

Avoiding Invalid Signatures

Maintaining Petition Integrity

The validity and credibility of our petition depends on having legitimate signatures. Understanding what makes a signature invalid helps us maintain integrity and prevent problems later.

Common Reasons Signatures Become Invalid:

- Person was not eligible at the time (moved, underage, etc.)
- Information is illegible or incomplete
- Person did not understand what they were signing
- Signature does not match stated identity
- Person explicitly withdraws consent later
- Duplicate signature from same person

How to Prevent Invalid Signatures:

- Clearly explain what the petition is for
- Verify eligibility before asking for signature
- Request legible name and accurate address
- Make eye contact and confirm understanding

- Don't pressure people—only collect willing signatures
- Keep organized records to prevent duplicates

Red Flags to Watch For:

- Signatures that don't match the name
- Addresses that seem incomplete or incorrect
- Signers who seem confused about what they're signing
- Names that are illegible or misspelled
- The same person signing multiple times
- Signatures that look forged or obviously not genuine

What to Do If You Suspect a Problem:

- Set aside the questionable petition
- Document what made you suspicious
- Report it to your supervisor immediately
- Never attempt to alter or correct signatures yourself
- Follow your organization's protocol for handling disputes

Remember: Quality over quantity. Ten valid, genuine signatures are worth more than fifty questionable ones.

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