

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

Call to all attorneys and legal support staff

Attorney menu added to Clerk's phone tree

The Clerk's main phone number, 602-372-5375 (602-37-CLERK), was updated at the end of March. An attorney menu was added for issues most often requested by attorneys and legal support staff. The menu includes more direct access to the eFile, Distribution, Support Services, Family Support Services, Billing & Deferral, Appeals, and File Counter sections of the office. The next time you call the Clerk's Office, please do listen to the options closely, as some have changed.

E-filing coming to a superior court near you

Arizona's Supreme Court recently issued Administrative Order 2016-20, authorizing electronic filing for civil cases throughout Arizona. E-filing in civil cases has been in place in Maricopa County for years, while Pima County recently piloted electronic civil case initiation. The order states AZTurboCourt remains an eFiling option, as well as a new resource, eFile.AZCourts.gov.

The order states the Administrative Director will establish a plan and schedule for each county to implement civil e-filing and the Supreme Court will make e-filing mandatory in those counties when the Clerk and Court are ready. The order includes definitions, fees and procedures to carry out the order and process. Each county's Clerk and Presiding Judge may adopt policies for their county and those policies must be posted online locally and at the AZCourts.gov website. Read the order online at <http://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/22/admorder/Orders16/2016-20.pdf>.

Passport Season

Plan ahead: The State Department reports that passports can take 4-6 weeks to process and return. For many families, that's about when school is out for the summer. The State Department expects new and expiring renewal passport applications to increase through 2018. Off-peak passport application months are September through December, so if your summer travel plans include leaving the U.S., you're in peak application season and should apply now to avoid expedited processing costs.

To start your passport application paperwork, see <http://tinyurl.com/nlcyvso> then print the documents and bring them with you to the Clerk's office. See the Clerk's website at <http://tinyurl.com/pzem7bl> for fees and acceptable forms of payment. For passport application appointments, call the Clerk's office at 602-372-5375 and contact the Clerk's correspondence section (phone prompts 7-1-2-2).