

**NAME**

`bsd_signal` – signal handling with BSD semantics

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <signal.h>
```

```
typedef void (*sighandler_t)(int);
```

```
sighandler_t bsd_signal(int signum, sighandler_t handler);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature\\_test\\_macros\(7\)](#)):

`bsd_signal()`:

Since glibc 2.26:

```
_XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500
```

```
&& ! (_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L)
```

Glibc 2.25 and earlier:

```
_XOPEN_SOURCE
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The `bsd_signal()` function takes the same arguments, and performs the same task, as `signal(2)`.

The difference between the two is that `bsd_signal()` is guaranteed to provide reliable signal semantics, that is: a) the disposition of the signal is not reset to the default when the handler is invoked; b) delivery of further instances of the signal is blocked while the signal handler is executing; and c) if the handler interrupts a blocking system call, then the system call is automatically restarted. A portable application cannot rely on `signal(2)` to provide these guarantees.

**RETURN VALUE**

The `bsd_signal()` function returns the previous value of the signal handler, or `SIG_ERR` on error.

**ERRORS**

As for `signal(2)`.

**ATTRIBUTES**

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see [attributes\(7\)](#).

Interface	Attribute	Value
<code>bsd_signal()</code>	Thread safety	MT-Safe

**CONFORMING TO**

4.2BSD, POSIX.1-2001. POSIX.1-2008 removes the specification of `bsd_signal()`, recommending the use of `sigaction(2)` instead.

**NOTES**

Use of `bsd_signal()` should be avoided; use `sigaction(2)` instead.

On modern Linux systems, `bsd_signal()` and `signal(2)` are equivalent. But on older systems, `signal(2)` provided unreliable signal semantics; see `signal(2)` for details.

The use of `sighandler_t` is a GNU extension; this type is defined only if the `_GNU_SOURCE` feature test macro is defined.

**SEE ALSO**

[sigaction\(2\)](#), [signal\(2\)](#), [sysv\\_signal\(3\)](#), [signal\(7\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

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