

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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Public Defense Agencies eFiling

The Clerks' Office and the Office of Public Defense Services (OPDS) recently completed a project to begin integrating the County's Indigent Representation Information System (IRIS) with electronic filing of criminal case documents in Superior Court. OPDS, which is comprised of the Public Defender, Legal Defender, Legal Advocate, Juvenile Defender and Contract Counsel, previously could only eFile using the Clerk's eFiling Online service. This new eFile module will allow users to eFile directly from their case management system (IRIS) without having to access the eFiling Online service. Benefits of eFiling directly with the Clerk's Office include: logging onto a single application (IRIS), eliminating the need for paper versions of originals and the judicial officer's copy of filings (all documents are filed in PDF format), increased processing efficiencies, decreased demand on the eFiling Online service, automatic tracking of filed documents from IRIS with no additional data entry required of OPDS staff and added functionality in the IRIS system. In the two weeks since the test portion of the integration was implemented, the pilot group of eFilers from OPDS have submitted more than 120 eFilings to the Clerk's Office. This volume is expected to increase significantly as the process is rolled out to all users in OPDS.

Improved eFile Notifications

The wording and format of eFiling notifications recently changed. The changes make it clearer that there are two emails regarding the status of every eFiling: "received" and either "accepted" or "rejected." The "received" email indicates there were no technology problems between the sending computer and the Clerk, but the document has not been reviewed and is not in the court record merely upon receipt. The second email notification will state "accepted" if a review clerk has accepted the document and filed it into the official court record. If a document lacks a required element, the second email will say "rejected," meaning the document has not been filed-in. "Accepted" emails may contain comments from the review clerk about the filing, including corrections made and actions the filing party may need to take so future filings can be processed more efficiently. "Rejected" emails will always contain a comment from the review clerk stating why the filing was rejected. The Clerk's Office recommends reading the eFiling Guidelines online and the Frequently Asked Questions section on the Clerk's website to improve the number of eFilings that are accepted.

Options for Records

Currently, all superior court public records in Maricopa County can be accessed at the Clerk's Offices around the Valley. Copy and transaction fees are determined by state statute and the Clerk maintains the official record. Some for-profit companies obtain court records and sell them as unofficial records online, either on a per-document basis or as part of a subscription service. When dealing with these third-party companies, remember that the Clerk's Office cannot verify the accuracy of what they provide or influence the prices they charge. By registering with the Clerk's Electronic Court Record Online, attorneys can remotely access the public records on cases where they are the attorney of record or where an attorney from their firm is the attorney of record. Register for the Clerk's Electronic Court Record Online at <https://ecr.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/login.aspx>.