



16th Judicial Circuit Court, Jackson County, Missouri

NEWS RELEASE AND NOTICE TO ATTORNEYS

For Release:
January 16, 2013

Contact: Valerie Hartman
Public Information Officer
(816) 881-3552

Circuit Court in Jackson County gets the green light to go green

It is time for you and your staff to prepare for mandatory electronic filing for civil and domestic cases in the Circuit Court of Jackson County. Electronic filing will begin in March.

The Court has been preparing for a long time to go green, and make the move from paper to paperless court filings. The Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) has given Jackson County the green light to move forward.

Mandatory electronic filing will start in Independence on March 4 for new civil and domestic cases, as well as, pending ones. It will begin in Kansas City on March 25, 2013.

"It is a distinct privilege for Jackson County to enter the future with electronic filing which, at its core, is another tool to facilitate the public's access to the courts," said Presiding Judge Marco A. Roldan.

As of those dates, it will be mandatory for attorneys to file all civil and domestic filings electronically. Parties representing themselves may not use electronic filing. At this time, criminal, probate and juvenile filings will continue to be accepted in paper form.

In addition, if you have an existing case that you filed in paper form, any future filings you make on that case must be done electronically starting on the dates above.

To prepare for this change, you can do three things.

First, register for a Missouri Courts User Account. You must have an account in order to file a document electronically. Register for a user account by going to the Missouri Courts website at www.courts.mo.gov. Click on electronic filing.

Second, once you are registered, go back to the site and go through the on-line tutorial which shows you how to prepare documents for electronic filing. You may earn 2.4 CLE credits for participation in the tutorial.

Third, the Circuit Court of Jackson County will offer question and answer sessions in February and March in the jury rooms of both court houses. Attorneys and their staff members are welcome to attend. These will not be training sessions. Please go through the on-line tutorial before attending one of these Q & A sessions. The Q & A sessions are designed to discuss the finer points of electronic filing in Jackson County Circuit Court. You may want to bring a lap top to the Q & A session if you have specific concerns after going through the on-line tutorial.

The Q & A sessions will be offered on the following dates:

Independence Courthouse Annex – Jury Room

Wednesday, February 13, noon – 2:00 p.m.

Friday, February 22, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

(more)

In Kansas City, Jackson County Courthouse- Jury Room

Friday, March 15, noon – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 21, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

“As of this month, over 10,000 attorneys have registered to use the Missouri eFiling System which is operational in the Missouri Supreme Court, all the Courts of Appeals, and the circuit courts in St. Charles County and Callaway County,” said Judge Joel P. Fahnestock, who is chair of the Circuit Court’s Technology Committee, and who is a member of the Missouri Court Automation Committee in Jefferson City. “There is no fee to register. Due to the hard work of the Jackson County court staff, registered attorneys can currently view documents filed in civil and criminal cases on Case.net, and our civil divisions are already paperless in anticipation of eFiling this spring.”

More information is available on the website of the Jackson County Circuit Court at www.16thcircuit.org.

###