

Anatomy of a union authorization card



You may be asked to sign something or scan a QR code to learn more about (or show your support for) a union. This is called a union authorization card.

These cards are legally binding documents, meaning they give a union the right to speak on your behalf, and they come in a few different forms, like a paper card, digital form or survey, or even a sign-in sheet.

Here's what a union authorization card may look like and some of the ways the union might use your information:

Authorization

This states that you chose the union and its agents to represent you.

Home address

Getting your home address allows a union to show up at your house any time - without notice.

Email address

Having your email address allows a union nonstop access to emailing you.

Phone number

Once a union has your phone number it can call or text you, even when you are off work.

Department/unit

A union may use this to ask you to talk to co-workers in your unit or department.

Signature

Your signature authorizes the union to be your exclusive representative and maybe even to collect dues from your paycheck.

If you're asked to sign something, keep in mind:

- You don't have to sign anything to get more information or attend a union meeting.
- Once you've signed something, a union can use your personal information however it wants, including showing up at your house, calling or texting you, or sharing it with others in public and via social media.
- If you sign a card and change your mind, the union is not legally required to give it back.



You might be told that signing an authorization card isn't a big deal, but remember what you may be signing over if you agree!