

# USPS Postmark Policy Change – What You Need to Know

Effective Date: December 24, 2025

## What Changed?

The postmark date no longer guarantees the day you mailed your item.

A postmark now reflects the date your mail arrived at a USPS processing facility, which may be one or more days after you dropped it off.

## Why Does This Matter?

- For legal documents that can be served by mail, service by mail is complete when deposited in the mailbox (Wis. Stat. § 801.14(2)).
- You cannot assume the postmark equals the mailing date.

## Tips for Proof of Mailing Date

- **Mail Early:** Send time-sensitive items well before deadlines.
- **Proof of Mailing:** Use certified mail, registered mail, or purchase a USPS certificate of mailing.
- **Declaration of Mailing:** Complete a declaration of mailing for legal documents served by mail as proof of mailing date.
- **Request a Manual Postmark:** Ask for a hand-stamped postmark at your local post office during business hours. Local post offices will provide a postmark free of charge if requested during normal business hours
- **Consider Alternatives:** Use eFiling or electronic delivery when available (see Wis. Stat. § 801.14(2), Wis. Stat. § 801.18(6)(a))

## Questions?

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