



## CIVIL ELECTRONIC FILING (eFILING)

### IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

#### **Civil Superior and Foreclosure eFiling**

Counties implemented:

- Chowan County
- Davidson County
- Wake County

#### **Domestic Violence (DV) eFiling**

Counties implemented:

- Alamance County
- Davidson County
- Durham County
- Forsyth County
- Guilford County
- Wake County

4,843 applications for DV protective orders

#### **North Carolina Business Court**

Approximately 3,500 eFilings annually

### WHAT USERS ARE SAYING

#### **Wake County Clerk of Superior Court (former)**

"The eFiling project, when fully implemented, will completely transform for the better the manner in which we do business in the courts in the area of civil litigation."

#### **Wake County Assistant Clerk of Superior Court**

"In addition to being cost effective, eFiling will bring our court to a level of technology equal to the private sector."

#### **Chief District Court Judge, Judicial District 15A (former)**

"The recently introduced electronic protective order system instituted in Alamance is one of the most dramatic advances in the handling of domestic violence cases in many years."

#### **Guilford County Domestic Violence Victim**

"I had to go through this process before and it was so confusing. Being able to stay in one place makes such a huge difference! It is nowhere near as scary for me and my kids."



Civil electronic filing (eFiling) allows civil court documents to be filed electronically and related filing fees to be paid online via credit card or eCheck, court notices to be sent, and court information to be retrieved via the internet. Currently, civil superior, special proceeding foreclosure cases, complex business cases designated for the North Carolina Business Court, and applications for domestic violence protective orders may be filed electronically. Electronic filers of civil superior cases and special proceeding foreclosure cases may file case data and pay associated filing fees online. Civil Superior and foreclosure eFiling has been successfully implemented in Chowan, Davidson, and Wake counties.

The N.C. Business Court allows registered attorneys and pro se filers to securely file documents electronically at any time. Users may also access court documents, case histories, status notifications, and other information at any time. The web-based electronic filing system also provides public access to case information online.

A pilot program for domestic violence filers further expanded North Carolina's use of eFiling. The system introduced an electronic process for the application of an ex parte domestic violence protective order, which starts and ends at a domestic violence service agency that is separate from the courthouse. The applicant files the petition, is heard by the judge, and receives signed orders and notification regarding service on the defendant all while they are in a secure, remote location. All matters are conducted electronically and through live video feeds with judges, clerks, and sheriff's deputies, while the victim receives wraparound services from the domestic violence agency, such as safety planning, housing, and child care.

The system will send automated email and text messages to alert the proper parties as specific events occur in the case, and local law enforcement has the ability to access the system via laptops in their patrol cars or smartphones and view defendant identification forms, orders, and service documents. Sheriff staff may print summonses, notices, and orders and enter data following service of these documents.

Alamance, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, and Wake counties are fully operational with the domestic violence eFiling system. The system is expanding with funding through a three-year grant from the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). Once implementation concludes in 2019, the system will be live in 16 counties and serve more than half of the state's population.

## ABOUT THE ELECTRONIC FILING BENEFITS

Electronic filing is faster and easier than manual filing. Cases are automatically added to the Civil Case Processing System (VCAP), thus saving clerks data entry time. The system improves data quality and accuracy by eliminating duplicate data entry and preventing lost or misplaced files.

Services	Brief Description
<b>Civil Superior and Special Proceeding Foreclosure Cases</b>	<p>North Carolina attorneys can file documents, pay filing fees, and view documents in any participating county without traveling to the courthouse. They can view opposing counsel's electronic submissions within minutes rather than waiting to receive mailed copies. Electronic filing reduces attorneys' expenses for courier services, mail, or other delivery methods. Filers can file and view documents nearly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and receive electronic notifications when a document is eFiled.</p> <p><b>Clerks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review documents online</li><li>• Accept or deny filings online</li><li>• Cases are added to VCAP automatically when filed</li></ul> <p><b>Filer / Attorneys</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• eFile documents to the court</li><li>• eFile nearly 24 hours a day</li><li>• Pay filing fees online using a credit card or bank draft</li><li>• Resubmit a returned filing</li><li>• Save filing as a draft</li><li>• View status of eFiling</li><li>• View eFiled documents and notifications</li><li>• View case history of eFiled events</li><li>• View filing charges by month</li></ul>
<b>Domestic Violence eFiling</b>	<p>Advocates providing assistance to domestic violence victims can file complaints from a secure location and obtain protective orders in a short amount of time. The automated routing of documents reduces the risk of physical harm to individuals seeking legal protection by eliminating the manual handling of paper filings. Judges can view documents and sign orders quickly and more efficiently. Electronic versions of service documents can be searched and accessed online by law enforcement officers to facilitate faster service.</p> <p><b>Clerks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review documents online</li><li>• Accept or deny filings online</li><li>• Cases are added to VCAP automatically when filed</li><li>• Scan paper filings into electronic file</li><li>• Issue and sign service documents</li><li>• Return service documents electronically</li><li>• Certify order documents</li></ul> <p><b>Judges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review case filings online</li><li>• Grant or deny orders online</li><li>• Sign orders online</li></ul> <p><b>Sheriff Deputies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• View service documents and orders online</li><li>• Record service documents and orders online</li></ul> <p><b>Filer / Advocates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• eFile documents to the court</li><li>• eFile nearly 24 hours a day</li><li>• Resubmit a denied filing</li><li>• Save filing as a draft</li><li>• View status of eFiling</li><li>• View eFiled documents and notifications</li><li>• View case history of eFiled events</li></ul> <p><b>Other Law Enforcement (Police Officers and Magistrates)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Record service documents and orders online</li></ul>