

regulatory requirement and/or the results of a risk analysis, we will select and approve digital or other electronic signature technology and any other procedures that, in our judgment, are appropriate to electronically perform the business process.

Our risk analysis will depend largely upon the specific business process which we contemplate providing electronically or over the Internet. Generally, we anticipate that the analysis will examine how the conversion of a business process electronically or over the Internet will affect service to the public. Additionally, we will examine how to appropriately manage potential legal risks associated with an electronic business process, (including fraud detection, prevention, and prosecution concerns). In the planning and selection of appropriate procedures and electronic signature technologies, we will consider factors associated with traditional paper-based processes, such as originator authentication, message integrity, non-repudiation, and confidentiality.

Our approval process for electronic signature technologies is detailed in processing instructions. SSA senior management will approve the use of electronic signature technologies and related procedures with input from SSA components involved in the specific business application that we are electronically providing.

When SSA senior management has approved an electronic service delivery process or adopted an electronic process using an electronic signature technology, the information received or distributed through the approved process will be treated as the functional equivalent of information received or distributed using traditional paper-based methods.

As indicated above, we are asking for your comments on our electronic signature policy.

#### **Use of Medical Evidence and the Electronic Signature Pilot**

SSA and the State DDS have the authority to accept medical evidence in order to determine if an applicant for social security benefits is disabled and entitled to benefits. The Social Security Act vests the authority to make the initial medical determinations in a State DDS where the applicant resides. 42 U.S.C. 405(a), 421, 423(d). The State DDS evaluates the medical evidence in accordance with SSA's regulations and such other internal procedures as SSA shall prescribe.

SSA's procedures permit a State DDS to accept medical evidence, provided

that the claims file contains an acceptable attestation regarding the source and the validity of the submitted medical record. Currently, SSA's procedures permit a variety of attestations and do not require a medical provider's signature as attestation for most medical evidence. SSA's regulations do prescribe a signature for the receipt of a certain type of medical evidence, called a consultative examination report. At the request of the State DDS, a medical provider that is usually under contract prepares the consultative examination report.

SSA's regulations require that a consultant examiner personally review and sign the consultative examination report submitted to the SSA or State DDS. In the pilot, SSA and the California DDS plan to test for 90 days the use exclusively of electronic consultative examination reports that are authenticated by digital signature technology. The pilot will affect only a small number of disability cases in part of the State of California.

SSA construes its regulations, policy, and the authorization given under GPEA, to permit SSA and a State DDS to accept an electronic medical report transmitted by a consultative examiner using a digital signature technology in lieu of a hard copy report authenticated by the wet signature of the consultative examiner.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 405(a), 421, 423(d); Pub. L. 105-277, Div. C, Title XVII, 1701 to 1710, Oct. 21, 1998, Social Security Ruling 96-10p; 20 CFR 404.1519n(e); 416.919n(e).

Dated: August 23, 2002.

**Martin H. Gerry,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs.*

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Public Notice 4114]**

#### **Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition; Determinations: "Old Masters, Impressionists, and Moderns: French Masterworks from the State Pushkin Museum, Moscow"**

**AGENCY:** Department of State.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and

Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, I hereby determine that the object to be included in the exhibition "Old Masters, Impressionists, and Moderns: French Masterworks from the State Pushkin Museum, Moscow," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, is of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to a loan agreement with the foreign owner. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX from on or about December 15, 2002 to on or about March 9, 2003, the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA from on or about April 5, 2003 to on or about June 29, 2003, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA from on or about July 27, 2003 to on or about October 12, 2003, and at possible additional venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, contact Carol B. Epstein, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, (telephone: 202/619-6981). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: August 22, 2002.

**Miller Crouch,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Public Notice 4113]**

#### **Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition; Determinations: "Paris in the Age of Impressionism: Masterworks From the Musée d'Orsay"**

**AGENCY:** Department of State.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999,