



Jacqueline A. Joseph, CDE
Certified Document Examiner

CHECKLIST OF SUSPICIOUS FEATURES

If you have a suspicious document or handwriting or typewriting, these clues should alert you to the need for a document examiner:

- ✓ No one knows the document's origin or the history of its custody.
- ✓ The text of the document seems to anticipate and answer objections that will be raised against it, especially peculiar ones.
- ✓ The materials or the literary form of the document are not what you would usually expect in such cases. For example, a will purports to be a formal one drawn up by an attorney, but the paper is ordinary bond. Another example would be a will that uses archaic terminology that contemporary attorneys no longer employ.
- ✓ The paper, ink, mode of production or other feature of the document may not have existed at the time the document purports to have been executed or may not have been available in the place where the document originated. An example of that last point would be a computer-generated and printed document from a place where computers were not available until more recently.
- ✓ Relative to item #4 above, check the origin and date of production on commercially printed forms in case they are incongruent with the purported date and place of the document. (A real case involved a "1975" legal document on a form printed in 1983!)
- ✓ Corrections and erasures seem to be present. Some of these can only be detected by close scrutiny with laboratory equipment.
- ✓ Only copies are available, and they are of unusually poor quality.
- ✓ The handwriting appears to be of multiple styles or of a style the alleged maker may not have used, such as printscript by an American educated before 1940.
- ✓ The handwriting has the same pressure throughout or has blunt beginnings and endings. This may indicate the writing was deliberately drawn to imitate a model.

Scientific Examination of Signatures, Handwriting and Forgeries

SPECIALTIES

Signature Verification • Forgery Detection • Handwriting Authenticating • Graffiti • Typewriting
Anonymous Notes • Poison Pen Letters • Handwritten Numerals

AFFILIATIONS

Northwest Fraud Investigators Association (NWFIA) • Oregon Women Lawyers (OWL)
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA) • National Association of Document Examiners (NADE)
Oregon Legal Assistants Association (OLAA)

708 Pittock Block • 921 SW Washington Street • Portland, OR 97205-2825
1-800-698-8954 • 503-227-3411 • Fax 503-226-0055
jjoseph@jjhandwriting.com • www.jjhandwriting.com