



Sovrin Ledger Access Policies V2

This is a Controlled Document of the [Sovrin Governance Framework](#) V2 approved by the Sovrin Board of Trustees. If you have comments or suggestions, we invite you to contribute them to the [living community version of this document](#)—access is open to anyone. If you are interested in joining the Sovrin Governance Framework Working Group, please visit our [Meeting Page](#).

Document Name	Sovrin Ledger Access Policies
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Governs	Policies for reading and writing to the Sovrin Ledger
Governed By	Sovrin Governance Framework Working Group

Preamble

*DECLARATION OF INTENT: The policies defined in this version of this document—in particular those regarding **Permissioned Write Access** and **Personal Data**—have been adopted by the Sovrin Foundation during the period required to transition from the current policy of **Permissioned Write Access** to the new policy of **Public Write Access** as defined in this document. The Sovrin Foundation intends to accomplish this transition as soon as the relevant regulatory reviews can be completed.*

RECOMMENDED READING: The terms used in this Controlled Document are more fully explained, including a visual diagram, on the [Data Protection Regulation page](#) of the Sovrin Foundation website.

1. Transaction Author Agreement

1. The Sovrin Foundation MUST:
 - a. Publish a Transaction Author Agreement between a Transaction Author and the Sovrin Foundation (representing the Sovrin Network as a whole) specifying the terms and conditions under which Transaction Authors agree to submit write Transactions to the Sovrin Ledger, including the policies defined in this Controlled Document.
 - b. Publish a Steward Data Processing Agreement (DPA) specifying the requirements for a Steward to serve as a Data Processor on behalf of Transaction Authors as Data Controllers and the Sovrin Foundation as a Designated Data Controller.
 - c. When necessary, revise the Transaction Author Agreement and the Steward DPA under the same policies as a Controlled Document as specified in section 4 of the Sovrin Governance Framework Master Document.
 - d. Publish the current version of the Transaction Author Agreement and the Steward DPA on the Sovrin Foundation website and in the Sovrin Code Repository.
2. A Transaction Author MUST agree not to submit Transactions that contain:
 - a. Data that would violate the intellectual property rights of others.
 - b. Data that may not lawfully be written to the Sovrin Ledger, where the definition of applicable law in this context is provided in the Transaction Author Agreement.
3. Until such time as the Sovrin Foundation implements Public Write Access, the Transaction Author MUST agree not to submit a Transaction that contains Personal Data.
4. A Transaction Author MUST agree that if it is determined in a court of law that one or more Transactions made by the Transaction Author violated the terms and conditions of the Transaction Author Agreement, the Transaction Author consents to the marking of those Transactions with a Tombstone and, if possible, the revocation of the State Proof(s) pertaining to the Sovrin Ledger data for those Transactions.

2. Transaction Endorser Agreement

1. The Sovrin Foundation MUST:
 - a. Publish a Transaction Endorser Agreement between the Transaction Endorser and the Sovrin Foundation specifying the terms and conditions under which Transaction Endorsers agree to write Transactions to the Sovrin Ledger, including the policies defined in this Controlled Document.
 - b. Publish a Transaction Endorser Data Processing Agreement (DPA) specifying the requirements for a Transaction Endorser to serve as a Data Processor on behalf of Transaction Authors as Data Controllers and the Sovrin Foundation as a Designated Data Controller.
 - c. When necessary, revise the Transaction Endorser Agreement and the Transaction Endorser DPA under the same policies as a Controlled Document as

- specified in section 4 of the Sovrin Governance Framework Master Document.
- d. Publish the current version of the Transaction Endorser Agreement and the Transaction Endorser DPA on the Sovrin Foundation website and in the Sovrin Code Repository.
- 2. A Transaction Endorser MUST agree to pay the Sovrin Ledger Fee for a Transaction as specified in the Transaction Endorser Agreement.
- 3. A Transaction Endorser MUST:
 - a. Only submit Transactions from Transaction Authors who have explicitly agreed to the Transaction Author Agreement by physically or digitally signing a copy.
 - b. Maintain physical or digital evidence of conformance to this policy.

