MOHAWK NATION
OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

BOOK XXII OF THE REGISTER'S BOOKS

The Verifier's Handbook

How anyone — a bank, a police service, a court, a border officer, an employer — can check a document of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River for themselves, without having to take anyone's word for it.

One of the National Books of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River.

First edition · October 2026

The Verifier’s Handbook

Book XXII of the Register’s books

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Posters	How to Check a Document of the Nation (ISBN 978-1-0680559-7-3): an A3 wall poster, printed by Mohawk’s Printer for Grand River. A document taken apart, the Record Code in its three blocks, the four standings, the three ways to check and the red flags. It is shown in this book on a page of its own.
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CONTENTS

Contents

A Nation document 5

Who this book is for . . . 6

What every document carries . . . 6

Three ways to check 9

1 · By its Record Code . . . 10

2 · By its Edge Mark . . . 10

3 · By its Ledger entry . . . 10

Documents shared by their holder 12

One-time share links . . . 13

Credentials . . . 13

Records sent to your systems 14

What you receive . . . 15

Checking it came from the Nation, unaltered . . . 15

Money 16

The Grand River dollar . . . 17

A payment . . . 17

When something is wrong 18

Signs a document cannot be relied on . . . 19

Words used . . . 19

What to look for 20

A Nation document, part by part . . . 21

What the scanner shows . . . 22

How it works, and how we compare 23

How we compare . . . 24

Questions an expert or critic would ask . . . 24

SECTION 1

A Nation document

What every document of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River carries, so that it can be checked by anyone, anywhere.

For banks, police services, courts, border officers, employers and anyone asked to rely on a Nation document.

Its colour: **River ink**

A NATION DOCUMENT

Who this book is for

You have been shown a document issued by the Mohawk Nation of Grand River Secretariat — a certificate, a passport, a card, a court order, a record sent to your systems — and you need to know whether to rely on it. This book tells you how to check it yourself, without having to take anyone’s word for it, the Nation’s included.

WHY Every check in this book can be made without contacting the Nation. The Nation has built its documents so that the proof travels with them.

What every document carries

Feature	What it is	What it tells you
The Record Code	One identifier, in three blocks: FAMILY-YYMMDD-NNNNNN (for example RGF001-261026-000001)	The kind of record, the day it was made, and its number that day
The lock-up	The Nation’s emblem beside its name, set as the Brand Guide supplies it	That the Secretariat issued it; only the Secretariat applies the emblem to an official act
The Edge Mark	A rail of notches along one edge, printed in two inks	Each ink is a party’s digital signature; your phone can read and check them
The standing	In force, expired, suspended or revoked	Whether it can be relied on today — shown by /verify/, never by the paper alone
A fingerprint	A SHA-256 hash, printed or held by the Register	Whether its content is exactly what was issued

RULE A Nation document is never proven by its look alone. Paper can be copied; its standing and its signatures cannot.

How to read the poster, on the next page — turn the book to read it. At the top a specimen certificate is taken apart, each numbered part explained beside it, with the Record Code in its three blocks and the four standings. The middle band gives the three ways to check, from the quickest to the most thorough, with a phone reading an Edge Mark, and how far to go for the reliance you are placing on a document. The lower band lists the red flags, the words used, and how the Nation’s checks compare with a passport’s, a notary’s and a paper certificate’s. The poster is printed by Mohawk’s Printer, ISBN 978-1-0680559-7-3.

MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER

How to Check a Document of the Nation

The proof travels with the paper: check it yourself, in a minute, without asking the Nation.

For a bank, a school, a border, a police service or a court · From Book XXII of the National Books, The Verifier's Handbook

THE DOCUMENT, PART BY PART



1. The Seal: the Nation's emblem, from its master artwork, never redrawn. Only the Secretariat applies it to an official act.
2. The Record Code: one identifier in three blocks, in a face where a 0 is never an O.
3. The standing today: in force, expired, suspended or revoked. Shown by /verify/, never by the paper alone.
4. The fingerprint: a SHA-256 hash of the content. Change one letter and it changes completely.
5. The Edge Mark: a rail of notches in two inks, the first party's signature and the Registry's, with its check address beneath.

