

**NAME**

sigpause - atomically release blocked signals and wait for interrupt

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <signal.h>

int sigpause(int sigmask); /* BSD (but see NOTES) */

int sigpause(int sig); /* System V / UNIX 95 */
```

**DESCRIPTION**

Don't use this function. Use [sigsuspend\(2\)](#) instead.

The function **sigpause()** is designed to wait for some signal. It changes the process's signal mask (set of blocked signals), and then waits for a signal to arrive. Upon arrival of a signal, the original signal mask is restored.

**RETURN VALUE**

If **sigpause()** returns, it was interrupted by a signal and the return value is -1 with *errno* set to **EINTR**.

**ATTRIBUTES**

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
<b>sigpause()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe

**CONFORMING TO**

The System V version of **sigpause()** is standardized in POSIX.1-2001. It is also specified in POSIX.1-2008, where it is marked obsolete.

**NOTES****History**

The classical BSD version of this function appeared in 4.2BSD. It sets the process's signal mask to *sigmask*. UNIX 95 standardized the incompatible System V version of this function, which removes only the specified signal *sig* from the process's signal mask. The unfortunate situation with two incompatible functions with the same name was solved by the [sigsuspend\(2\)](#) function, that takes a *sigset\_t* \* argument (instead of an *int*).

**Linux notes**

On Linux, this routine is a system call only on the Sparc (sparc64) architecture.

Glibc uses the BSD version if the **\_BSD\_SOURCE** feature test macro is defined and none of **\_POSIX\_SOURCE**, **\_POSIX\_C\_SOURCE**, **\_XOPEN\_SOURCE**, **\_GNU\_SOURCE**, or **\_SVID\_SOURCE** is defined. Otherwise, the System V version is used (and **\_XOPEN\_SOURCE** must be defined to obtain the declaration). Since glibc 2.19, only the System V version is exposed by *<signal.h>*; applications that formerly used the BSD **sigpause()** should be amended to use [sigsuspend\(2\)](#).

**SEE ALSO**

[kill\(2\)](#), [sigaction\(2\)](#), [sigprocmask\(2\)](#), [sigsuspend\(2\)](#), [sigblock\(3\)](#), [sigvec\(3\)](#), [feature\\_test\\_macros\(7\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

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