

What an affidavit is:

An affidavit does not stand alone. In other words, once you sign an affidavit, you're not "off the hook." An affidavit means that if you are called to testify, this is what you are going to say (under oath and subject to being charged with perjury if something in the affidavit is not true.)

An affidavit is only about you. It is only about what you actually saw, what you actually heard, what you actually did, or what you saw someone else do.

An affidavit is factually important.

You may not speculate in an affidavit or make conclusions.

Have you ever watched a television show with a trial? If so, envision that you are on the witness stand and you're being questioned about what you wrote in an affidavit. Let's say you wrote, "On Monday, January 9, 2024, I was standing at the corner of _____" So now you're on the witness stand and the attorney says to you, "All of this is true?" (You respond "yes") Then the attorney says, "Would it surprise you know that January 9, 2024 was not a Monday, but a Tuesday?" BINGO – right then and there your credibility is questioned. No matter what else you wrote, there is a question in people's minds.

Our court system is backed up with too many cases. Affidavits that are poorly written, that are not well-thought-out become the basis for cases that are dismissed.

If you're going to sign your name to an affidavit, you had best read it over and over and make sure every bit of it is factual, based upon what you actually saw/did/heard – no guessing, no speculation, no innuendo.

On a positive note, a well drafted affidavit can move a case along. It can help with settlement efforts.

At Michigan Fair Elections we are working to make sure that all affidavits presented by anyone who witnesses anything regarding elections will be (to quote Mary Poppins) "practically perfect."

Please know: this is not a "paper exercise." An affidavit is a legal document.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LIKE SPORTS, PLEASE READ THIS:

Every time I attend a sports game – whether it's football, basketball, soccer or whatever, I become impatient with all of the flags, whistles, etc. I just want to say, "Look, he took the ball. Let's move along." Friends with me talk about the important of the rules, the regulations, and how "it" wouldn't work without them.

THE SAME IS TRUE WITH LAW. Please just see an affidavit as one of the rules that everyone knows at these sporting events, something everyone lives with. An affidavit is part of the rule of law, and this is how we must write them in order to enter the arena of life called the legal system.

A well-drafted affidavit should leave the reader with
only one SPECIFIC conclusion such as:

"Bill Jones does not live at 429 Brookside Drive,
St. Louis, Michigan yet he is registered to vote from
that address." *(You do your job is
preparing the affidavit and leave the rest of
the work to a clerk or an attorney.)*

SAMPLE AFFIDAVIT #1 – The PURPOSE of this affidavit is to give the clerk the information. The individual CAN leave the original affidavit with the clerk, but keep a copy. But the clerk must see the Affidavit.

To be prepared by someone who canvasses for Soles to the Rolls (or a similar organization). The **required content** of an affidavit is:

- name of the individual completing the affidavit (and where the individual lives generally: “Clinton County, Michigan”)
- the address where the data was collected. Address would be street number, city and/or township (make sure the name of the city or the township is the same as that listed on the QVF)
- the date the information was collected
- either the name of the individual who provided you with the information OR a statement that the person did not choose to give you a name OR the fact that you personally witnessed something about the property (i.e. it’s a vacant lot!)
- your signature – but signed in the presence of a notary!

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned declares under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is accurate and true; that the undersigned has personal knowledge of the following facts; that the undersigned is competent to testify to the truth and accuracy of the following:

1. My name is Jane Smith.
2. I reside in Gratiot County, Michigan.
3. On Saturday, January 13, 2024 I canvassed various addresses in River Township, Gratiot Township.
4. According to my records, at the address located at (429 Brookside Drive, St. Louis, MI), someone named (Bill Jones) lives there.
5. Through my personal interaction with someone who answered the door or through my visual inspection of the property, I learned the following:

_____ (Bill Jones) does not live at this address.

_____ There are 2 active voter registrations for (Bill Jones) at this address.

_____ (Bill Jones) is deceased.

_____ (Bill Jones) is incarcerated.

_____ The house/residence at this location is vacant, for sale AND not occupied.

_____ There is NO residential property at this location; it is a vacant lot.

_____ The address listed in #4 above is an invalid address; there is no residential domicile at the stated address.

- 6. I initialed only *(list number)* lines in number 5 above.
- 7. I asked the woman who answered the door if she would tell me her name. *She told me her name is Francie Perkins OR She said she would not.*
- 8. The document that I had in my hand, a portion of the QVF of Michigan, showed that Bill Jones is a resident of 429 Brookside Drive.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Jane Smith

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, 2024, by Jane Smith.

 , Notary Public
 County
Serving in _____County
My commission expires:

SAMPLE AFFIDAVIT #2 – The PURPOSE of this affidavit is to keep it for a legal proceeding. The undersigned should tell the notary that it might be going out of state so that the notary places his/her seal on the document. The original of this should stay with Michigan Fair Elections. The undersigned can keep a copy, but what is most important is that the individual –on a separate piece of paper – give their name, address, and phone number.

To be prepared by someone who canvasses for Soles to the Rolls (or a similar organization).

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned declares under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is accurate and true; that the undersigned has personal knowledge of the following facts; that the undersigned is competent to testify to the truth and accuracy of the following:

- 1. My name is Jane Smith.