THE RECORD CODE

RGF001-261026-000001

FAMILY	YYMMDD	NNNNNN
the kind of record	the day it was made	its number that day

One scheme for everything: every record of the Nation has one Record Code and no other number. A code in any other shape is not the Nation's.

THE FOUR STANDINGS

In force	**Expired**
Suspended	**Revoked**

Only /verify/ tells you the standing. A credential revoked an hour ago shows as revoked now. The paper cannot know.

A Nation document is never proven by its look alone. Paper can be copied; its standing and its signatures cannot.

THREE WAYS TO CHECK, FROM THE QUICKEST TO THE MOST THOROUGH

1 By its Record Code

`/verify/`

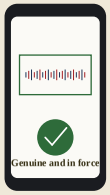
- Type the code exactly as printed.
- Read what the document is, and its standing today.
- Compare the name and details with the paper.

Low reliance: a form, a letter

2 By its Edge Mark

`/edge-scan/, on any phone`

- Hold the phone over the rail of notches.
- It reads them, fetches the signatures, and checks each with the signer's own key.
- Green tick: genuine and in force. Red cross: altered or not genuine.



Ordinary reliance: an ID, a certificate

3 By its Ledger entry

`/ledger/, anchored in Bitcoin`

- Search the Ledger by the code.
- Read each step in the document's life, with its fingerprint.
- Check the day's anchor with any OpenTimestamps tool.

High reliance: court, border, money

The specimen is a specimen: the name, the code and the marks are drawn for the poster. The red flags, the words used and how the Nation's checks compare are in The Verifier's Handbook, Book XXII; the Edge Mark itself is Book XXIV.

Sources: The Verifier's Handbook (Book XXII), The Edge Mark (Book XXIV) and Signing, Keys and the Ledger (Book XXIII) of the National Books; the Register's check page, scanner and Ledger at mohawkuniversity.org/Register; the Edge Marks module of the Register suite; OpenTimestamps (opentimestamps.org); ICAO Doc 9303 and the ICAO Public Key Directory, for the comparison.

MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

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SECTION 2

Three ways to check

From the quickest to the most thorough.

Use as many as the reliance you are placing on it requires.

Its colour: **River ink**

CHECKING

1 · By its Record Code

	Step
1	Go to the Register’s public check page, /verify/, on the Nation’s website
2	Enter the Record Code exactly as printed
3	Read what the Register shows: what the document is, its standing today, and what you should compare
4	Compare: the name and details shown must match the paper in front of you

The check page reports a document’s **real standing**: a credential revoked an hour ago shows as revoked now. It shows only what is needed to compare — never more of a person’s record than the document itself says.

2 · By its Edge Mark

	Step
1	Open the Nation’s scanner, /edge-scan/, on a phone
2	Hold the phone over the rail of notches along the document’s edge, as the frame on screen shows; for a long rail, turn the phone sideways
3	The phone reads the notches, asks the Register for the document by its Record Code and the marks it read from the paper, and checks every signature itself
4	Read the result: a green tick, a red cross, or amber for “try again”; and the diagram of who signed, in order

WHY The Register answers only when the phone also sends the marks read from the paper. Without the paper, no one can use the Register to find out whose documents exist.

