

**STATE OF VERMONT  
VERMONT SUPREME COURT  
OCTOBER TERM, 2025**

**Order Promulgating Amendments to Rule 9(d)  
of the 2020 Vermont Rules for Electronic Filing**

Pursuant to the Vermont Constitution, Chapter II, § 37, and 12 V.S.A. § 1, it is hereby ordered:

1. That Rule 9(d) of the 2020 Vermont Rules for Electronic Filing be amended as follows (new matter underlined; deleted struck through):

**RULE 9. SIGNATURES**

**(d) Signatures of Court Personnel.**

(1) *Judicial Officers.* Judicial officers of the Supreme Court, the Superior Court, and the Judicial Bureau may sign any ~~court-generated~~ document created, ~~and to be sent,~~ or filed in electronic form subject to the following conditions:

(A) Judicial officers must create, through the Office of the Court Administrator, and maintain an electronic facsimile of their signature.

(B) Judicial officers may sign any ~~court-generated~~ document created, ~~and to be sent,~~ or filed in electronic form with their electronic facsimile signature followed by a signature block containing the signer's typed name and title. That signature has the same effect as a handwritten signature on a nonelectronic document.

(C) When judicial officers use an electronic facsimile signature on a document sent from their official state email address or from another email address registered with the Court Administrator, or file it in the electronic filing system, the signature is presumed valid.

(D) Judicial officers may delegate use of their electronic facsimile signature to an authorized designee. Whenever a designee uses the facsimile signature, the designation must be disclosed on the document.

(E) Unauthorized use of an electronic facsimile signature renders invalid the document that was issued with the unauthorized signature unless the judicial officer ratifies use of the signature.

(2) *Court Personnel and Others.* The electronic filing or transmission of any ~~court-generated~~ document by court personnel authorized to sign the document and by others authorized to sign, including masters, receivers, guardians ad litem, parent coordinators, and neutrals required to file a report, are deemed signed by senders if transmitted from their official state or professional email address or filed by them in the electronic filing system accompanied by a signature block containing the signer's typed name and title.

## Reporter's Notes—2026 Amendment

Rule 9(d)(1), (d)(1)(B), and (d)(2) are amended to align the rule language more closely with current practice. The rule previously allowed electronic signatures to be used on “court-generated” documents. In reality, courts and court personnel may electronically sign documents that are not generated by the court. For example, parties may file proposed orders.

2. That this amendment be prescribed and promulgated, effective on **January 1, 2026**. The Reporter's Notes are advisory.

3. That the Chief Justice is authorized to report these amendments to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of 12 V.S.A. § 1, as amended.

Dated in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.



Signed by the Vermont Supreme Court

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Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice

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Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice

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William D. Cohen, Associate Justice

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Nancy J. Waples, Associate Justice