



NOT ALL ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPT FILE FORMATS ARE CREATED EQUAL

The RealLegal Advantage

- Transcript security
- Compatibility with attorneys' software
- Vulnerability to changes



THOMSON REUTERS™

WEST®

Editable Content

E-TRANSCRIPT FILES

E-Transcript™ files are **100% tamperproof**. Zero content (testimony, signatures, date/time, etc.) can be edited once the transcript has been finalized, signed and sealed by the reporting agency without destroying the original file. If any alteration has been made, the user will be notified immediately.

E-Transcript uses verifiable signatures to further ensure that the file has not been edited or changed. The signatures are invalidated if the transcript is tampered with in any way. The E-Transcript Signature™ travels with the file for the duration of its life in the E-Transcript format.

E-Transcript is the only format designed specifically for transcripts.

ASCII TRANSCRIPTS

The ASCII format was designed to enable data to transfer easily from one computer to another, long before the necessity of security and locked-down content. An ASCII file does not even include any mechanism for the appearance or formatting of text, it is simply an open and free format intended for information sharing.

When the ASCII format is used for transcripts, end-users could accidentally bump their keyboard and delete content, or malicious users could **change material facts and critical testimony**. There are no internal document checks, and because it is only text, anyone can read it.

PDF TRANSCRIPTS

According to Adobe, "All Adobe Products enforce the restrictions set by the Permissions Password. However, not all third party products fully support and respect these settings. Recipients using such third party products might be able to **bypass some of the settings you have set.**"

Several companies distribute "PDF Breaker" software products which have been proven to unlock PDF files in as little as 20 seconds. Once this has happened, the testimony can then be freely modified, the reporter's **signature can be easily forged** or replaced, and the date of certification can be changed simply by modifying the date and time settings on the recipient's computer. Additional programs can be purchased to add security to PDFs, but none can authoritatively certify when a transcript was signed.

Formatting Lock-down

100% page and line accuracy. Whether opened with the free E-Transcript Viewer™, or imported into other software, the formatting you set remains intact always and forever.

Page and line **numbers easily shift** when the transcript is opened by the end-user. This means that attorneys will not have 100% confidence when citing the page and line numbers for referenced testimony.

The transcript formatting is maintained, but the text **cannot be used in any transcript management software**. Once the text is extracted, the page and line integrity is compromised along with the transcript protections.

Copy/Paste Citations

The case name, proceeding type, and page and line numbers automatically appear when the user pastes the selected text into another application. This is **extremely convenient for attorneys!** Plus, attorneys have the option to deactivate this feature so that only the actual transcript text is pasted.

Text can be copied and pasted elsewhere, although page numbers do not automatically appear, and line numbers become part of the testimony. This deficiency forces the attorney to **do a lot of clean-up work.**

Text can be copied and pasted elsewhere, although each line of testimony runs together as a continuous paragraph with line numbers interspersed as though they are part of the testimony. Page numbers do not automatically appear. For PDF transcripts to be useful to attorneys, **additional formatting and clean-up work is required.**

Ability to designate authorized recipients/openers

Yes

No

No

3rd-Party Signor Verification

Yes, at no additional cost. RealLegal subscriptions include **free** signatures for your court reporting firm.

Not available

Not available without purchasing software and incurring **additional expenses** from a 3rd party security company.

Compatibility with the top three most-used transcript management software products on the market: LiveNote, RealLegal Binder and Summation

Yes

Yes

No

The Bottom Line

The E-Transcript file format is an entirely affordable, convenient and trustworthy option for court reporters and their clients. It is the only format designed for use with transcripts.

The ASCII format's compatibility with a wide-range of software applications does not outweigh the risks caused by its flexibility.

The PDF format works well for some documents (like exhibits), but it is a highly problematic format for transcripts.

THE ANSWER IS CLEAR

THE E-TRANSCRIPT FILE FORMAT PROVIDES THE MOST SECURITY AND FORMATTING PROTECTION

Electronically-signed and sealed E-Transcript files are extremely easy to create using our popular RealLegal E-Transcript Manager™ software suite. E-Transcript Reporter Edition™ creates a virtual pipeline between a court reporter's personal computer and a specific agency's E-Transcript Manager software. Reporter Edition creates E-Transcript files and submits them, along with turn-in sheets, into the production queue. Additionally, the reporter and production office can apply a verifiable E-Transcript Signature to the final transcript.

E-Transcript Manager adds additional security and tools for full-text searching, condensed printing, saving options, and management of multiple Reporter Edition users.

RealLegal UnlimitedSM subscription plans include E-Transcript Manager, unlimited installations of Reporter Edition, and an unlimited supply of unique E-Transcript Signatures for each Reporter Edition user.

Please call your court reporting technology representative at **1-800-548-3668 ext. 4.**

Or visit **www.RealLegal.com** for more information.