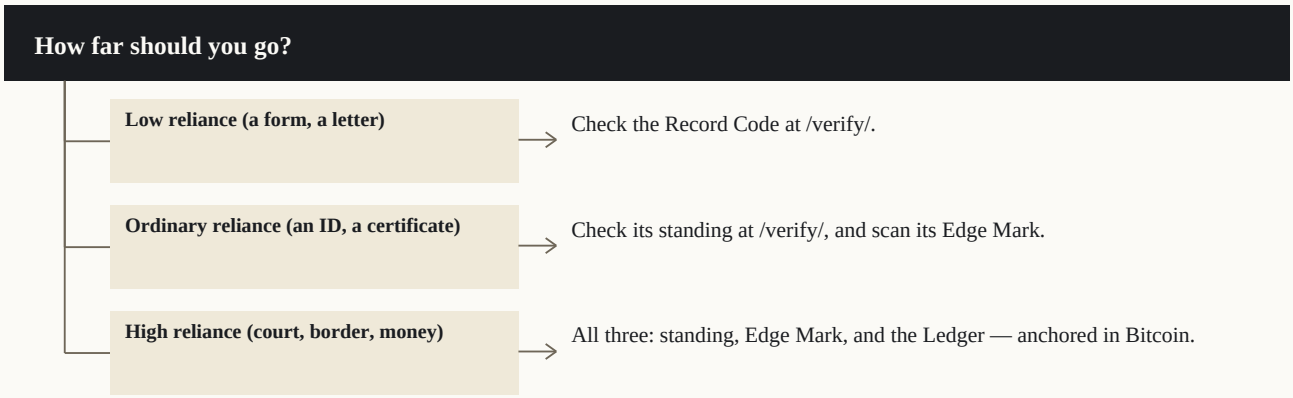
What the diagram shows

At the top, the document. A red line runs to the first signer, a blue line to the second, as the two inks run on the paper. For each signer: their name and role; their signature, worked out on your phone; the fingerprint of their key; and their entry on the Nation’s Ledger. A later signer’s card shows the earlier signature their signature covers — so the order of signing is part of the proof.

3 · By its Ledger entry

	Step
1	Go to the Nation’s Ledger, /ledger/, and search by the Record Code
2	Read the entries: each step in the document’s life, with its time and fingerprint
3	For certainty beyond the Nation: take the day’s anchored fingerprint and its OpenTimestamps proof, and check it with any OpenTimestamps tool — it shows the fingerprint existed in a Bitcoin block that day

How to read the tree: start at the question — “How far should you go?” — and follow the first branch that applies. Each branch ends in what to do.



SECTION 3

Documents shared by their holder

When a resident chooses what to show you.

Selective disclosure: proving a fact without revealing the rest.

Its colour: **River ink**

SHARED BY THEIR HOLDER

One-time share links

A resident can give you a one-time share link (its Record Code begins SHL001) that proves only the facts they choose — that they are over 18, say, or that their credential is in force — without showing you the rest of their record. The link expires, and works once.

> **RULE** A share link proves what it says, from the Register itself. If a link has expired or been used, ask the holder for a new one; do not accept a screenshot of one.

Credentials

Standing	Meaning	What to do
In force	Issued, and valid today	Rely on it, for what it is
Expired	Its time has run	Do not rely on it; the holder may renew
Suspended	Paused, pending a decision	Do not rely on it until it is in force again
Revoked	Withdrawn by the Nation	Do not rely on it

SECTION 4

Records sent to your systems

For police services, courts and agencies that receive the Nation’s records in their own systems.

The National Information Exchange Model (NIEM).

Its colour: **River ink**

EXCHANGED RECORDS

What you receive

The Nation’s Public Safety Service exports its records — a form, a case file with its evidence — as JSON-LD in the vocabularies of NIEM (Core 5.0 and Justice 7.0), named after the record’s Record Code. Names are in their parts; times in ISO 8601 with their time zone; locations in WGS 84; offences classified by the UN’s ICCS; evidence with its SHA-256 fingerprint and its chain of custody.

Checking it came from the Nation, unaltered

	Step
1	Take the document without its @context and its mngr:Provenance, written out as the Register writes it: no spaces between items, characters as they are
2	Compute its SHA-256 fingerprint: it must equal mngr:ContentSHA256
3	Check mngr:Signature over that fingerprint with the Register’s published public key (RSA-3072 with SHA-256)
4	If either fails, the record was changed after it left the Nation — do not rely on it

WATCH FOR A record whose provenance says it is not signed came from a Register whose signing key had not yet been made. Its fingerprint and its Ledger entry still prove its content; ask the Nation for a signed copy if you need one.

