

THE

BRIEF

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



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Clerk of the Superior Court

eSeals Support ECR

The electronic court record (ECR) was enhanced recently as the Clerk's Office completed the implementation of an electronic seal process for criminal bench warrants and civil arrest warrants. The electronic seal assigns a unique identifier to each eSeal that the clerk can verify was electronically applied to each specific warrant. Historically, courtroom clerks had to research and input the defendant's information and other details manually on every warrant issued and manual entry of information into the crime information center databases was required, as well as physical movement of paper from courtroom to sheriff. With the volume of warrants issued, this could take a significant amount of time.

Courtroom clerks can now initiate completely electronic criminal bench warrants and civil arrest warrants by creating an original PDF version of the warrant with an electronic seal. The Sheriff's Office receives notice that a warrant has issued and is able to view the image of the warrant immediately. This eliminates the paper, raised seal, and physical delivery of the warrant to the sheriff. The resulting data exchange passes timely and accurate warrant information between the Court and the Sheriff's Office, reducing the potential for people to be released or arrested in error while waiting for paperwork.

Courtroom clerks can also locate original electronic warrants, stamp "quashed" on the PDF original, and file the quash electronically. This improves the speed at which warrants can be removed from the crime information center databases, thus reducing the potential for someone to be arrested on a warrant that appears to still be outstanding.

Family Court Orders of Assignment

The Clerk's Office has seen an upsurge in filings of orders of assignment (OA's) for amounts that are not authorized for collection through the State Disbursement Unit (SDU). The State of Arizona advises that only child support and spousal support may be paid through the SDU. The Clerk's Office continues to see OA's submitted to collect other obligations such as medical expenses, insurance, attorney fees and property settlements.

The SDU will only post money received through an OA to child support, spousal support and processing fees; there are no other categories to which the SDU is set up to deposit funds. Including other monetary obligations in the OA will result in future arrearage calculations that do not reflect the parties' intentions and may result in substantial overpayments of support, since all money received will be applied and no money will be allocated to anything other than child support, spousal support, or processing fees. Please remember these limitations when filing OA's.

Administration of Justice

Clerk of the Superior Court Michael Jeanes was recognized by the Arizona Supreme Court with the Administrative Director's Administration of Justice Award. The award is presented to an individual who has made substantial contributions to improving public trust and confidence in the Arizona court system and for outstanding achievement by improving services to those who use the court system. The Clerk is pleased to carry on his personal and office-wide commitment to public service and appreciates the feedback you provide, which results in the improved services you experience.