



FORMAL RECORD 5

Ghost Authority Lemma

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Version: v2.5 | October 2026
First published: 16 January 2026
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v2.5 rebuilds the record to the corpus typographic standard; no textual change. v2.4 retires the working label 'Lemma C', adds an abstract, and cites its dependencies by record and definition. v2.3 removed the legacy working label 'E-H-S Nucleus', replacing it with standardized terminology, and removed an informal implementation note from FRO5 that contained undefined terms. No proof, definition, or logical content has changed.

Abstract. This record proves that treating a protocol as the source of a decision, rather than as an input to a human decision, exercises authority without declaration. It names that condition Ghost Authority and gives the Ownership Test for identifying it: at the point where consequences attach, did a human explicitly declare "I decide this"?

Dependencies: FRO1, Canonical Logic Sequence, §0: Definition 2 (Permission ≠ Decision) and Definition 3 (Declared Authority).

Statement

If a protocol is treated as the source of a decision, rather than as an input to a human decision, then authority is exercised without declaration. This constitutes Ghost Authority.

Definitions

Protocol: A set of rules, procedures, or constraints intended to guide action, lacking agency.

Decision: The selection of an action among alternatives where consequences attach.

Authority: The legitimate capacity to decide, held by a human actor with an explicit mandate.

Ghost Authority: Apparent authority exercised without a declared human decision-maker.

Proof (Structural)

1. Protocols lack agency and cannot bear responsibility.
2. Decisions entail responsibility and therefore require agency.
3. Treating a protocol as the source of a decision displaces agency from a human actor.
4. Displaced agency results in authority being exercised without declaration.
5. Therefore, Ghost Authority is present.

QED



Corollary (Ownership Test)

At the point where consequences attach, if no human explicitly declares “I decide this,” the decision lacks legitimate authority.

Informative (Non-Normative) Application

The Ghost Authority Lemma is a diagnostic tool for identifying structural failures in governance. Any execution path where an action is permitted ($g = 1$) without an explicit declaration of purpose, authority, and constraints ($\delta = 0$) satisfies the conditions for Ghost Authority under the Ownership Test.

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Suggested citation:

Gildenston, S. & Passell, P.R. (2026). Ghost Authority Lemma. Three Primitives Framework, Formal Record 5, v2.5. Melbourne, Australia. First published 16 January 2026. 3primitives.io. CC BY 4.0.