

Introduction to collection of standards

The standard writing/signatures are the basic requirement for ascertaining the genuineness or otherwise of the questioned writings, therefore, the correctness of opinion to a large extent depends upon the authenticating of the standard writing.

Adequate writing standards- The standard signatures and writing is that these must contain a sufficient amount of material to indicate the identifying writing habits, their qualities and the range of natural variation in the writing of an individual. Thus, the standard signature/writings must give a full picture or should be indicative of the writer's writing habits during the period as possible when the questioned writing was written or supposed to have been written.

Class of standard writing The standard writing (including signature) can be classified into two categories: 1. Collected standards 2. Requested standards

Collected Standards

The amount of writing available.

2. The similarity of subject matter.
3. The relative dates of the disputed and standard writing.
4. The conditions under which both questioned document and known specimens were prepared
5. Type of writing instrument and paper used

Amount of standard writing

- Only with a quantity of material
- , therefore can all the writing characteristics of an individual and the variation that usually occur from specimen to specimen be accurately determined.
- Everyone does not sign his name or write any combination of words in exactly the same way twice is one of the more complicating elements of handwriting identification.
- This natural variation must be revealed by the known writing.
- No hard and fast rule is set for a collection of writing or signatures amount of general handwriting.
- 10 or 20 signature should constitute an adequate sample, but there are a certain number of cases that may require 30,40 more
- signatures in order to accurately reveal the writer habit, ability and range of variation

The best set of standards not only contains a **quantity** of writing but also include a sample amount of the same general type of material as that in dispute. Thus, if a signature is questioned standards signature should be collected. Example, if a check is believed to be fraudulent, genuine canceled checks should be prepared.

Conditions affected the handwriting

- writing may undergo gradual changes just as his physical appearance does.
- The rate and nature of change varies from individual to individual.
- It depends on many factors:
- As how often and how much he writes his age

- , his writing skill
- his mental and physical conditions

. Example, normally in the case of a typical adult, basic writing habit changes gradually. In case of serious illness or accidents. The date of preparation is extremely significant. And if material written two or three years before or after the disputed writing serve as satisfactory standard, but as the lapse of years between the date of standards and questioned material becomes greater the standards have a tendency to be less representative.

Writing Conditions

- The conditions under which writing was prepared may affect its value for comparison purpose
- . Haste, lack of care or unnatural writing position
- for example, resting the paper on the knee-introduce variation that may make the specimens entirely unsuited for comparison with carefully written material.
- Writing instrument and paper
- Pen and ink writing contains certain indentifying characteristics that are not fully revealed in pencil specimens.
- While a change in the style of nib pen may also introduce writing variations.
- The composition, size, shape and ruling of paper may measurably affect the writing.

The reduce must remember that a ball pen produce writing that is not completely comparable that a ball point pen produces writing that is not completely comparable to work of a nib or fountain pen and is in effect a distinctive class of writing instrument.

- Many writers adjust the size of their signature to some degree to the space allowed for signing
- . Besides, standards on ruled forms permit consideration of how the individual habitually arranges his writing in relation to the printed baseline.

. Source of standards

Among the possible source of signature standards are canceled checks, signature cards for savings, safe deposit boxes, power of attorney, court records, passports etc.

Verification of standards

Standards should be verified through a detailed field investigation and by obtaining specimen written in the presence of reliable witnesses. If possible the writer, himself can serve as a means of authentication.

Requested Standards

It consists of the specimens of person"s writings written with the sole purpose of comparison with the questioned writing.

if the suspected person is available and willing, a set of request or dictated standards can be secured. The conditions under which these standards are prepared make it imperative that certain precaution be observed so that their comparison value is not impaired.

It is collected in following way

1. The material must be dictated to one writer.

2. The dictated text must be carefully selected.

Dictation of material has been found to produce the most representative request standards. In dictating, however, the text must be read to the writer without suggestions as to the arrangement of material, spelling, punctuation, capitalization or other points that may cause him to disguise or modify his natural writing habits. The manner of dictation has much to do with the ultimate value of the standards. If the subject matter is continuous as with a letter, the rate of dictation should be estimated so that the person writes continuously rather than intermittently. Rapid dictation prevents a suspect from furnishing only his best or nearest writing, or if the writer attempts to modify or disguise his specimen, a more rapid rate of dictation lessens his chance of success.

3. Some portions of the diction should be repeated, preferably three times.

4. The adequate amount of writing must be included.

Amount of Material It is exactly difficult with request standards to obtain a truly representative picture of the usual variation in an individual's writing. The great majority of request specimens are deficient simply because they do not reveal the variation that is part of the suspect's normal handwriting. Two factors, nervousness and deliberate disguise frequently writing variation. Many guilty individuals deliberately attempt to disguise their writing in order to avoid detection. Therefore, if we are to make sure that the request specimen begin to portray the natural variation of the individual and are free from the affects of nervousness or deliberate disguise, it is necessary to have the writer furnish at least five or six pages of continuous handwriting or 20 or more signature, each written on a separate sheet of paper.