SECTION 5

Money

How to check the Grand River dollar and a payment in it.

The Nation publishes enough for anyone to check.

Its colour: **River ink**

MONEY

The Grand River dollar

One Grand River dollar is one Canadian dollar, fully backed. The proof of reserves, published every day at /reserves/, gives three totals that must agree: what is owed to account-holders, what the Nation’s real account holds, and the amount on the Stellar network. On Stellar, the asset’s code is GRANDRIVER; its issuer is identified by the Nation’s stellar.toml file, under the Stellar standard SEP-1.

A payment

An account-holder can show you that a payment is in the Nation’s sealed record: “Sealed ✓” beside it in their My Register opens its proof — the payment’s fingerprint and the short path to that night’s root, which is on the Ledger. Your own browser works the root out again: the check does not rest on the Nation’s word, and it reveals nothing about anyone else’s money.

SECTION 6

When something is wrong

Red flags, and what to do about them.

Its colour: **River ink**

RED FLAGS

Signs a document cannot be relied on

You see	It means
A Record Code not in three blocks, FAMILY-YYMMDD-NNNNNN	Not a Nation Record Code
/verify/ finds no such record	Not issued by the Nation — or mistyped; check again
A standing other than in force	Do not rely on it for what it claims
The scanner shows a red cross	Its signatures do not match the paper: altered, or not genuine
The name shown differs from the paper	The paper has been altered, or belongs to someone else
A rail of notches the scanner cannot read at all	A copy, a forgery, or damage: check by Record Code instead
The emblem circled, recoloured or stretched	Not the Nation’s own artwork: the Brand Guide forbids it

RULE If a document fails any check, do not rely on it, and do not confront the person showing it. Tell the Registrar General of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River Secretariat, giving its Record Code.

Words used

Word	Meaning
Edge Mark	The rail of notches along a Nation document’s edge: its signatures
Fingerprint	A SHA-256 hash: a short code that changes completely if anything in the content changes
Ledger	The Nation’s append-only record of every act, anchored daily in Bitcoin
Record Code	The one identifier of every Nation record
Standing	Whether a document is in force, expired, suspended or revoked

