

Sample Declaration Authenticating Text Messages

An illustrative sample showing what a declaration about your own text messages usually covers. Replace everything in [brackets]. Your court may require a specific form, an affidavit signed before a notary instead of a declaration, or different signature wording, so check your local rules first and have an attorney review it if you can.

[COURT NAME]

[Petitioner name], Petitioner, v. [Respondent name], Respondent.

Case No. [_____]

DECLARATION OF [YOUR FULL NAME] REGARDING TEXT MESSAGES

1. I am the [petitioner / respondent] in this case. I am over 18 years old and I have personal knowledge of the facts in this declaration.
2. The phone number [###-###-####] has been my number since [month, year]. I used this phone to exchange text messages with [name], whose number is [###-###-####]. I know this number belongs to [name] because [for example: they gave it to me; we have used it to communicate since (date); it is listed in (document)].
3. Exhibit [___] is a true and accurate copy of text messages between me and [name] dated [start date] through [end date]. I created it on [date] by [for example: exporting the conversation from my phone using (app or method) / taking screenshots of the conversation].
4. I have not added to, deleted from or changed the content of any message shown in Exhibit [___]. [If anything was left out or redacted, say exactly what and why — for example: "Third-party phone numbers were redacted."]
5. [Optional] The messages in Exhibit [___] match [name]'s other communications with me, including [for example: replies to my messages, references to events only we knew about, their usual name for our child].
6. [Optional, only if you recorded one] The file [file name] has a SHA-256 value of [value], which I recorded on [date].

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of [your state] that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on [date] at [city, state].

_____ [Printed name]