



eFileMA: Electronic Filing and Record Keeping for the Massachusetts Court System

I. eFileMA: Basics

The Massachusetts Judiciary has contracted to implement an eFiling pilot program ("eFileMA") with Tyler Technologies, a leading nationwide provider of eFiling solutions. eFileMA will allow attorneys, self-represented litigants and court staff to file and serve papers electronically in the following six (6) pilot courts:

- SJC's Office of the Clerk for the Commonwealth
- SJC's Office of the Clerk for Suffolk County
- Office of the Clerk for the Massachusetts Appeals Court
- Worcester District Court
- Brighton Division of the Boston Municipal Court
- Essex Probate and Family Court

eFileMA will initially involve specific case types and filings. As the pilots are successfully completed, more courts and more case types will be added to the system.

II. eFileMA: Process

eFileMA will allow for the management of documents among filers, clerks, court staff, and judges in three steps:

1. Filer submits documents. After logging into the eFileMA website, filers submit case-related documents online to a participating court.
2. eFileMA delivers documents to the court.
3. Clerks review and then either accept or return eFiled submissions. For accepted documents, an electronic timestamp notification is sent to the filer.

III. eFileMA: Benefits

No cost to the taxpayer. Tyler Technologies is covering the entire cost for installing the new system. Initially, there will be a \$7 filing fee. As volume grows, this fee may be reduced.

Convenience. Eliminates courthouse trips or courier fees to file documents.

Multiple filings at no extra cost. Court users will be able to file multiple documents at the same time at no additional cost.

Less paper. The new system will reduce a paper-intensive environment and workload for court staff.

IV. eFileMA: Progress to Date

New Draft Rules. A group headed by Clerk Joseph Stanton of the Appeals Court is finalizing rules for adoption by SJC Rules committee. Prepared with input from the Trial and Appellate Courts and Tyler Technologies, the draft rules will govern the eFiling process during the pilots.

Education, Training & Development. Tyler Technologies has begun education and training of certain personnel in the pilot courts. eFiling Business Practices are being developed for the Pilot Courts. Tyler is developing a plain language interview application called Guide & File for self-represented litigants.

Technical Integration. Technical personnel and the case and document management vendors for the Trial and Appellate Courts are working with Tyler Technologies to insure that Tyler's application is successfully integrated with the Trial and Appellate Courts' case and document management systems.