



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 184
[2009 Senate Bill 467]

**Electronic Signature on a Criminal
Complaint**

2009 Wisconsin Act 184 relates to using an electronic signature on a criminal complaint.

Prior to Act 184, the law generally provided that a criminal complaint must be made upon oath before a district attorney or a judge. A person also could make an oath by telephone contact with the district attorney or judge, sign a statement, and immediately thereafter transmit a copy of the signed statement to the district attorney or judge using a facsimile machine. The person also was required to transmit the original signed statement, without using a facsimile machine to the district attorney or judge.

Act 184 expands on prior law to provide that a person may make an oath by telephone contact with the district attorney or judge and immediately thereafter electronically transmit a statement, accompanied by the person's electronic signature, to the district attorney or judge. If the complaint is filed, the electronically transmitted statement must be incorporated into a criminal complaint filed in either an electronic or paper format.

Effective date: The Act took effect on March 30, 2010.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.