

Maricopa Lawyer  
Clerk's Corner  
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By Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

### **Permissive eFiling**

Supreme Court Administrative Order 2008-89 allowing attorneys and self-represented parties to electronically file certain documents in civil court cases in the Superior Court in Maricopa County began December 1, 2008. Permissive eFiling applies to civil court cases only in this phase of the pilot program and does not include family, probate, mental health, tax, juvenile matters, special actions, transfers of jurisdiction or lower court appeals cases.

The Administrative Order does not make eFiling mandatory, but gives attorneys and parties the option to eFile. Complaints, answers and other case initiating documents will continue to be filed in paper.

Subsequent documents may be filed electronically in civil cases in accordance with the Electronic Filing Guidelines, a collaborative document created by the Superior Court and the Clerk's Office and maintained on the Clerk's website at <https://efiling.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/efilingguidelines/>.

Judicial officers, their staff and courtroom clerks in the civil division have been trained in the eFiling system and are able to accept and process electronic filings. There are also a limited number of family court divisions accepting eFilings on a permissive basis under a previously-established pilot program. To verify a judicial division's participation in eFiling, contact the division directly.

### **Complex Civil Cases**

Supreme Court Administrative Order 2002-107 authorized a special "complex" designation for civil litigation cases that meet defined characteristics. Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 8(i) and others were created or modified to implement this court track, with the goal of expediting civil litigation and providing continuous judicial management. The program has been extended over time to allow attorneys to participate in this specialized case type.

All civil cases designated as complex by the Civil Department Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Maricopa County or his designee are governed by Superior Court Administrative Order 2007-140 and the Electronic Filing Guidelines established by that order.

eFiling is available for complex civil litigation cases by filing with the Clerk's eFiling Online website or by filing with other authorized partners. eFiling options are available on the Clerk's website at: <http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/efiling/default.asp>.

More information, including frequently asked questions about complex litigation, technical support contacts, training opportunities, Administrative Orders, and other features-are available on the Clerk's website at:  
<https://efiling.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/help.asp>.