

An Update on Electronic Case Filing

Now through November 3, 2014, the new case management system for civil cases in the Superior and District Courts and domestic cases in the Family Court is in the process of being implemented. With the conversion of the new case management system, the electronic filing system will begin in the Superior, Family, and District Courts on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. Pending cases that were filed under the former paper-based system will be accessible in the new system.

The Supreme Court invited written public comment on amendments to certain rules of the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Family Court, and District Court relating to the electronic filing system as well as substantive processes in some of the courts. The Supreme Court initially set a deadline for public comment that has since passed. The Court received and reviewed a number of written comments, and as a result addressed some of the concerns and suggestions in revised rules that are being published today. Among them is an indefinite extension of the public comment period 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 heading of Court Rules – Public Comment under the Self-help Center box on the home page.

We will continue to review and update the rules as needed. We expect there to be issues as we roll out the new systems and accompanying rules. It will be up to all of us – the attorneys, self-represented litigants, and the respective courts – to evaluate the rules and procedures. There will be a learning curve for all the parties involved. Meanwhile, today we promulgate the rules to allow the electronic filing system to be implemented; we will post them on the Judiciary's website, and we will extend the public comment period to accommodate concerns. We expect to publish the associated orders by Tuesday, November 4, 2014.