3. Permissioned Write Access

1. The scope of the policies defined in this section is defined as follows:
 - a. The policies in this section MUST apply to the Sovrin Main Network.
 - b. The policies governing write access to Sovrin Test Networks MAY be defined separately by the Sovrin Technical Governance Board or other Controlled Documents.
2. Sovrin Trustees are permitted to write Transactions to the Sovrin Ledger under the following rules:
 - a. This policy MUST apply only to Trustees acting in their role as Trustees of the Sovrin Foundation.
 - b. A Trustee MUST only make the following Transactions if the Transaction has been approved by a motion of the Sovrin Board of Trustees.
 - i. Add or remove a Trustee.
 - ii. Add or remove a Steward.
 - iii. Add or remove a Transaction Endorser.
 - iv. Create or update the Sovrin Ledger Fee Table.
 - c. A Trustee MAY make Sovrin Ledger maintenance Transactions if the Transaction is approved by either the Sovrin Board of Trustees, the Sovrin Technical Governance Board, or the Sovrin Foundation Chief Technical Officer.
3. Sovrin Stewards are automatically permitted to serve in the role of Transaction Endorsers provided the Steward agrees to the Transaction Endorser Agreement by submitting a physically or digitally signed copy to the Sovrin Foundation.
4. Organizations other than Stewards are permitted to serve in the role of Transaction Endorsers provided:
 - a. The Organization submits a Transaction Endorser application to the Sovrin Foundation that includes evidence that the Organization is a legally registered entity in a recognized Jurisdiction.
 - b. The application is approved by the Sovrin Foundation.
 - c. The Organization agrees to the Transaction Endorser Agreement by submitting a physically or digitally signed copy to the Sovrin Foundation.

5. Transaction Authors are permitted to write Transactions to the Sovrin Ledger provided:
 - a. Each Transaction includes a valid digital signature from the Transaction Author.
 - b. The Transaction is endorsed by an approved Transaction Endorser.
 - c. If the Transaction updates the state of a ledger-persisted data structure, it **MUST** be digitally signed by the same Transaction Author that recorded the previous state.

4. Public Write Access

1. Public Write Access **MUST** enable a Transaction Author to submit a Transaction directly to the Sovrin Ledger without requiring the signature of a Transaction Endorser.
2. As soon as resources permit and relevant legal and policy questions are resolved, the Sovrin Foundation **MUST**:
 - a. Draft a revision to this Controlled Document defining the policies to enable Public Write Access.
 - b. If necessary, draft a revision to the Transaction Author Agreement or any other relevant Controlled Documents implementing the changes necessary to support these policies.
 - c. Work with the Sovrin Community to implement the changes to the Sovrin Open Source Code necessary to implement these policies.

5. Public Read Access

1. Stewards **MUST** provide public read access without cost for all Transactions on the Sovrin Ledger unless marked by a Tombstone.
2. Once Tombstone functionality has been: a) implemented by the Sovrin Community, b) approved by the Sovrin Technical Governance Board, and c) approved by the Sovrin Board of Trustees, a Steward **MAY** mark a Transaction as a Node-Specific Tombstone if:
 - a. Requested by the Transaction Author of a Transaction for a valid reason as specified by the Transaction Author Agreement.
 - b. Required of the Steward by a court order.
 - c. The Steward has evidence that the Transaction violates the terms and conditions of the Transaction Author Agreement.
3. In keeping with the Censorship Resistance principle (SGF Master Document section 2.8.4), a Steward **MUST NOT** use a Node-Specific Tombstone for any other reason.
4. Ledger-Wide Tombstones **MUST NOT** be implemented until policies governing their usage are published in a future version of this Controlled Document.
NOTE: *Ledger-Wide Tombstones are not planned in the near future.*

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