Guide to Accepting Digital Signatures

My eID Signed: ✅	[Name: Reason: Location:	✏️]
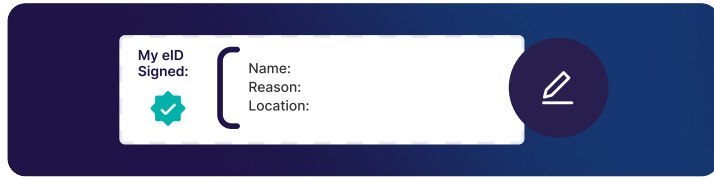
Introducing the Cayman Islands Identification Card: My eID

The Cayman Islands Government is proud to introduce the Cayman Islands Identification Card: My eID, marking a significant step toward greater convenience and efficiency in identity verification. A key feature of My eID is the ability to apply internationally recognised digital signatures to PDF documents, simplifying paperwork processes for both individuals and businesses.

With the introduction of digital signatures on the Cayman Islands Identification Card, it is essential to understand how to accept and verify the authenticity of digital signatures.

What is a Digital Signature?

A digital signature is the electronic equivalent of a handwritten signature that uniquely identifies the signer and guarantees the integrity of the document. Digital signatures offer:

- **Signer Identification:** Verifies the identity of the person who signed the document.
- **Document Integrity:** Ensures that the contents of the document have not been altered after the signature has been applied.

Why Use Digital Signatures?

- **Efficiency:** Digital signatures streamline processes, reducing the need to print, sign, and scan documents
- **Security:** Digital signatures are designed to protect against forgery and tampering, ensuring that both the signature and the document remain secure.
- **Compliance:** Digital signatures meet international standards and legal requirements, ensuring that they are recognised both locally and internationally.

For more information or to register your interest in My eID, visit **myeid.egov.ky.**

What Makes the My eID Digital Signature Valid?

1. **eIDAS-Compliant Digital Signature:**
   - The **Cayman Islands Identification Card (My eID)** includes a **digital signature certificate** that is compliant with the **eIDAS** (Electronic Identification, Authentication, and Trust Services Regulation). This regulation establishes the legal framework for electronic identification and trust services, ensuring that electronic signatures, including digital signatures, have the same legal standing as handwritten signatures across the EU and other compliant jurisdictions.
   - The digital signature in My eID adheres to eIDAS requirements for **Qualified Electronic Signatures (QES)**, ensuring the highest level of security and legal recognition globally.

2. **Cayman Islands Legislation:**
   - Under the **Cayman Islands Electronic Transactions Act (2003 Revision)**, digital signatures have the same legal effect as traditional wet ink signatures, provided they meet specific reliability criteria. A digital signature is considered "reliable" if:
     - The means of creating the signature is uniquely linked to the signatory and not shared with any other person.
     - At the time of signing, the process used to create the signature is fully controlled by the signatory and is inaccessible to others.
     - Any changes to the signature after signing can be detected, ensuring the integrity of the signature.
     - If the purpose of the signature is to guarantee the integrity of the signed document, any changes made to the document after signing must be detectable.
   - In addition, **the Cayman Islands Identification Card Act, 2022 and the Identification Register Act, 2022** govern the issuance and management of digital signatures linked to My eID, ensuring that each digital signature certificate is securely linked to the identity of the cardholder, providing an additional layer of trust and legal recognition. The legislation also outlines the responsibilities of cardholders and the Registrar, further reinforcing the security of the identification and signing process.

3. **Strong Security Measures:**
   - My eID's digital signature uses **public key infrastructure (PKI)**, ensuring that the signature is unique to the cardholder and cannot be forged or altered. This ensures the highest level of trust and security.

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Validating a Digital Signature on a PDF

To verify the validity of a digital signature on a PDF, follow these steps:

1. **Using PDF Readers (e.g., Adobe Acrobat):**
  - Open the PDF and click on the digital signature.
  - View the **Signature Properties**, which should include the signer's name, issuing Certificate Authority (such as the Cayman Islands Government), and the date of signing.
  - Look for a green checkmark or verification message, confirming that the signature is **"Valid"**, trusted, and that the document has not been altered.
  - Ensure the signature includes the date and time to confirm when it was signed and verify that the **document's integrity** is intact (i.e., the document has not been modified since signing).

This verification process allows users to quickly and confidently confirm the legal validity and authenticity of a digital signature, whether for local transactions or international purposes.

Before You Use Digital Signatures

To ensure your business complies with local laws and regulations regarding digital signatures, it's important to:

- **Update Internal Policies:** Revise your policies to include requirements for when you will accept and how you will verify digital signatures in line with Cayman Islands laws and regulations.
- **Train Employees:** Provide comprehensive training for your staff on how to properly handle, verify, and validate digital signatures.

## Why You Can Trust a My eID Digital Signature

The My eID digital signature complies with **eIDAS regulation, Cayman Islands Electronic Transactions Act (2003 Revision), Cayman Islands Identification Card Act, 2022**, and **Identification Register Act, 2022**, ensuring it meets the highest standards of security and legal reliability. Whether used locally or internationally, your digital signature is legally binding, secure, and trusted.

2. **Using the My eID Mobile App Verify Feature:**

The My eID mobile app also includes a Verify feature to check the authenticity of digital signatures:

- **Step 1:** Open the My eID mobile app on your smartphone.
- **Step 2:** Select the **Verify** option from the main menu.
- **Step 3:** Select the PDF document with the digital signature you want to verify.
- **Step 4:** The app will check the signature's validity against the issuing Certificate Authority, confirming whether the signature is authentic and valid
- **Step 5:** The app will display a report confirming the signature's validity, showing details such as the signer's name, date and time the document was signed, issuing Certificate Authority (such as the Cayman Islands Government), and document integrity status.
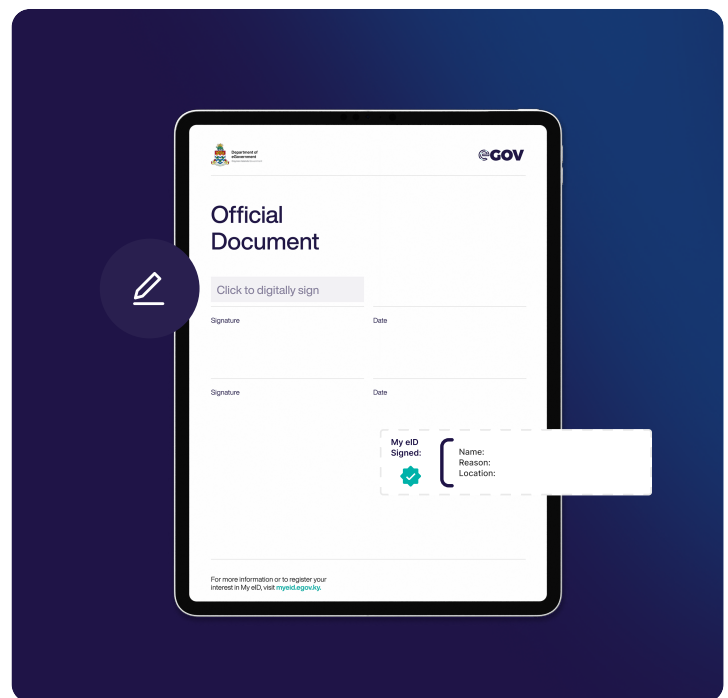
Contact Us

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For more information or to register your interest in My eID, visit **myeid.egov.ky.**

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