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Clerk Dorothy Brown Kicks Off Mandatory E-Filing for Cook County Court TODAY

Illinois's largest court system meets the Supreme Court's mandate for the electronic filing of all civil case types



This morning, Clerk Dorothy Brown personally assisted the first customer in the Clerk's Office's Civil Division to register and electronically file using eFileIL.

(Chicago) July 2, 2018 - Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, successfully kicked off mandatory eFiling in the Circuit Court of Cook County this morning in accordance with Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 18368, which required that effective July 1, 2018, all court users electronically file civil cases and that the Cook County Clerk's Office transition its electronic filing service to eFileIL, the statewide system.

Beginning today, court customers filing civil cases in the Clerk's Office, including all suburban offices and the Chancery, Civil, County, Domestic Relations, Domestic Violence, Law and Probate divisions in the Daley Center, had to register with eFileIL and electronically file their court documents. E-Filers may register with eFileIL and file from their home or office computers or they may use public access computers located throughout the Clerk's Office.

The Cook County Circuit Court, which is the largest court system in Illinois and one of the largest in the country, has worked diligently with Tyler Technologies, Inc., the state's chosen E-File Manager (EFM) to implement the state's mandated system. Clerk Brown has, personally, closely monitored the progress of eFiling for the authorized civil case types to ensure the efficient delivery of service by the July 1, 2018, deadline.

At a June 18th presentation on Mandatory eFiling that drew more than 1,100 attorneys, pro se litigants and other court users to the Thompson Center in Chicago, Clerk Brown thanked the Illinois Supreme Court for issuing Order M.R. 18368. "This was an action that I pushed for from the time I first took office. I fully agree with the Supreme Courts' argument that 'Court users, including self-represented litigants, increasingly benefit from paperless court systems that allow for electronic filing, service and access to case documents,'" she said.

“The Supreme Court of Illinois’ decision, rendered nearly two years ago, was intended to drive efficiencies into the court system improve access to information, and promote transparency,” said Clerk Brown. “While the change to mandatory e-filing in Cook County may cause some initial uneasiness to those impacted, it will ultimately result in a more simplified process for everyone involved,” Clerk Brown noted today.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County has provided electronic filing for civil case types for several years through On-Line Information Services, Inc., (OLIS). However, the OLIS system was decommissioned at 11:59 p.m., June 30, 2018, and replaced with the EFileIL system. “I thank OLIS for serving as the Clerk’s Office’s eFiling service provider since 2009. OLIS built a customized system for the Clerk’s Office that worked very well for its users these past nine years,” said Clerk Brown. The Clerk’s Office had registered more than 45,000 users on the OLIS system, which was installed at no cost to the County.

Now all eFilers have to register with EFileIL to electronically file in Illinois. Non-attorney eFilers need a personal email address and an accepted form of payment (debit card, credit card or eCheck) to register with eFileIL. It is very important to note that with eFileIL attorneys will need their ARDC numbers to register, and, unique to Cook County, attorneys also need their Cook County Attorney Code to be entered on each filing.

Court users may access special instructions on mandatory eFiling through the eFile portal on the Clerk’s Office’s website (www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org) or receive extra assistance on the system at the Clerk’s Office’s self-paced eFile Center located in the Daley Center, 50 W. Washington, Lower Level, Room LL-12.

Mandatory eFiling is rolling out just as Clerk Brown is also implementing a new case management system at the Clerk’s Office. In 2017, the Clerk’s Office signed a multi-year contract with Tyler toward installing Odyssey Case Manager throughout the entire Cook County court system. In February 2017, the Clerk’s Office completed Phase 1-County Division, the first of five separate implementations toward upgrading all areas of law across Cook County. Odyssey Case Manager is scheduled for deployment in all areas of criminal law in the first quarter 2019 and to civil and traffic case types by November 2019.

“As promised, we are moving forward with major enhancements to the efficiencies of our busy court system,” said Clerk Brown. “Gaining efficiencies in our court room operations, decreasing manual entry thereby improving data accuracy through automation, and enabling better public access to information are among our top imperatives,” Clerk Brown explains. “We are well on our way to realizing these benefits.”

To register or for additional information about Mandatory eFiling, visit the Clerk’s Office website at www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org or call (312) 603-HELP (4357).