

Hello

Just wanted to provide my feedback for this subject, from an Accounting Practice perspective dealing with a number of government departments - ATO, ASIC, State Revenue departments, Centrelink etc and then also dealing with financial institutions. **All we want is guidance & clarity** in what can be signed digitally, what signatures are acceptable and whether original or paper copies are required to be retained. We have an online practice portal driven by MYOB in which documents/tax returns can be digitally approved, with the following being inserted on the document.

This document was digitally signed by at

Using our online portal to approve documents is more efficient and timely so the more documents that this process could be used for would be better. The difficulty we have is knowing what documents this process appropriate for, as the online guidance from the various government departments is limited.

A table of types of documents ranging from Financial Statements, Tax Returns, Deeds, ASIC Forms, Minutes, Agreements **and the signature & file format requirements would be an excellent resource**. Maybe you could get feedback from the Law Society on common documents for legal practices and the legal requirements for signature and retention in this case as well.

Note the CAANZ Acuity Magazine has an article in the February 2021 edition regarding electronic signatures, unfortunately this month's magazine has yet to be uploaded but presume it will be uploaded soon.

<https://www.acuitymag.com/>

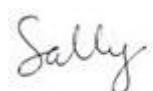
<https://acuity.partica.online/acuity/december-2020/flipbook/1/>

Please consult CAANZ as they will have more feedback from fellow accounting members.

Also recently we have experienced that financial institutions are requesting original documents for identity purposes and loan applications (as a result of the Royal Commission), some clients have had difficulty finding the original paper copies with original signatures on them even though we have the PDF copies of these documents, so document retention and format issues need to be addressed.

Thank you for considering practical issues we are experiencing above.

Kind Regards,



Sally Richard

B.Bus (Acct), CA, JP, DipFP



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISORS
REACHING STARS PTY LIMITED ABN 61 097 559 398

P + 61 2 6382 6822 | +61 2 9251 4060 A 41 ZOUCHE STREET, YOUNG NSW 2594

E SALLY@STARCO.COM.AU M GPO BOX 4467, SYDNEY NSW 2001

W STARCO.COM.AU

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