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Superior Court Expands E-Filing to Civil II Cases

Pursuant to Administrative Order 06-17, issued in May 2005, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia has begun phasing in electronic filing for Civil II cases.

Though its use is currently voluntary, e-filing will become mandatory for all parties represented by counsel as of February 5, 2007.

To take advantage of this program, each party to a case that is represented by counsel must agree to file and serve all documents electronically; register with the service provider, CaseFileXpress, at www.casefilexpress.com; and e-file a Consent Notice of eFiled Case. A sample copy of this notice is attached to the administrative order.

If a case includes a pro se party, lawyers may still e-file to the court and e-serve one another. However, service on the pro se party must be by hand or mail.

“This is another major step in our efforts to automate court records and processes, to enhance access and make our system more convenient for the public,” said Chief Judge Rufus G. King III. “E-filing saves time and paper; allows easy access to filings for parties, attorneys, judges, and the public; and enables us to process cases more efficiently. We are pleased that the Civil I e-filing pilot project was so successful and that we are now able to expand that to the thousands of Civil II cases filed in the Superior Court each year.”

The implementation of the integrated case management system, CourtView, among the various divisions and courts of the Superior Court was completed earlier this year. The system creates an e-court where dockets and documents are stored electronically. E-filing is an essential component of this system.

This transformation began with the Family Court Act of 2001, calling for improved data and document exchange within the court and among agencies. As the process extended to other areas of the court, 20 systems were eliminated and court data were integrated into the new combined system. The integration process was completed in January 2006.