

CHESTER COUNTY  
 INTERMEDIATE  
 UNIT 24

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: ELECTRONIC RECORDS/  
 ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 27, 2010

READOPTED: JANUARY 20, 2016

802. ELECTRONIC RECORDS/ ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE	
I. Purpose	To facilitate electronic transactions consistent with Pennsylvania Electronic Transactions Act; to be consistent with reasonable practices concerning electronic transactions and the continued expansion of these practices; and, to eliminate barriers to electronic commerce and governmental transactions.
II. Definitions	<p>“Attribution” – An electronic record or electronic signature is attributable to a person if it was the act of the person. The act of the person may be shown in any manner, including a showing of the efficacy of any security procedure applied to determine the person to which the electronic record or electronic signature was attributable.</p> <p>“Electronic Signature”- An electronic signature, or e-signature, is any electronic means that indicates either that a person adopts the contents of an electronic message, or more broadly that the person who claims to have written a message is the one who wrote it (and that the message received is the one that was sent). An electronic signature may include an electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.</p> <p>“Electronic Record” – any record created, generated, sent, communicated, received or stored by electronic means.</p>
III. Statement of Policy	Under certain conditions electronic records and signatures satisfy the requirements of a written signature when transacting business. The Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) wishes to promote effective and efficient use of electronic communications to conduct business. Although all electronic signatures are represented digitally, they can take many forms and can be created using many different types of technology. The authenticity and reliability of electronic records and signatures relating to transactions are dependent on the accompanying processes, supplemental records and the overall context in which records are created, transferred, signed and stored. The CCIU adopts the following policy with respect to the use of electronic records and signatures in connection with the transaction of CCIU business.

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<p>III. Electronic Records</p>	<p>Electronic records created or received by the CCIU shall be appropriately attributed to the individual(s) responsible for their creation and/or authorization or approval. The CCIU shall utilize available technology to implement reliable methods for generating and managing electronic records. Any electronic record filed with or issued by the CCIU shall be given full force and effect of a paper communication if the following conditions are satisfied:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The communication is an electronic filing or recording and the CCIU agrees to accept or send such communication electronically; and</li> <li>2. If a signature is required on the record or communication by any statute, rule or other applicable law or CCIU policy, the electronic signature must conform to the requirements set forth in this policy governing the use of electronic signatures.</li> </ol>
<p>IV. Electronic Signature</p>	<p>An electronic signature may be used if the law requires a signature unless there is a specific statute, regulation, or rule of law that requires records to be signed in non-electronic form. The issuance and/or acceptance of an electronic signature by the CCIU shall be permitted in accordance with the provisions of this policy and all applicable state and federal law. Such electronic signature shall have the full force and effect of a manual signature only if the electronic signature satisfies all of the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The electronic signature identifies the individual signing the document by his/her name and title;</li> <li>2. The identity of the individual signing with an electronic signature is capable of being validated through the use of an audit trail;</li> <li>3. The electronic signature and the document to which it is affixed cannot be altered once the electronic signature has been affixed;</li> <li>4. The electronic signature conforms to all other provisions of this policy.</li> </ol>
<p>V. Acceptance, Use and Issuance of Electronic Records and Signatures</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The CCIU shall develop and maintain an electronic recordkeeping system that can receive, store, and reproduce electronic records and signatures relating to transactions in their original form. Such system shall include security procedures whereby the CCIU can (a) verify the attribution of a signature to a specific individual, (b) detect changes or errors in the information contained in a record submitted electronically, (c) protect and prevent access, alteration, manipulation or use by an unauthorized person, and (d) provide for nonrepudiation through strong and substantial evidence that will make it difficult for the signer to claim that the electronic representation is not valid.</li> <li>2. The CCIU shall ensure that all electronic records and signatures are capable of being accurately reproduced for later reference and retained until such time as all legally mandated retention requirements are satisfied.</li> <li>3. The CCIU shall designate individuals who are authorized to utilize an electronic</li> </ol>

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	<p>signature in connection with CCIU business and shall require each designated individual to sign a statement of exclusive use.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. The CCIU shall maintain a secure hard copy log of the PIN/password or actual signature of any individual authorized to provide an electronic signature in connection with CCIU business.</li><li>5. The CCIU will receive and accept as original, electronic records and signatures so long as the communication, on its face, appears to be authentic.</li><li>6. The CCIU will retain in its records this policy and all statements of exclusive use, until such time as all legally mandated retention requirements are satisfied.</li></ol> <p>Legal References:</p> <p>Pennsylvania Electronic Transactions Act, 73 P.S. § 2260.101 et seq.</p> <p>U.S. Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, Public Law 106-229, 15 U.S.C. § 7001 et seq.</p>
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