5. Writing instrument and paper should be similar to those used in preparing the disputed document.

6. The dictation should be interrupted at internals.

Interruption of dictation -Breaking dictation up by a rest period or two is good procedure. Writing fatigue brought about by the preparation of extensive specimens may be eliminated and disguise may likewise be discouraged or rendered ineffective. Interruption aid in introducing more natural writing variation into request specimen than is to be found in the same amount of continuous writing.

7. Normal writing conditions should be arranged.

8. Selection of text

The contents of disputed document. Some similar material, which contains many of the same words, phrases and letter combinations or . A standardized form that includes all the letters of the alphabet and a number of the more commonly used word.

9. Repetition Regardless of the type of subject matter employed, the value of the standard is increase by some repetition. In course of dictation a page of writing should be repeated at least thrice. Repetition allows the writer to become familiar with the subject matter and help him to write the subject matter and help him to write more freshly and naturally. Or if he continues his efforts in this direction marked variation between successive specimens should appear.

10. Writing conditions When the questioned specimen may be known to have been written under less conditions, such as while the writer was standing, resting the paper against the wall, as many receipts are signed. Then must under these circumstances, the suspect should be asked to execute some supplementary standards in a similar position. When the exact writing condition are unknown but the writing suggest some abnormal writing position. Specimen should be taken in several different ways. Example; standing and resting the document in a high counter or bending over a table. Writing in the hand or on a pad resting on his knee.

Alteration is defined as any change to a document which gives it a different effect from that it originally possessed. If change is made after execution of a document and without the consent of the other party or concerned person, then such change is called fraudulent alteration

The alteration can be done by:

1. Addition /Interlineations
2. Overwriting

Features of fraudulent alteration:

These alterations are done in such a way that they may pass unnoticed under regular examination of the document.

The alteration methods are usually latent or may be so minute that an unskilled or incompetent examiner may not be able to detect them.

Addition in the document is defined as the insertion of any word, digit etc which changes the meaning or value of the document.

These insertions are made in such spaces as may have been left blank in the regular entries either in the middle or at the bottom of the page.

- If additional matter is written in a small space the size of letters will be smaller and writing will appear cramped or if space is large enough then letters are in large size to cover up the remaining space.
the examination can be done to identify the characteristic
- size of letter,
- spacing and pen-strokes
- Colour ink should be made

Interlineations defined as the writing between the lines of any instrument for the purpose of adding to it or correcting what has been written.

Overwriting may be genuine or fraudulent. Sometimes in order to correct a spelling mistake, to make writing or figures more legible or to correct/change some writing, the same writer may overwrite the strokes or lines.

Such overwriting are generally made boldly and no attempt is made to conceal the overwritten or overwriting is the habit of a writer, the strokes are drawn carelessly.

The fraudulent overwriting to change the contents of documents are usually made in a careful manner and every effort is made by the preparator to conceal such changes made by him. When the original writing instrument and/ or ink are not available, the preparator tries to match the colour of inks and nature of stroke. However, mostly he is not aware of the fact that the inks though of the same colour are always not the same and they may differ considerably in their dye composition.

Erasure is a method of alteration of any document. It may be a correction method made by erasing such as rubbing, scraping, or wiping out. Sometimes the term erasure refers to an effective revocation of a will or a portion of a will.

Erasure is classified as:

1. Chemical erasure
2. Physical erasure or Mechanical erasure

Chemical erasure is just a process of bleaching the colour of ink by converting coloured compound into colourless compounds. And the ink itself remains in the paper in invisible form.

The commonly used chemicals for erasure purpose:

- Sodium hypochlorite
- Potassium permanganate
- Oxalic acid
- stannous chloride solution
- Sodium tungstate

Physical erasure in a part of writing can be done by the abrasion of surface of paper with the help of rubber, sharp instrument such as razor blade, scalper, knife or Emory paper etc.

The characteristic feature of physical erasure is removal of surface fibres of paper make the erased are comparatively thinner and translucent. But if some weak pencil writing is erased with a soft rubber erasure there is no mark of abrasion the surface fibres may not be damaged to the appreciable degree and those rubber particles get embedded in the fibres of paper. If sizing is damaged, the paper surface become porous and any subsequent writing over the erased area with fluid ink pen usually shows feathered ink lines.

The application of sharp instrument causes disturbance on the surface finish of paper which can be detected by examining the document by oblique light i.e by a beam of light falling at low angle.

The soft rubber erasure particles can be detected under microscope or by subjecting the erased area to iodine vapors.