



Reaching the pad — and what the decree says

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Fictional document

Fictional document — demonstration example

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Fictional document, produced for the demonstration. The firm, the claim forms and the counts are invented; no real person is named. **The point of law below can be checked at its official source; it is not the supplier's opinion.**

The text, its reference and its URL

Element	Value
Applicable decree	Décret n° 2016-1673 of 5 December 2016, on the reliability of copies
Made for the application of	Article 1379 of the French civil code
Publication in the Journal officiel	6 December 2016
Official source	https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000033538124

A digital copy is **presumed reliable** — and therefore usable as the original would be — only where it results from a process meeting the conditions set by that decree.

What the agent produces, called by its name

What it is	What it is not
A data extraction , every value carrying its position in the image	A reliable copy within the meaning of the decree of 5 December 2016
A checkable path from the datum to the pixel	Evidential value conferred on the scanning

Keeping the originals is a separate decision, and it belongs to the firm. This schedule neither recommends nor permits parting with them.

The path that gives the firm what it is really after

Step of the check	What carries it
The disputed value	points to its zone
The zone	points to the photograph
The photograph	carries the filing reference and the date
The reference	carries the physical archive location of the pad

Time to produce a disputed pad	Before	On the 4 disputed files this quarter
Average time	2 days, 11 internal requests	The day it was asked for

If evidential value is sought for its own sake

That is a **separate arrangement** — process, fingerprints, logging, retention — **governed by that same decree. It can be put in place, it can be audited, and it is contracted separately.**

The three questions to ask before budgeting it

1. Which process, and does it meet articles 2 to 6 of the decree of 5 December 2016?

2. Who attests to integrity over time, and over what commitment period?

3. What becomes of the presumption if the process changes during retention?

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