

Update on Electronic Case Filing and Attorney Access to Case Information

November 5, 2014

To the members of the Rhode Island Bar:

1. Electronic filing and the remote access to case information on civil cases in the Superior and District Courts and domestic relations in the Family Court began today. Pending cases that were filed under the former paper-based system will be also accessible through the new Public Access Portal. Please make sure that you are registered in BOTH systems to conduct electronic filing, which is operated by Tyler Technologies, and for remote access to case information through the Public Access Portal, which is operated by the Judiciary. We will be monitoring the daily statistics on the systems' usage.
2. Paper pleadings received in civil cases after November 5, 2014 from attorneys not exempt from electronic filing will not be accepted by the courts and will be returned to the sender.
3. Section 10 of the attorney user agreement with Tyler Technologies has been modified to change binding arbitration to mediation for any controversy or claim related to the agreement, as follows:

“Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, which is not settled by reasonable negotiations between the parties, will be referred to mediation in Texas prior to the commencement of any litigation. The cost of mediation will be borne equally by the parties and conducted within the State of Texas. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may, on good cause shown, seek a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction from a court of competent jurisdiction, to be effective pending the institution of the mediation process.”

4. General user guidelines and court-specific guidelines for the electronic filing system will be updated as we work on improvements or other changes. Current versions of the guidelines are available on the Electronic Filing page of the Judiciary's website. The date will be revised each time the document is updated. We will post notice of any updates on the Judiciary's new Electronic Filing Updates and Notices page [here](#). Updates are also posted on the Judiciary's Twitter feed @CourtsRI.
5. The [new policy for requesting transcripts](#) can be found on the Quick Links on the Judiciary's home page at www.courts.ri.gov. The Request for Transcript Form can be found on the website under Public Resources, Forms.
6. Court forms have been and will continue to be updated on the website. They may have changed as a result of the rule changes in the courts. We recommend checking the forms list under each court for updates.
7. Two new Supreme Court [executive orders](#) related to this project were published earlier this week. Executive Order 2014-5 outlines procedure for courthouse access to case information, while Executive Order 2014-6 authorizes certain state and federal agencies to have access to case information.
8. As announced previously, the public comment period for revised court rules and procedures has been extended indefinitely so that attorneys and the public can provide

additional feedback after having the opportunity to use the electronic filing system in conjunction with the new rules. The rules will remain available for viewing in the Supreme Court Clerk's Office and on the Rhode Island Judiciary's website at www.courts.ri.gov by clicking on the red box with the heading of Court Rules – Public Comment. We will continue to review and revise the rules as needed as we all start to use the new system.