

THE

BRIEF

Vol. 3, No. 1

An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office



January 2007

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1-1-07

January 1, 2007 has arrived! Near the end of 2006, the Clerk's Office increased its efforts to stay ahead of the rumor mill. Many attorneys and legal support staff were under the impression that the electronic court record (ECR) initiative beginning 1/1/07 was somehow tied to the eFiling pilots in Superior Court. It is not.

On January 1, 2007, the Clerk's Office stopped maintaining paper files, as the Supreme Court issued an Administrative Order saying that in Maricopa County Superior Court, the scanned image (ECR) is the original document. This change is NOT tied to eFiling. The change will strongly impact customers who regularly pull paper files for information. Instead of paper files, they will be directed to computer terminals to access the public record. The main page of the Clerk's website (<http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/>) has a section near the top right of the page titled "Latest News" that has numerous links to news, articles, and a PowerPoint presentation that outlines many of these changes.

To clarify a common misunderstanding about eFiling, there is no complete case type that is or will be eFiling on 1/1/07. eFiling continues to be a pilot project in Maricopa County, affecting only three types of cases at this time: complex civil litigation, criminal cases, and general civil cases. In complex and general civil cases, only those individual cases notified by minute entry are permitted to eFile. In criminal cases, eFiling is permissive, and only in those divisions listed on the Clerk's website (<https://efiling.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/help/edivisions.asp>).

We are actively working to avoid people missing deadlines or having other problems because they think they can eFile, only to find their case is not eligible and must be filed in paper. Parties are notified when they have a case in the eFiling pilot because the judicial division hearing the case will either be a criminal trial division listed on the website or a civil division that issues a minute entry notifying them of their participation in the pilot program. In civil cases, if the party did not receive a minute entry specifically saying they may eFile, they cannot eFile.

Upcoming Improvements

As the Clerk's Office moves into a new year, we are working on numerous projects to improve available services and create new services. While there is no definite timetable for specific case types or divisions, the Clerk's Office and Superior Court will continue expanding eFiling to more divisions and case types in 2007. The electronic court record (ECR) will continue to grow, including the expansion of remote party access to allow attorneys and parties to view the complete public court record of documents filed in their cases (adult case types). In addition, the coming months will see the implementation of vendors to accept and process non-criminal eFilings, allowing attorneys to choose the type and level of service that best suits their needs.

From Michael Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court, and the entire staff, we send our gratitude for making 2006 another successful year and we look forward to working together in 2007.