

## January 2008

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# eNewsletter

[www.TexasOnline.com/eFiling](http://www.TexasOnline.com/eFiling)

Official eFiling Solution of the State of Texas

## Recognized eFiler of the Month

**Rush S. Wells**

**Ratliff & Wells - Littlefield**

eFiling client of ProDoc



*"I have been filing electronically with eFiling for Courts since the earliest days of the program. A brief training session from my service provider put me well down the road to effective use. Since that time, I rarely go to the courthouse with a document, except in counties which have not embraced the technology. For \$7.50 I have avoided a much more substantial charge to the client - even a law clerk would be billed at \$35 - \$40 to 'walk it through.'*

*eFiling also allows me the luxury of filing from any location with an Internet connection, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Putting the finishing touches on a document and actually completing the filing lets me put the matter to rest in my head, whether it be at night, on a weekend, or during business hours. Waiting for a delayed flight now becomes meaningful billable time with instant documentation that can be shown to a client who might doubt an 11:00 p.m. filing."*

## JCIT eFiling Summit

On January 4, 2008, the [Judicial Committee on Information Technology](#) held an eFiling Summit at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin. Invitations were extended to clerks, judges, filers, service providers, and bar association leaders to take part in an open forum to discuss the status of electronic filing in Texas.

A summary of the meeting can be read [here](#).

## The Value of eService

**eService offers a significant cost savings over serving parties by Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested (CMRRR).** The cost of The TexasOnline eFiling for Courts fee is \$4.50 per transaction. Service providers may include an additional fee.

### CMRRR

Postage	\$ .41
Certified Mail	\$2.65
<u>Return Receipt</u>	<u>\$2.15</u>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$5.21</b>

### Cost Comparison between CMRRR and eService

Parties	CMRRR	TexasOnline eFiling for Courts*	Savings
1	\$5.21	\$4.50	\$ .71
-	-	-	-

1	\$5.21	\$4.50	\$ .71
5	\$26.05	\$4.50	\$21.55
10	\$52.10	\$4.50	\$47.60

*\*Plus service provider fee*

For more information about eService, click [here](#).

## eFiling for Justice of the Peace Courts

The Supreme Court's statewide rules for electronic filing and service in Justice of the Peace Courts became effective January 1, 2008. The Supreme Court's Judicial Committee on Information Technology is expected to adopt standard filing types for these courts in the first quarter of 2008. Electronic filing will be available in participating JP courts beginning in the second quarter of 2008.

## Fee Increases

Effective January 1, 2008, the Texas civil filing fee for Judicial Support increased from \$37 to \$42 per [Senate Bill 600](#).

## Upcoming Events and CLEs

[Courts & Local Government Technology Conference](#)  
[Texas Association of Counties](#)

Presentation: January 29, 2008, Austin

[Civil Seminar - Introduction to eFiling for Justices of the Peace](#)  
[Texas Justice Court Judges Association](#)

Presentation: February 19, 2008, Waco

If you would like to request an eFiling for Courts accredited CLE presentation and/or demonstration for your Bar or Paralegal association, please contact Erika Whitt at [erika.whitt@bearingpoint.com](mailto:erika.whitt@bearingpoint.com).

## Did You Know?

**Your Service Provider converts your documents to PDF.**

Save time, money, and stress! If you have been converting your electronic documents to PDF before submitting them, relax and let your service provider do the work.

## Filer FAQs

### Question

Are there any documents that cannot be eFiled?

### Answer

Although nearly all civil case documents can be eFiled, there are a few notable document types that cannot be eFiled.

Rule 3.3 of the Texas Supreme Court Local eFiling Rules states that all documents can be eFiled with the exception of Bonds, Wills, Subpoenas, Proof of Service Subpoenas, Returns of Citation, Citations, or writs bearing the seal of the court, documents sealed pursuant to TEX.R.CIV.P.76a, and documents to which access is restricted by law or court order.

In addition, you cannot file documents that are "to be presented to court in camera, solely for the purpose of obtaining a ruling on the discoverability of such documents." You should not eFile discovery materials as defined in Rule 191.4 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

## Filer Tips

- **You should not submit unsigned/proposed orders as the lead document, since the lead document you eFile receives a file stamp upon acceptance by the clerk.** Unsigned/proposed orders should be preceded by another document (e.g. Motion, Pleading, or Cover Letter) to avoid rejection by the clerk.