SECTION 7

What to look for

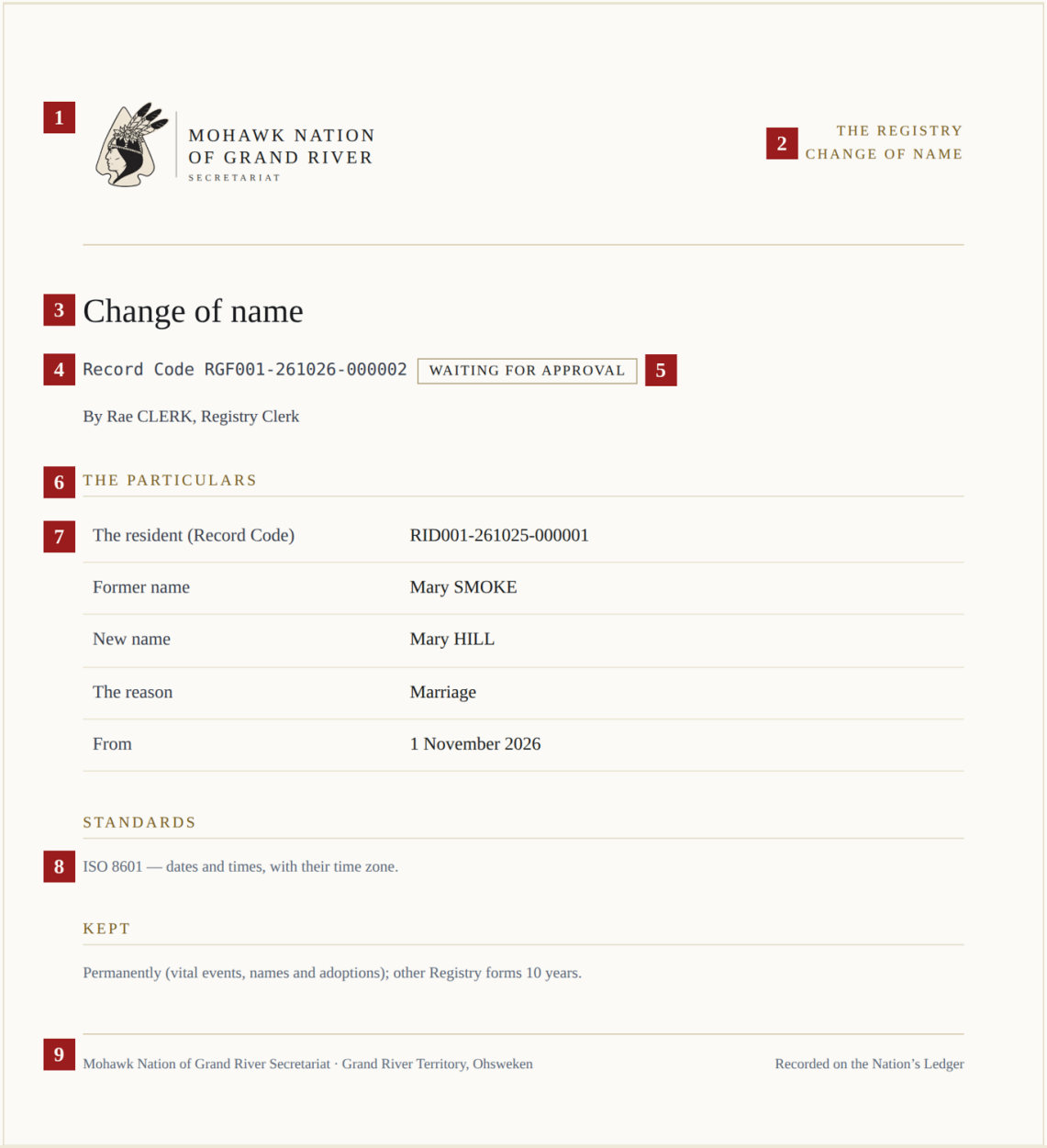
A Nation document, part by part; and what the scanner shows.

Its colour: **River ink**

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

A Nation document, part by part

The drawing below takes a document apart. Each numbered feature is explained in the key beneath it, in the same order.

