



## Signing Authority exists to Protect Researchers and the University

Signature authority delegations at CU Boulder are designed to protect academic freedoms, including a faculty member's right to publish, and faculty's intellectual property. Delegations originate with The Regents of the University of Colorado to President Benson then to named individuals within the University.

### Who holds signature authority for the University for research-related agreements?

The Office of Contracts and Grants (OCG) holds the delegation of signature authority for University research contracts and grants, and official sponsored project correspondence over the life of an award (e.g., requests to the sponsor for no-cost extensions, budget deviations, prior approval authorizations and other modifications to the terms).

OCG also holds the delegation of signature authority for University nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements.

### Most Faculty and Staff do not hold signature authority to bind the University.

Individual faculty and staff members generally do not hold authority to sign agreements that bind the University unless they have a formal written delegation of signature authority.

Faculty may sign agreements in their individual capacity for work done on their 1/6<sup>th</sup> time, not using University assets or facilities.

### What if a faculty member signs one of these agreements?

The terms could impair publication rights and intellectual property rights and the individual signer does not have the institutional protection of the University. There is also a risk that the signer could hold liability for compliance with the agreement's terms.

### What if I am sent an agreement to sign (outside of 1/6<sup>th</sup> time) or have already signed an agreement on behalf of the University?

For research or crowdfunding agreements, email a copy to [ocg@colorado.edu](mailto:ocg@colorado.edu). A University Contract Officer will review the terms and determine if a renegotiation is possible.

For nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements, contact the [Contract Administrator](#) for your department to review the terms.