

# 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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## Mandatory eFiling

The Arizona Supreme Court is considering a requirement that all attorneys practicing in the Superior Court in Maricopa County eFile their documents. Under the proposed system, eFiling will remain a pilot program in Maricopa County and attorneys practicing in a case type where eFiling is available would be required by Administrative Order to electronically file. No decisions have been made, and the Court welcomes feedback in determining its next steps.

The Maricopa County Bar Association is promoting an eFiling survey and hosting open forums for practitioners to ask the Clerk of Court questions about eFiling and provide input. The State Bar is encouraging members to complete the survey and offer feedback on implementation including the practitioners' level of preparation and support of eFiling. Feedback is encouraged from all, and is not limited to Maricopa County.

## eFiling Guidelines Reminder

Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez-Mundell issued Administrative Order 2007-140, rescinding prior Administrative Orders related to criminal and general civil eFiling. In its place, the Court authorized a dynamic "eFiling Guidelines" web-based document that reflects the status, timeframes, and requirements of eFiling in the Superior Court in Maricopa County. The document is located at <https://efiling.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/eFilingGuidelines/>. The eFiling Guidelines are updated regularly, making it important to verify the date of the last revision and any summary of changes. Regular review will help your practice comply with eFiling requirements.

## eFiling begins in Family Court

Three divisions in Family Court enter the eFiling pilot on December 5, 2007. Judges Flores, Padilla and Rea will allow eFiling on a permissive basis, meaning any party may file subsequent pleadings electronically after the case has been established in the designated division. Initial Complaints and Summonses will still be filed in paper. Parties may choose to file subsequent documents electronically in participating divisions. New divisions participating in the eFiling pilot will be listed on the Clerk's website.

## Criminal ME's Online

New legislation requires the Clerk of the Superior Court in Maricopa County to publish criminal case minute entries online in a format searchable by judicial officer, beginning January 1, 2008. The Clerk's Office has posted minute entries online in adult case types since 2001, and updated the minute entry website in October of 2007 to allow searches by judicial officer. Under the legislation, all Clerks of the Superior Court in Arizona are required to post criminal case minute entries online in a format searchable by judicial officer, by January 1, 2010.

## New Civil Cover Sheet

Effective December 3, 2007, a new civil cover sheet will be available on the Superior Court's Self-Service Center website, at Clerk civil filing counters, and at E-Forms on Demand on the Clerk's website. The sheet contains two new codes based on legislative and court rule changes: Delayed Birth Certificates and Employer Sanction Actions (effective January 1, 2008). The new form will help the court identify complex cases earlier.