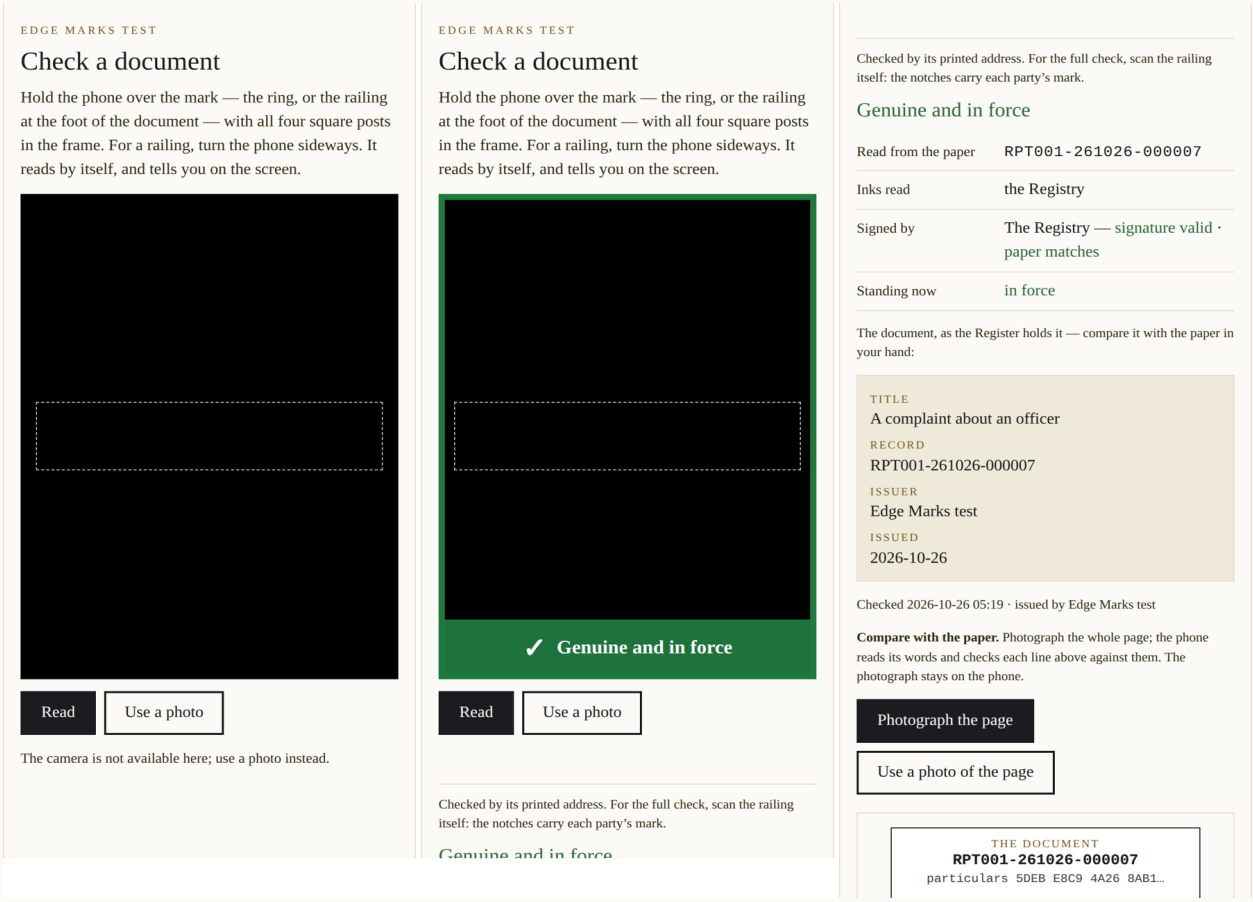


	What it is
1	The lock-up: at least 20 mm tall, in its own colours, with its clear space
2	The department and the form — beside the lock-up, never in it
3	The form's title
4	Its Record Code
5	Its standing
6	Sections headed in small capitals over a hairline
7	The particulars, one to a row

	What it is
8	The standards it follows
9	The Secretariat’s line

What the scanner shows

The screens below are what the scanner shows, left to right, as a document is read: ready to read; the frame turning green, “Genuine and in force”; then the full result.



Ready to read; the frame turns green — “Genuine and in force”; then the full result, with the document as the Register holds it, to compare with the paper.

SECTION 8

How it works, and how we compare

The benchmarks the Nation measures itself against, the standards it follows, and the questions an expert or critic would ask — answered.

Its colour: **Cover tan**

How we compare

Benchmark	What they do	What the Nation does
The EU’s PRADO register	Public specimens of genuine identity documents, with their security features, for anyone checking one	The Nation should publish specimens of each document the same way
The US E-Verify and the UK Document Checking Service	Employers and officials check documents online	/verify/, by Record Code; and the scanner, by Edge Mark
Certificate Transparency	Anyone can check a certificate against a public log	Anyone can check a Nation document against the Ledger

Questions an expert or critic would ask

Why trust the Nation’s own website to check its documents?
You need not trust it alone: the Edge Mark’s signatures are checked on your own phone, and the Ledger’s fingerprints are anchored in Bitcoin, beyond the Nation’s reach.

What if a fake website imitates /verify/?
Check the address: the Nation’s Register is at its own domain. Its permanent address will be published in the Gazette.

Does checking a document tell the Nation about me?
The check records the document checked, not who checked it.