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- **Rule 4.6 of the Texas Supreme Court eFiling rules limits filings to one main document per filing.** Supporting documents such as briefs or exhibits may be included as attachments, but you may not have multiple primary documents such as pleadings or motions in one filing.

## Participating Jurisdictions

Location	District	County	Probate	County Seat	Website
Bee	X			Beeville	<a href="http://www.co.bee.tx.us">www.co.bee.tx.us</a>
Bell	X			Belton	<a href="http://www.bellcountytexas.com">www.bellcountytexas.com</a>
Bexar	X			San Antonio	<a href="http://www.co.bexar.tx.us">www.co.bexar.tx.us</a>
Brazoria	X	X		Angleton	<a href="http://www.brazoria-county.com/">www.brazoria-county.com/</a>
Brazos	X	X		Bryan	<a href="http://www.co.brazos.tx.us">www.co.brazos.tx.us</a>
Burnet	X	X		Burnet	<a href="http://www.burnetcountytexas.org">www.burnetcountytexas.org</a>
Cameron	X	X		Brownsville	<a href="http://www.co.cameron.tx.us">www.co.cameron.tx.us</a>
Cass	X	X		Linden	<a href="http://www.co.cass.tx.us">www.co.cass.tx.us</a>
Collin	X	X		McKinney	<a href="http://www.co.collin.tx.us">www.co.collin.tx.us</a>
Dallas	X	X	X	Dallas	<a href="http://www.dallascounty.org">www.dallascounty.org</a>
El Paso	X	X	X	El Paso	<a href="http://www.co.el-paso.tx.us">www.co.el-paso.tx.us</a>
Fort Bend	X	X		Richmond	<a href="http://www.co.fort-bend.tx.us">www.co.fort-bend.tx.us</a>
Goliad	X	X		Goliad	<a href="http://www.co.goliad.tx.us">www.co.goliad.tx.us</a>
Guadalupe	X			Seguin	<a href="http://www.co.guadalupe.tx.us">www.co.guadalupe.tx.us</a>
Harris	X			Houston	<a href="http://www.co.harris.tx.us">www.co.harris.tx.us</a>
Hidalgo	X	X		Edinburg	<a href="http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us">www.co.hidalgo.tx.us</a>
Johnson	X			Cleburne	<a href="http://www.johnsoncountytexas.org">www.johnsoncountytexas.org</a>
Lubbock	X	X		Lubbock	<a href="http://www.co.lubbock.tx.us">www.co.lubbock.tx.us</a>
McLennan	X			Waco	<a href="http://www.co.mclennan.tx.us">www.co.mclennan.tx.us</a>
Midland	X	X		Midland	<a href="http://www.co.midland.tx.us">www.co.midland.tx.us</a>
Moore	X	X		Dumas	<a href="http://www.co.moore.tx.us">www.co.moore.tx.us</a>
Nueces	X	X		Corpus Christi	<a href="http://www.co.nueces.tx.us">www.co.nueces.tx.us</a>
Potter	X			Amarillo	<a href="http://www.co.potter.tx.us">www.co.potter.tx.us</a>

Potter	X			Amarillo	<a href="http://www.co.potter.tx.us">www.co.potter.tx.us</a>
Randall	X	X		Canyon	<a href="http://www.randallcounty.org">www.randallcounty.org</a>
Tarrant		X	X	Fort Worth	<a href="http://www.tarrantcounty.com">www.tarrantcounty.com</a>
Tom Green	X			San Angelo	<a href="http://www.co.tom-green.tx.us">www.co.tom-green.tx.us</a>
Travis	X			Austin	<a href="http://www.co.travis.tx.us">www.co.travis.tx.us</a>
Upton	X			Rankin	<a href="http://www.co.upton.tx.us">www.co.upton.tx.us</a>
Victoria	X	X		Victoria	<a href="http://www.victoriacountytx.org">www.victoriacountytx.org</a>
Waller	X	X		Hempstead	<a href="http://www.wallercotx.com">www.wallercotx.com</a>
Webb	X	X		Laredo	<a href="http://www.webbcountytx.gov">www.webbcountytx.gov</a>

## Feedback

We would love to hear from you! Contact us with comments, questions, or suggestions on what we can do to make our eFiling service work better for you.

[Click here](#) to send an email and tell us what you're thinking.

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