandemic continues, the Chief Justice approves the temporary suspension of the requirement of original physical signatures required by Rule G-4(b) of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa Tribal Court Rules.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. In all courts and case types, whenever an attorney or self-represented party is required to sign a document to be served on another party or filed with the Court, including an affidavit that must be signed by an attorney or self-represented party under the penalties of perjury, the attorney or self-represented party may electronically sign, unless the Court specifically orders otherwise.
2. The electronic signature can take the form of either:
 - a. A scan of the attorney's or self-represented party's handwritten signature
 - b. An electric signature made by means of a stylus, an electronic pen, a computer mouse, a touch screen, or other similar method;
 - c. An electronically inserted image intended to substitute for a signature; or
 - d. A "/s/ name of signatory" block.
3. The electronic signature shall have the same force and effect as if the attorney or self-represented party had affixed her or his original signature to a paper copy of the document so signed.
4. When a party's signature is required on a document, an attorney representing that party may affix that party's electronic signature to the document, provided that the party has reviewed and approved the document and expressly authorized the attorney to sign it on

the party's behalf. When the document is an affidavit that must be signed under the penalties of perjury, the party must also expressly authorize the attorney to sign it by affixing that party's electronic signature to the document under the penalties of perjury. The attorney should print "signed w/approval", sign the attorney's name, and print the attorney's name after the party's electronic signature.

5. If a party files a document with an electronic signature, it does not need to send a second original document (with an original signature) to the Clerk of Court for filing. The document with the electronic signature will be considered the original signature and filing.
6. If a party has a good faith basis to believe that an electronic signature was not authorized by the attorney, self-represented party, or other person whose signature it purports to be, a challenge may be raised promptly by way of motion. If the motion has merit, the Court may, among other things, strike the challenged document and/or direct that it be served or filed again with an original handwritten signature.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

1. Effective upon the date of this Order, the signature requirements for pleadings and other documents identified in Rule G-4(b) of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa Tribal Court Rules are temporarily **SUSPENDED**, subject to the compliance with all conditions set forth in this order.
2. It is further ordered that the suspension of the signature requirements under this Order is expressly subject to satisfaction of the above conditions.
3. The suspension of the original signature requirement as outlined herein will remain in effect until further order of this Court.

SO ORDERED this 28th day of January 2021.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Buffalo, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Henry M. Buffalo, Jr., Chief Justice
Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
Tribal Court