

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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Fee Changes

The legislature's 2008-2009 fiscal year budget includes a base increase to filing fees and services in the Superior Court. The base filing fees will increase approximately 44% under the new budget. In addition to base fees, Maricopa County has local fees to pay for automating court records and processes as well as to provide other services to the public. A listing of the new fee amounts that take effect on Sept. 26, 2008 will be posted on the Clerk's website at www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov on Friday, Aug. 8. The base filing fees were last increased by the legislature in 1997.

Complex Civil Reminder

The vendor contract for eFiling in complex civil cases expires on Sept. 8, 2008 and all participating parties and attorneys will need to transition to an alternative eFiling system. Through a request for proposals, the Clerk's Office qualified 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. For more information about the current eFiling providers, please visit the Clerk's website at <http://clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/efiling>.

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 services and features that are not available on the Clerk's eFiling Online website.

Family Court Changes

The Maricopa County-specific sensitive data sheet and the electronic Order of Assignment project have changed practice in Family Court cases in Maricopa County. The most current version of the sensitive data sheet, available on the Clerk's website or at the Self-Service Center, must accompany all initial filings and responses in Family Court cases. Parties filing in person will be able to complete a sensitive data sheet at the File Counter. Filings delivered without the form by runner services and filings in the night depository boxes that do not have the required form will be rejected.

The electronic Order of Assignment project eliminated the need to file an Order of Assignment in Family Court cases. However, when a payor changes employment, a Current Employer Information form (CEI) must still be filed with the Clerk. Some parties and attorneys have mistakenly filed a new sensitive data sheet to indicate a change of employment. After the initial filing and response in a Family Court case, subsequent changes of employment require completing and filing a CEI form, located on the Clerk's website at <http://clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/faxondemand/402.pdf>.

Depository Box Location

Effective 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 15, 2008, the Filing Depository Box located inside the Madison Street Parking Garage will be relocated. The Madison Street garage will be demolished as part of the Criminal Tower construction. The depository box will be relocated to the 4th Avenue entrance of the County Administration Building located at 301 W. Jefferson Ave. in downtown Phoenix. Four external filing depository boxes are available around the Valley 24-hours a day, seven days a week for those who do not want to stand in line at the file counters, or who wish to file after normal business hours.