



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'sigtimedwait.2'

\$ man sigtimedwait.2

sigwaitinfo(2) System Calls Manual sigwaitinfo(2)

NAME

sigwaitinfo, sigtimedwait, rt_sigtimedwait - synchronously wait for queued signals

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

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

```
int sigwaitinfo(const sigset_t *restrict set,
                 siginfo_t *_Nullable restrict info);

int sigtimedwait(const sigset_t *restrict set,
                 siginfo_t *_Nullable restrict info,
                 const struct timespec *restrict timeout);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

```
sigwaitinfo(), sigtimedwait():
    _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 199309L
```

DESCRIPTION

sigwaitinfo() suspends execution of the calling thread until one of the signals in set is pending (If one of the signals in set is already pending for the calling thread, sigwaitinfo() will return immediately.)

sigwaitinfo() removes the signal from the set of pending signals and returns the signal number as its function result. If the info argument is not NULL, then the buffer that it points to is used to return a structure of type siginfo_t (see sigaction(2)) containing information about the signal.

If multiple signals in set are pending for the caller, the signal that is retrieved by `sigwaitinfo()` is determined according to the usual ordering rules; see `signal(7)` for further details.

`sigtimedwait()` operates in exactly the same way as `sigwaitinfo()` except that it has an additional argument, `timeout`, which specifies the interval for which the thread is suspended waiting for a signal. (This interval will be rounded up to the system clock granularity, and kernel scheduling delays mean that the interval may overrun by a small amount.) This argument is a `timespec(3)` structure.

If both fields of this structure are specified as 0, a poll is performed: `sigtimedwait()` returns immediately, either with information about a signal that was pending for the caller, or with an error if none of the signals in set was pending.

RETURN VALUE

On success, both `sigwaitinfo()` and `sigtimedwait()` return a signal number (i.e., a value greater than zero). On failure both calls return -1, with `errno` set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

EAGAIN No signal in set became pending within the timeout period specified to `sigtimedwait()`.

EINTR The wait was interrupted by a signal handler; see `signal(7)`. (This handler was for a signal other than one of those in set.)

EINVAL timeout was invalid.

VERSIONS

C library/kernel differences

On Linux, `sigwaitinfo()` is a library function implemented on top of `sigtimedwait()`.

The glibc wrapper functions for `sigwaitinfo()` and `sigtimedwait()` silently ignore attempts to wait for the two real-time signals that are used internally by the NPTL threading implementation. See `nptl(7)` for details.

The original Linux system call was named `sigtimedwait()`. However, with the addition of real-time signals in Linux 2.2, the fixed-size, 32-bit `sigset_t` type supported by that system call was no longer fit for purpose. Consequently, a new system call, `rt_sigtimedwait()`, was added to support an enlarged `sigset_t` type. The new system call takes a fourth argument, `size_t sigsetsize`, which specifies the size in bytes of the signal set in `set`. This argument is currently required to have the value `sizeof(sigset_t)` (or the error `EINVAL` results). The glibc `sigtimedwait()` wrapper function hides these details from us, transparently.

ently calling `rt_sigtimedwait()` when the kernel provides it.

STANDARDS

POSIX.1-2024.

HISTORY

POSIX.1-2001.

NOTES

In normal usage, the calling program blocks the signals in set via a prior call to `sigproc?`
`mask(2)` (so that the default disposition for these signals does not occur if they become
pending between successive calls to `sigwaitinfo()` or `sigtimedwait()`) and does not establish
handlers for these signals. In a multithreaded program, the signal should be blocked in all
threads, in order to prevent the signal being treated according to its default disposition
in a thread other than the one calling `sigwaitinfo()` or `sigtimedwait()`.

The set of signals that is pending for a given thread is the union of the set of signals
that is pending specifically for that thread and the set of signals that is pending for the
process as a whole (see `signal(7)`).

Attempts to wait for `SIGKILL` and `SIGSTOP` are silently ignored.

If multiple threads of a process are blocked waiting for the same signal(s) in `sigwaitinfo()`
or `sigtimedwait()`, then exactly one of the threads will actually receive the signal if it
becomes pending for the process as a whole; which of the threads receives the signal is in?
determinate.

`sigwaitinfo()` or `sigtimedwait()`, can't be used to receive signals that are synchronously
generated, such as the `SIGSEGV` signal that results from accessing an invalid memory address
or the `SIGFPE` signal that results from an arithmetic error. Such signals can be caught only
via signal handler.

POSIX leaves the meaning of a `NULL` value for the timeout argument of `sigtimedwait()` unspeci?
fied, permitting the possibility that this has the same meaning as a call to `sigwaitinfo()`,
and indeed this is what is done on Linux.

SEE ALSO

`kill(2)`, `sigaction(2)`, `signal(2)`, `signalfd(2)`, `sigpending(2)`, `sigprocmask(2)`, `sigqueue(3)`,
`sigsetops(3)`, `sigwait(3)`, `timespec(3)`, `signal(7)`, `time(7)`