

Minutes
Judges' Advisory Committee on E-Filing
Bridgeport Juvenile, 1st Floor Conference Room
April 20, 2015 - 2:00 PM

Those in attendance: Hon. Patrick L. Carroll III, Hon. Barbara N. Bellis, Hon. Elizabeth Bozzuto, and Hon Thomas D. Colin.

Staff in attendance: Joseph D'Alesio, P.J. Deak, Joseph DelCiampo, Lucio DeLuca, Sharon Dukett, Tais Ericson, Melissa Farley, Damon Goldstein, Daniel Grabowski, Johanna Greenfield, Alice Mastrony, Pamela Meotti, Roberta Palmer and Terry Walker.

1. Welcome and Acceptance of Minutes from 09/18/2014 – The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2014 were accepted unanimously.
2. Update: Civil/Family E-Filing Project – P.J. Deak reported on the implementation of family e-filing Phase-1, including statistics on the first few months of e-filing, Housing locations, civil protection orders, e-filing by CSSD, the new call log for E-Services support calls, the roll-out of hardware such as scanner and computers to courthouses statewide, and miscellaneous other developments, training and enhancements to e-filing. The next steps include the automation of the JD FM 170 (family judgment file), paperless housing cases in the five JDs where housing is part of the CV/FA system (Danbury, Meriden, Middletown, Norwich and Tolland), paperless housing cases in the Housing Sessions, the data center move, e-filing by Support Enforcement, and a pilot project on digital signage at the Park Street court location in Rockville.
3. Family Judges and Order Entry – P.J. reported that the statistics on usage of electronic order entry are a fairly typical “electronic reflection of reality.” A discussion ensued regarding how agreements are being filed. Judge Colin said that he tells lawyers he cannot accept paper filings. They have to file everything electronically, and if the agreement is revised, they e-file the modified agreement. After a discussion that included concerns about having more than one agreement filed electronically, the need to push attorneys to comply with mandatory e-filing, the risks and potential delays involved in handing papers to the clerk in the courtroom for later scanning and processing into the electronic file, the consensus was that agreements, like other documents, should be filed electronically by the attorneys. The group also discussed that e-filing is mandatory for attorneys, and they should be required to file documents electronically.
4. Abode Service and Appearance Tracking – The chief court administrator has been asked to provide information to the Victim’s Advocate regarding numbers of restraining orders requested, served, and how the service was effectuated. The Branch will need to develop methods to effectively capture information on the method of service. Atty. Greenfield said that a bill proposed in the senate requires the marshals to enter this information into the protective order registry within two hours of the service. The bill has made it through the senate. It is not known what will be set up in terms of law enforcement or constables at this time. Judge Bozzuto suggested developing a form with bar codes for use by constables. A form is a possibility.
5. Discussion of Mandatory SRP E-Filing – Some other states claim to make e-filing mandatory, but upon closer investigation, it does not seem to be true. This issue will be discussed at a later time.
6. Summons Form and Attorney Accept/Decline E-Services – An attorney had requested that the Branch propose a rule change that would require attorneys to accept electronic certification. After discussion, the group decided that no change to the rule would be made at this time.

7. Electronic Documents and Electronic Evidence – This issue was raised by Judge Berger, who is not able to attend today’s meeting. It will be passed until the next meeting of the Committee.
8. Appearances by Self-Represented Parties – Tabled
9. Report Back: System Access and User Maintenance – Court Reporters have restricted access to Edison. They do not have access to the order entry queue, the workflow queues or to sealed files. With respect to the listing of judges in Edison, business requirements have been drafted to ensure that the listings are updated to reflect current information on judges.

Atty. D’Alesio pointed out that there is a group similar to this one working on the development of electronic filing in criminal matters. The group includes P.J. Deak and Terry Walker.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.