2. I reside in Gratiot County, Michigan.
3. On Saturday, January 13, 2024 I canvassed various addresses in River Township, Gratiot Township.
4. After canvassing, I prepared *(put in number)* of affidavits verifying what I learned.
5. On or around January 18, 2024 I hand delivered a copy of each of these affidavits to the clerk of _____ (township or city or village).

Further affiant sayeth not.

Jane Smith

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, 2024, by Jane Smith.

_____, Notary Public
_____, County
Serving in _____ County
My commission expires:

SAMPLE AFFIDAVIT #3 – The PURPOSE of this affidavit is to keep it for a legal proceeding. The undersigned should tell the notary that it might be going out of state so that the notary places his/her seal on the document. The original of this should stay with Michigan Fair Elections. The undersigned can keep a copy, but what is most important is that the individual –on a separate piece of paper – give their name, address, and phone number to the person who keeps this Affidavit.

To be prepared by someone who attends the voter testing equipment session.

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned declares under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is accurate and true; that the undersigned has personal knowledge of the following facts; that the undersigned is competent to testify to the truth and accuracy of the following:

1. My name is Joseph Thelen.
2. I reside in Clinton County, Michigan.
3. On Wednesday, February 7, 2024, I entered the Bengal Township building to observe testing of the voter equipment.

4. **On or around** 10:00 a.m. I introduced myself to the township clerk who was conducting the testing.
5. I asked the clerk, Sheri Butcher, if I could see the test ballots she was running through.
6. I asked the clerk if she prepared the ballots herself. She responded that she did.
6. *OR I asked the clerk if she prepared the ballots herself and she responded that she did not.*
7. *I then asked her who prepared the ballots and she told me that they were prepared by the company.*
8. At the end of the session the clerk said that the voting machines tabulated the information correctly. I asked for a copy of the printout which she gave me. I have this. OR The clerk did not give me a copy. I took a picture of the printout which is stored on my iphone (Smart Phone or whatever).

Further affiant sayeth not.

Joseph Thelen

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF **CLINTON**)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, 2024, by Joseph Thelen.

 , Notary Public
 County
Serving in _____ County
My commission expires:

SAMPLE AFFIDAVIT #4: The PURPOSE of this affidavit is to keep it for a legal proceeding. The undersigned should tell the notary that it might be going out of state so that the notary places his/her seal on the document. The original of this should stay with Michigan Fair Elections. The undersigned can keep a copy, but what is most important is that the individual –on a separate piece of paper – give their name, address, and phone number to the person who keep this Affidavit. (Michigan Fair Elections might want to give these to the county clerk immediately or in the alternative, send them to the Board of Canvassers.)

To be prepared by someone who works as an election inspector, a poll challenger, or a poll watcher. This is for any person who sees anything that looks irregular, peculiar, or contrary to what the person believes might be interrupting the integrity of the election process. Document as much as possible; take pictures when and if possible. Also, if you see someone accusing a poll challenger of “intimidating them,” PLEASE write an affidavit with what **you** witnessed.

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned declares under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is accurate and true; that the undersigned has personal knowledge of the following facts; that the undersigned is competent to testify to the truth and accuracy of the following:

1. My name is Joseph Thelen.
2. I reside in Clinton County, Michigan.
3. On Tuesday, August 5, 2024 I worked as an _____ for _____. (fill in the name of the precinct: i.e. Precinct 1, Dewitt Charter Township)
4. While there, I observed what I believe to be a breach of election integrity. This is what I personally saw, what I personally witnessed:

(This also is a trickier affidavit to complete. If you're permitted to take pictures, take a picture and write in the affidavit that you took a picture. If you were observing the absentee ballots being opened and see something that looks awry, make a note of it. Again, ONLY WRITE WHAT WAS SAID TO YOU, WHAT YOU SAID TO SOMEONE, WHAT YOU DID OR WHAT YOU OBSERVED SOMEONE ELSE DO. No speculation! If you saw irregularities with the absentee voter ballots and brought it to the attention of someone, you can write that you did that – even put the person's name in, too – but you can't write about what you think that person did. Again, think football, think flag thrown on the field.)

Further affiant sayeth not.

Joseph Thelen

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
 COUNTY OF **CLINTON**)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, 2024, by Joseph Thelen.

_____, Notary Public
 _____ County

Serving in _____ County
My commission expires:

affidavit

Primary tabs

An affidavit is a [sworn statement](#) a person makes before a [notary](#) or [officer of the court](#) outside of the [court](#) asserting that certain [facts](#) are true to the best of that person's knowledge. Affidavits by both [plaintiff/prosecution](#) and [defense witnesses](#) are usually collected in preparation for a [trial](#).

In the event a witness's [testimony](#) contradicts what they stated in their affidavit, the affidavit can be introduced as [evidence](#) to [impeach](#) that witness in accordance with [Federal Rule of Evidence 607](#). An impeachment of this sort can potentially lead to [criminal](#) charges of [perjury](#) if the contradiction was made [knowingly](#), intentionally, and involved a [material](#) issue.

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