

By Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

Additional Fee Increase and Juvenile Records Update

Filing Fee Increase in Maricopa County

The Superior Court in Maricopa County requested, and the Board of Supervisors approved, an increase of \$10 to the base Court Automated Services Fee. The fee is currently \$20 and will be \$30 going forward once an implementation date is determined, which could be as soon as May 1. The automation fee was established in Maricopa County in 1998 to fund technology that has improved case processing and access to the courts. The fee is assessed upon the filing of initial complaints and answers or responses in civil, family, probate, and tax cases and in juvenile emancipation filings.

In its request, the Superior Court cited “increasing caseloads, case complexity, ongoing mandated court integration efforts and resulting staff workloads [that] have created tremendous demands on the Court’s resources” and explained that “the Court continues to develop, improve and integrate case, financial and public access information management systems. The Court is seeking additional Court Automation Fund resources to support strategic technology projects, including consulting services, staff training and infrastructure requirements... specialized applications that allow the citizens of Maricopa County to interact and conduct business with the Court’s and Probation departments from home or intelligent devices and enhanced workflow and case processing timelines (business process improvements).”

The Board of Supervisors in each county is authorized by law to adopt fees for services the County provides to the public. Authorized fees must be attributable to and defray the expense of the services for which the fees are assessed and the fee must not exceed the actual cost of providing the service. The additional fee will allow Maricopa County to continue providing high-quality services to litigants and the legal community, other government agencies, and those who interact with the justice system in Maricopa County.

The County Board of Supervisors approved the fee on March 27, 2013; however, the Clerk’s Office and AZTurboCourt require programming and updates before the fee can be implemented. The Clerk’s Office will announce the effective date on its website, social media, and in the Clerk’s monthly e-newsletter, *The Brief*.

Juvenile ECR Phase Two

The second phase of the Juvenile Electronic Court Record (ECR) begins June 3, 2013. Phase II is the second of four phases and includes seven case types: Adoption Certification (AC), Adoption (JA), Emancipation (JE), Relinquishment (JI and JR), Orders of Protection/Injunctions Against Harassment (JP), and Severance (JS). In this Phase, all newly-filed documents in the seven case types above will be scanned, and

orders in all 10 Juvenile Court case types will be scanned and electronically distributed. The electronic distribution of signed orders will be similar to the current distribution of minute entries.

Paper files will no longer be created in the above seven case types when new cases are initiated after June 3, 2013. Existing cases will include both electronic images, for those documents filed after June 3, 2013, and paper documents for those filed through June 2, 2013. Signed orders in all Juvenile case types will be available only in the ECR. To ensure you are seeing the entire case record, it will be important to check the ECR at an access terminal in all cases.

Phase I was successfully implemented on October 1, 2012 for Title 14 Guardianship (JG) cases. The Phase III implementation, which includes dependency (JD) cases, is planned for August/September 2013. The Phase IV implementation, which includes delinquency (JV) cases, is planned for October/November 2013.

There are no changes to the confidentiality of any Juvenile court records. Access to records remains the same, only the format is changing. Information about Juvenile court records is on the Clerk's website at: www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/juvenile.asp.