

THE

BRIEF

Vol. 3, No. 9

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



October 2007

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Electronic Court Record Online

Access to the electronic court record (ECR Online) will be available this Fall. The Clerk's Office will allow attorneys to remotely access the court records on cases in which they are the attorney of record. This will reduce the need for law firms to send runners for copies of paper records and improve the speed and efficiency of case management. Access to the ECR is not a substitute for serving documents, but rather a customer service initiative. The Clerk's Office will continue to work with third-party vendors, who can also provide access to the court record, as well as offer additional functions, support, and service features. For more information, visit the Clerk's website at www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov.

Forms Reminder

Remember to update the forms you use in court. The Superior Court in Maricopa County provides forms on the Self-Service Center's website that are frequently updated to reflect new court rules, statutes, and court procedures. For updated forms, visit: <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/ssc/>

The Court and Clerk's Office periodically view forms that cite old law or procedures no longer in place. Most recently, the Clerk's Office has seen Orders of Assignment directing that child support payments be made through the Clerk's Office. Child Support payments have been made directly through the state Clearinghouse since 1998. Forms from the 1980s have been seen in circulation as well. To avoid having a filing rejected or receiving a phone call or ruling from the division based on outdated documents, update your forms regularly.

eFiling in Family Court

Electronic filing (eFiling) in the Superior Court in Maricopa County continues its march forward. eFiling in Family Court is anticipated for implementation this Fall. The pilot project will debut in three judicial divisions. As distinguished from other case types, Family Court involves a greater likelihood of pro se participation, content designated sensitive by court rule and statute, and filing fees that continue beyond case initiation.

eFiling was implemented in Maricopa County in 2003. At that time the project was limited to complex civil litigation cases and was processed by a third-party vendor. Since 2003, the Clerk's Office developed an eFiling system to directly process filings in criminal and general civil cases. Although eFiling is not available in all criminal and civil judicial divisions or juvenile case types, the pilot program continues to expand. Third-party vendors will offer services and functions unavailable through the Clerk's system and will begin accepting eFilings in general civil cases this month, giving filers a choice in the way they interact with the Superior Court in Maricopa County.