
Professional Certificate in Forensic Document Examination

Altered and Forged Documents

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In the field of forensic document examination, altered and forged documents are two common types of fraudulent documents that experts encounter. These documents can take many forms, such as checks, contracts, wills, and identification documents, among others. In this explanation, we will discuss the key terms and vocabulary related to altered and forged documents in the context of the Professional Certificate in Forensic Document Examination.

Altered Documents

An altered document is a genuine document that has been modified in some way to change its meaning or to conceal evidence of wrongdoing. Alterations can take many forms, including erasures, obliterations, insertions, and modifications to handwriting, ink, or type. Alterations can be made using a variety of tools, such as erasers, correction fluid, typewriters, printers, and photocopiers.

Some common reasons for altering documents include:

- * Changing the terms of a contract or agreement
- * Concealing unauthorized transactions or financial losses
- * Modifying medical records or other official documents
- * Altering dates or signatures on legal documents

Examples of altered documents include:

- * A check that has been altered to increase the amount payable
- * A contract that has been altered to change the terms of the agreement
- * A will that has been altered to change the distribution of assets

To detect alterations, forensic document examiners use a variety of techniques, such as:

- * Visual examination under magnification
- * Infrared or ultraviolet examination
- * Chemical testing
- * Electronic analysis

Forged Documents

A forged document is a fraudulent document that has been created with the intent to deceive. Forged documents can take many forms, including counterfeit currency, false identification documents, and fabricated contracts or agreements. Forgeries can be created using a variety of methods, such as:

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- * Copying or imitating existing documents
 - * Creating new documents from scratch
 - * Modifying existing documents to change their meaning

Forged documents can be created using a variety of tools, such as computers, printers, scanners, and specialized software. Forgers may also use specialized techniques, such as:

- * Altering or replacing security features, such as holograms or watermarks
- * Creating false signatures or simulating handwriting
- * Using specialized inks or paper

Some common reasons for creating forged documents include:

- * Committing financial fraud or identity theft
- * Obtaining false identification or credentials
- * Concealing criminal activity or wrongdoing
- * Misrepresenting qualifications or experience

Examples of forged documents include:

- * Counterfeit currency or checks
- * False identification documents, such as driver's licenses or passports
- * Fabricated contracts or agreements

To detect forgeries, forensic document examiners use a variety of techniques, such as:

- * Visual examination under magnification
- * Infrared or ultraviolet examination
- * Chemical testing
- * Electronic analysis
- * Comparison to known genuine documents

Challenges in Altered and Forged Document Examination

Forensic document examination is a complex and challenging field that requires specialized knowledge and skills. Some of the challenges in examining altered and forged documents include:

- * Detecting subtle alterations or modifications
- * Distinguishing between genuine and forged documents
- * Identifying the tools and techniques used to create forgeries
- * Establishing the authenticity of signatures or handwriting
- * Interpreting ambiguous or inconclusive evidence

Conclusion

Altered and forged documents are a common type of fraudulent document that forensic document

examiners encounter in their work. These documents can take many forms and can be created using a variety of tools and techniques. To detect alterations and forgeries, forensic document examiners use a variety of techniques, such as visual examination, chemical testing, and electronic analysis. Despite the challenges in this field, forensic document examiners play a critical role in identifying fraudulent documents and helping to establish the truth in legal and financial matters.