

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES**  
**Digital Signatures for Certificate of Title Documents**

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**Driver and Vehicle Records Division**

**November 1, 2021**

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**Prescribed by the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the use of digital signatures on documents related to the issuance of certificates of title.

**What is a Digital Signature?**

A digital signature is a cryptographic signature (a digital key) used to authenticate the user, provide nonrepudiation, and ensure message integrity. This is the strongest signature because it protects the signature by a type of tamper-proof seal that breaks if the message content were to be altered.

**Nebraska Digital Signature Authority**

The use of digital signatures is governed by the Nebraska Digital Signatures Act, [Neb.Rev.Stat. §86-611](#) and [Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 437](#).

**Use of Digital Signatures for Documents Related to the Issuance of Certificates of Title**

Digital signatures meeting all requirements of the Nebraska Digital Signatures Act may be accepted as follows:

- Digital signature services must be provided by an approved certification authority. List is available on the Nebraska Secretary of State's website at: <https://sos.nebraska.gov/sites/sos.nebraska.gov/files/doc/certification-authorities.pdf>.
- Digital signatures must be retained in a format which cannot be altered and indicates any unauthorized attempts to alter.
- Electronic records associated with the digital signature must be retained for five years and available to the Department of Motor Vehicles upon request.
- Documents presented for title issuance must contain markings indicating a digital signature has been applied including the name of the individual who has signed.
  - If a document cannot be imprinted with digital signature information in the appropriate location a wet signature is required.
- When a digital signature is for an entity other than an individual (business, trust, etc.), the digital signature must identify both the entity and the individual signing.