

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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ZIP Code Boundaries Change

Superior Court Administrative Orders 2010-061 and 2010-064 detail new lists of which regional court facilities will hear cases that are filed and initiated on and after July 1, 2010. Case assignments are usually based on the ZIP code of the filing party who initiates a case. To balance judicial workloads, improve caseflow and reduce delay, it was necessary to develop separate ZIP code boundaries in Family and Civil cases. As a result, a Family Court case may be assigned to a different regional court facility than a Civil matter originating from the same ZIP code. Certain Civil and Family Court filings are not assigned according to administrative boundaries, including orders of protection, Federal Title IV-D cases, complex civil litigation, transcript of judgment, injunctions against harassment and tax filings. See the Administrative Orders and applicable ZIP code boundaries on the Superior Court's website at <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/AdministrativeOrders/2010.asp>

Family Court Rule 43

The Superior Court in Maricopa County has implemented a procedure to keep new Family Court filings non-public for the first 45 days after filing. In the first 45 days of a Family Court filing, parties and their attorneys will have access to case information, but the general public will not. This procedure allows the petitioner time to serve the respondent and for the parties to take action before the case becomes available to the public. This limited restriction of access to records in initial Family Court cases has been discussed for several years in response to domestic violence and other safety, privacy and confidentiality concerns. The new procedure takes effect in Maricopa County in cases filed or initiated on and after July 1, 2010.

Holidays and Filing

When planning schedules and deadlines, it helps to know the day of the week when the courts are closed in recognition of holidays. When a court-observed holiday occurs on a Saturday, the Clerk's Office will be closed the preceding Friday. When a court-observed holiday occurs on a Sunday, the Clerk's Office will be closed the following Monday. Filing services are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year by filing at the external depository boxes located around the Valley or by eFiling where appropriate. The locations of filing depository boxes are posted on the Clerk's website at http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/alternative_filing.asp. Minute entries in cases that allow eFiling will state, "This case is eFiling eligible" at the end of the minute entry.