



Homeland Security

May 11, 2026

Leah L. Rogal
K. Edward Raleigh
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP
1101 15th Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Rogal and Mr. Raleigh:

We have received your October 31, 2025 petition for rulemaking: Digital and Electronic Signatures. Your petition requests that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) promulgate a regulation permitting digital and electronic signatures on immigration benefit request forms, regardless of whether filed by mail or online. For the reasons explained below, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) respectfully denies your petition under 6 CFR 3.9.

DHS regulations at 8 CFR 103.2(a)(2) provide that an acceptable signature on a benefit request that is being filed with the USCIS is one that is either handwritten or, for benefit requests filed electronically as permitted by the instructions to the form, in electronic format.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) continues to work to add forms to the list of those available to file online, in accordance with the direction by Congress to eliminate paper filings in program administration to the extent possible. *See*, Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), Public Law 105-277, tit. XVII, section 1703, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-749 (Oct. 21, 1998) (codified at 44 U.S.C. 3504 note). GPEA defines electronic signature as "...a method of signing an electronic message that identifies and authenticates a particular person as the source of the electronic message; and indicates such person's approval of the information contained in the electronic message." An online submission offers a more secure experience for the benefit requestor than a paper application submitted by mail. USCIS currently offers guided electronic filing for 18 of its forms, six of which have been added in the last year alone. Additionally, USCIS has made 16 forms available for online filing through PDF Intake since USCIS enabled this form of intake in October 2024.

Considering the continued efforts to increase the number of forms available for online filing, for which electronic signatures are permitted pursuant to form instructions, and because online filing is more secure than filing by mail, DHS is denying your petition as an inefficient use of resources. As DHS is moving away from filings by mail, in accordance with Congress' direction, it does not make sense to expend resources to promulgate regulations to clarify rules around mailed filings. USCIS will, nonetheless, continue to review and analyze data in the area

of forms completion, intake, and benefit integrity and may revisit electronic signature capabilities in the future.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Markwayne Mullin", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Markwayne Mullin
Secretary