

# J. Joseph & Associates

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## LEVELS OF OPINIONS

### ■ Identification

This is the highest degree of confidence regarding identification expressed by document examiners.

### ■ Strong Probability of Identification

The evidence supports an opinion of identification yet some critical element is missing.

### ■ Probable Identification

The evidence points towards identification.

### ■ Indications of Identification

The evidence has a few significant features that are in agreement comparatively.

### ■ No Conclusion Concerning Identification

Used when there are limiting factors such as disguised writing, illegibility, lack of uniquely identifying traits, or deficiency in available exemplars.

### ■ Indications Did Not

The evidence has a few significant features indicating that the same person did not create both samples.

### ■ Probably Did Not

Evidence is clear; however, it falls short of providing more certainty in the degree of confidence.

### ■ Strong Probability Did Not

The evidence is very clear, yet some critical quality is missing for virtual certainty.

### ■ Elimination

Highest degree of confidence which expresses no doubt regarding authorship.

*Source: Journal of Forensic Sciences. "The Standardization of Handwriting Opinion Terminology", 311-319 (March 1991)*