

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

### **eFiling Changes in Complex Civil Litigation**

The first eFiling pilot project in the Superior Court in Maricopa County started in complex civil litigation cases. As the Clerk's Office was developing an in-house eFiling system, vendor LexisNexis began accepting electronic filing in complex civil litigation cases in 2003.

The vendor contract for eFiling in complex civil cases expires in September and all participating parties and attorneys will need to transition to an alternative system. Through a request for proposals, the Clerk's Office qualified three vendors to accept electronic filings in the superior court in Maricopa County. Wiznet.com is the only vendor currently accepting eFilings under this qualification process. The Clerk's eFiling Online website will also be available for complex civil litigation cases.

Parties and attorneys will notice differences between the existing platform for eFiling in complex civil cases and the style and services of either Wiznet or the Clerk's eFiling Online system. The Clerk's Office supports using third-party vendors for their ability to provide add-on services and features that are not available on the Clerk's eFiling Online website. In an effort to fully inform participants of their eFiling options, the Clerk of the Superior Court provides the name of each law firm registered on the Clerk's eFiling system to eFiling vendors whose participation in the pilot is qualified under a Request for Proposals process. The Clerk's Office does not sell or provide your information to entities unaffiliated with the eFiling pilot project.

### **Electronic Orders of Assignment**

The electronic Order of Assignment (OA) project is under way in the Superior Court in Maricopa County. Attorneys and parties in family court cases will no longer need to file a paper proposed form of Order of Assignment with the Clerk's Office.

Certain Clerk's Office staff will be appointed by the court as Special Commissioners for the purpose of electronically preparing and filing the OA's. When hearings are held, staff will use the most current information provided by the parties at the time of hearing to prepare and electronically file the OA based on the Court's signed Order for Support. Orders of Assignment for consent decrees and default decrees where no hearing is held will be created by Clerk's Office staff in the Family Court Services division who are appointed by the court as Special Commissioners. The Superior Court recently authorized a pilot in Family Court requiring Maricopa County-specific sensitive data forms to be filed in new family court cases. The information provided on these forms allows the clerk to process orders for assignment using the most recent information provided by the parties.

Attorneys and parties will continue filing motions to modify or stop an Order of Assignment, but the order itself will be prepared and filed electronically by the Clerk's Office. Attorneys, document preparation companies and pro se litigants who may have older forms should remove the OA from the paperwork they file. The form packets available from the court's Self-Service Center have been updated by removing the OA form. The electronic Order of Assignment process improves the accuracy of information and expedites the delivery of orders to employers, which in turn improves the speed at which families receive their support.