

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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The ECR is 20 Million Strong

The Electronic Court Record (ECR) is expected to receive its 20 millionth document this month. The ECR contains the digital image of paper filings and electronically-filed documents in the Superior Court in Maricopa County. With most documents containing multiple pages, the ECR exceeds 60 million pages of digital images. Attorneys may remotely access public records in adult cases by creating an account at the Clerk's ECR Online website. The ECR Online case viewer allows attorneys to display up to 100 of their cases at a time. Access to records from ECR Online is limited to those cases where the attorney or an attorney in the same firm is listed as the attorney of record on a case.

eFiling Expansion

On the heels of authorizing a permissive eFiling pilot, the Supreme Court has signaled its intent to authorize mandatory eFiling for attorneys practicing in the Superior Court in Maricopa County. The available technology, ease of use, durability, and financial advantages of electronic filing all contribute to the push for expanding electronic filing.

Judicial officers, their staff and courtroom clerks in civil, criminal and family courts have been trained in the eFiling system to prepare for the expansion of eFiling. The Court anticipates establishing an effective date for mandatory eFiling that provides sufficient time for attorneys to learn of the deadline for mandatory eFiling, attend training, and purchase any equipment necessary to make the transition. It is anticipated that eFiling will not be mandatory for self-represented parties during the initial phase.

New Rules

Most of the new rules of court take effect January 1, 2009. Many documents in probate cases will be considered confidential under the new rules, requiring individual documents to be placed in sealed envelopes before filing with the Clerk. The Clerk's Office will have envelopes available for purchase that meet the new court rule's language requirements.

A standard cover sheet required for filing civil cases throughout Arizona will be maintained by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Each county can make minimal changes to the civil cover sheet to meet local needs. The required civil cover sheet for filings in the Superior Court in Maricopa County is available online at <http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/faxondemand/204.pdf>.

Changes were made to court rules in family, civil, criminal, juvenile and appellate matters and in matters related to lower courts and other practice areas. The full texts of new and modified court rules are available on the Supreme Court's website at http://www.supreme.state.az.us/rules/Recent_rules.htm.