

Forensic Document Examination - Types of Forgery, Alterations, Standards for Comparison & Legal Status

Compilation

Forgery

“Whoever makes any false document or part of a document, with intent to cause damage or injury, to the public or to any person, or to support any claim or title, or to cause person to part with property, or to enter into any express or implied contract, or with intent to commit fraud or that fraud may be committed, commits forgery” - **IPC Section 463.**

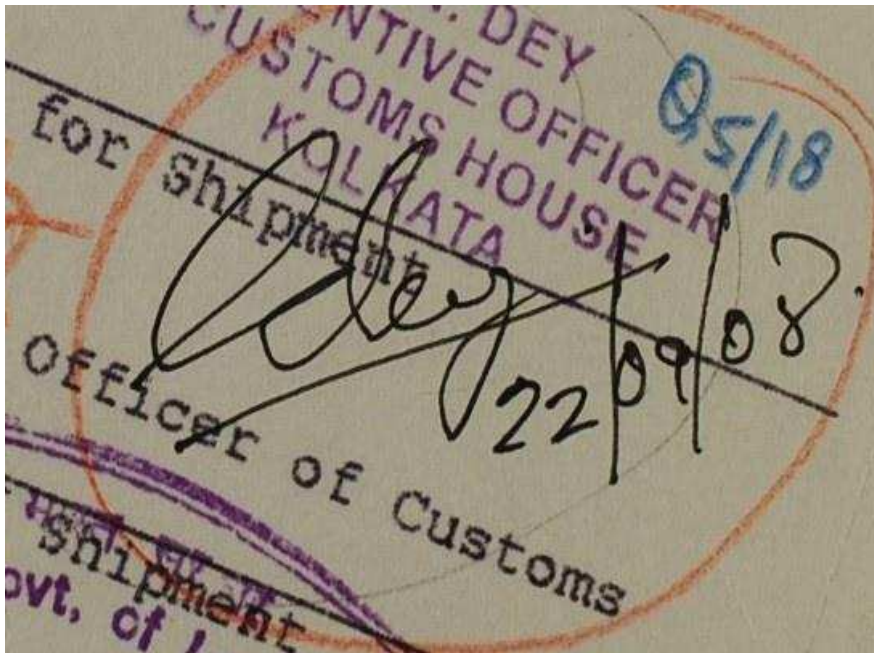
Types of Forgery

- 1. Simply Spurious Execution/Simple Forgery
- 2. Simulated Forgery
- 3. Traced Forgery
- 4. Transferred Signature/Mechanical Reproduction

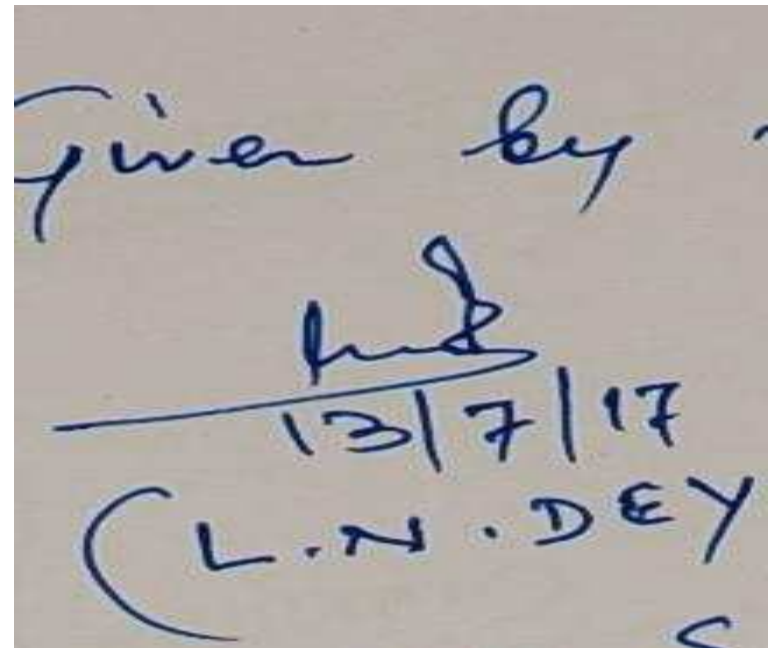
Spurious Signature (Simple Forgery)

A fraudulent signature in which there was no apparent attempt at simulation or imitation.

- Questioned Signature



- Standard Signature



Simulated Forgery

- A fraudulent signature that is produced by copying or imitating the style and size of a genuine signature, without the use of physical aids or involving a tracing process.

Traced Forgery

- A fraudulent signature executed by a manual or mechanical endeavor to follow the outline of a genuine signature. Some techniques used are:
 - 1. Transmitted light technique
 - 2. Carbon creation technique
 - 3. Excessive Pressure technique
 - 4. Tracing paper method

Transferred Signature

- A fraudulent signature transposed from a genuine signature using modern technology like photocopying, scanning etc.

ALTERED DOCUMENT

Can be defined as:

Meddled or improperly interfered document with intention to corrupt it.

Includes following types:

- *1. Erasures - Mechanical & Chemical*
- *2. Additions - Non-Contemporaneous Entry*
- *3. Obliterations - Physical Covering of Entries*
- *4. Pagination - Substitution of entire sheet of a multi-page document*

STANDARDS for Comparison in Handwriting Identification

- Basis for identification/non-identification of the questioned document.
- Condensed & compact set of authentic material from a known source.

STANDARDS for Comparison in Handwriting Identification

Standards – Two Types

1. Request/Dictated Standards: Specimen Writings
2. Collected standards: Admitted Writings

STANDARDS for Comparison in Handwriting Identification

Request Standards (Specimens)

- Writings that are executed at the request of an investigator, a counsel, or some other person involved in the process under litigation.
- Provide duplication of the letter combinations of questioned material.

STANDARDS for Comparison in Handwriting Identification

- Principal points to be considered while obtaining the specimen writings
 - Dictation
 - Selection of text
 - Adequate amount
 - Repetition of text
 - Writing instrument/paper
 - Isolation
 - Arrangement of natural writing conditions

STANDARDS for Comparison in Handwriting Identification

Request Standards (Specimens)

- Attract disparities due to
 - Disguise
 - Nervousness during preparation

STANDARDS for Comparison in Handwriting Identification

Request Standards (Specimens)

- Special problems
 - Intoxication
 - Age deterioration
 - Illness
 - Sick bed signatures

STANDARDS for Comparison in Handwriting Identification

Collected Standards (Admitted)

- Samples of writing that have been executed in the normal course of business or social activity.
- Usually unrelated to any matter of dispute

STANDARDS for Comparison in Handwriting Identification

- Principal points to be considered while obtaining admitted.
 - Amount of writing
 - Similarity of subject matter
 - Relative dates of preparation
 - Writing Conditions.
 - Type of the writing instrument and paper used

Standards – Seal/Stamp

- Seal/Rubber Stamp may not be sent to laboratory
- Legible Specimen seal/rubber stamp impressions obtained on a few sheets are to be sent
- Admitted impressions may also be procured

Standards – Letter Heads

- Specimen letter heads of the period of disputed need to be sent
- Contemporaneous Admitted may also be procured

Document Examination – Legal Status

- **Section 45 in The Indian Evidence Act**
- **Section 47 in The Indian Evidence Act**
- **Section 51 in The Indian Evidence Act**
- **Section 73 in The Indian Evidence Act**