

Legal Technology Terminology Reference

Key terms for digital evidence authentication

SHA-256

A cryptographic hash function standardized by NIST (FIPS 180-4) that produces a unique 256-bit (64-character hexadecimal) fingerprint of any file. If a single byte changes, the hash changes completely.

FRE 902(13)

Federal Rule of Evidence allowing self-authentication of records generated by an electronic process or system through a written certification by a qualified person.

FRE 902(14)

Federal Rule of Evidence allowing self-authentication of data copied from an electronic device through a process of digital identification (typically hash comparison).

FRE 901(b)(9)

Federal Rule of Evidence providing for authentication of evidence about a process or system that produces an accurate result. The foundation for electronic evidence authentication.

LA Art. 901

Louisiana Code of Evidence Article 901(B)(9). Louisiana does not permit self-authentication of electronic records. A qualified witness must testify to foundation questions.

28 U.S.C. 1746(2)

Federal statute governing declarations under penalty of perjury for matters within the United States. The legal basis for the declaration in FRE 902(13) certificates.

Bates Number

A sequential numbering system applied to legal documents for identification and reference. Attested auto-assigns Bates numbers with configurable prefixes per case.

Temporary Access

A share mode where recipient access auto-expires after a set duration (24 hours, 48 hours, or 7 days). Formerly called 'Courier' in internal documentation.

Preserved Evidence

A share mode with litigation hold protection under FRCP 37(e). Evidence cannot be deleted while preserved. Formerly called 'Vault' in internal documentation.

Viewer Identity Watermarking

A visible overlay embedding the authenticated viewer's email into every frame of visual evidence. Rendered at view time via HTML5 Canvas without modifying the stored file.

Access Log

An append-only record of every interaction with evidence: uploads, views, downloads, shares, certificate generation, exhibit marking, and more. Cannot be modified after creation.

Work Product Protection

Automatic stripping of attorney notes, tags, and case organization metadata from evidence before sharing with recipients. Ensures opposing counsel sees only the raw evidence.

Gregory P. Joseph Anatomy

The recognized standard structure for FRE 902(13) certifications, named after the past president of the American College of Trial Lawyers who authored the definitive guide to the rule.

FRCP 37(e)

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure governing the failure to preserve electronically stored information (ESI). Provides for sanctions when relevant ESI is lost due to failure to take reasonable preservation steps.

FRE 502(d)

Federal Rule of Evidence providing a court-ordered clawback mechanism for inadvertently disclosed privileged material. Attested supports instant recall with automatic recipient notification.

Exhibit Sticker

A digital label matching the physical 2-inch by 1-inch courtroom standard, containing exhibit number, party designation, case number, date marked, and identification/admitted/denied status.

Patent Pending

Attested's unified evidence authentication pipeline is the subject of a pending provisional patent application (App. No. 64/009,852) assigned to Verifore Technologies LLC.