



Retrieve-or-Acknowledge Legal Delivery Protocol

Methods and systems for achieving legal equivalence to physical mail delivery through retrieve-or-acknowledge actions at a secured home addr...

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Abstract

Methods and systems for achieving legal equivalence to physical mail delivery through retrieve-or-acknowledge actions at a secured home address. The protocol supports jurisdiction-aware statutory notice classification, deferred indoor reading without invalidating delivery timestamps, and one-tap export of affidavit bundles for courts and agencies.

Field of Invention

Legal document delivery, electronic service of process substitutes, and compliance systems for regulated notice.

Background of the Invention

Physical mail delivery is presumed complete when placed in a mailbox, but senders cannot prove the recipient retrieved or read the document. Email read receipts are non-standard and legally contested. Customer portals prove account access, not delivery to an address.

Courts and agencies require different notice periods and proof standards by jurisdiction. No consumer device today unifies address-bound delivery with exportable proof bundles.

Summary of the Invention

A retrieve-or-acknowledge trigger fires when the user completes NFC, BLE, or biometric handshake at the vault. The timestamp becomes the legal delivery event. Reading may occur later on phone or desktop. A statutory notice classifier tags payloads with jurisdiction rules (e.g., tax notice vs summons). Affidavit export packages ledger entries, signatures, and user authentication metadata.

Brief Description of Drawings

- 1. Retrieve handshake at delivery anchor
- 2. Ledger states through legal delivery event

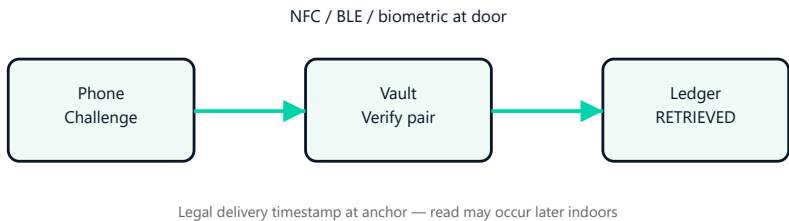


Fig. 1 — Retrieve-or-acknowledge handshake at delivery anchor

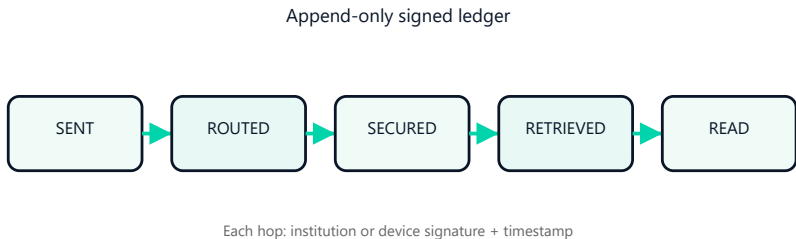


Fig. 2 — Chain-of-custody from sender KMS to user device

Detailed Description of Embodiments

Retrieve-or-acknowledge trigger

The vault requires proximity proof (NFC tap or BLE pairing within range) or biometric verification at the door. Acknowledge-without-read is supported for time-sensitive notices where presence at the anchor satisfies regulation.

Statutory notice classifier

Sender metadata includes NOTICE_CLASS and JURISDICTION_ID. The platform applies rule tables: minimum display duration on outdoor UI, mandatory push notification, and affidavit template selection.

Affidavit export

One-tap generation of PDF/XML bundle: sender cert chain, SECURED and RETRIEVED timestamps, user ID hash, device attestation quotes, and geofence validation result.

Advantages

- Delivery timestamp decoupled from read time — matches physical mail law
- Jurisdiction-aware compliance without sender manual research
- Reduced process-server and certified-mail spend

Independent Claims (Representative)

1. A method comprising: securing a document at a home vault bound to a physical address; displaying urgency on an outdoor interface without document content; detecting a retrieve-or-acknowledge action at the vault via a paired user device; recording a delivery timestamp in a ledger; and permitting deferred reading of the document on the user device after said timestamp.
2. A system comprising a statutory notice classifier applying jurisdiction-specific rules to sender-tagged payloads and configuring outdoor display duration and notification requirements accordingly.

Dependent Claims (Representative)

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising exporting an affidavit bundle including signed ledger entries and authentication metadata suitable for court filing.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieve-or-acknowledge action comprises at least one of NFC, BLE, or biometric verification within a geofence of the address.
5. The system of claim 2, wherein rules distinguish tax notices, utility shutoff warnings, and court summons classes.

Related Innovations

This family relates to eMbox platform components documented in the Solution Architecture and Engineering briefs. Cross-reference patent families in the Portfolio Overview document.

eMbox · Patent Pending · May 2026

Confidential summary for partnership and planning discussions. Patent pending — not legal advice. Not a filed USPTO application.

Patent family: legal-delivery-protocol