



16th Judicial Circuit Court, Jackson County, Missouri

NEWS RELEASE

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Electronic filing expands in Circuit Court of Jackson County

Electronic filing in criminal cases will begin on August 1st in the Circuit Court of Jackson County. This comes after the successful launch of electronic filing of civil cases in March.

“The success and valuable changes we have seen with civil e-filing give us great anticipation to move into e-filing in criminal cases,” said Presiding Judge Marco A. Roldan.

Processing of criminal cases electronically will be a bit different than civil cases in that some paper will still be coming into the Court at the outset, but the official record will be electronic.

“With the current system, e-filing for criminal cases in this jurisdiction will be more of a hybrid,” said Cathleen Abell, Director of Criminal Records. “Prosecutors will continue to use a combination of electronic and paper submissions to initiate a case, at which time the Court will convert it to an electronic record. And from that point on, all parties will file subsequent pleadings through the e-filing system.”

Traffic, watercraft and conservation filings will be excluded from the requirement to file electronically at this time. And, as with civil electronic filing, parties who are filing pro se (without an attorney) are exempt from the electronic filing requirements.

Electronic filing for civil cases is going extremely well with most attorneys embracing the ease of being able to file a case or a motion from their office without having to send someone to the courthouses. In addition, court staff is finding that electronic filing is far more efficient for timely case processing. Since e-filing went into effect in March, the Department of Civil Records has processed over 76,000 submissions. More importantly, the time to turn around the paperwork on a civil case has decreased from two or three weeks -- to one to three days.

The Court plans to roll out electronic filing for additional case types with projected launch dates of September 9th for probate cases, and November 4th for juvenile cases in the Family Court.

To electronically file on any case type, attorneys must be registered for a Missouri Courts User Account. The user account information is found on the Missouri Courts website at www.courts.mo.gov. The site also contains on-line tutorials that provide step-by-step instructions for how to prepare and submit documents for electronic filing. General information regarding electronic filing is also available on the 16th Circuit Court website at www.16thcircuit.org.

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