



Colorado Justice: Celebrating 42 years of fair
and impartial courts through merit selection

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Colorado District Court e-file and serve transaction fees increase; Colorado Legal Services and indigent litigants to receive services at no charge *Offerings expanded to cover pro se users, appellate and other court filings*

DENVER, Colo. – The Colorado Judicial Department today announced that it has reached an agreement with LexisNexis to expand its service levels for both e-file and e-serve transactions. The e-file and serve system is being expanded to include other types of case filings (appellate court filings are now online) and will be made available to pro se users. Additionally, Colorado Legal Services and litigants deemed indigent under Chief Justice Directive 98-01 may use the e-file and serve system at no charge.

“The LexisNexis e-file and serve program in Colorado has provided a great benefit to litigants and their attorneys when considered in the context of overall cost savings and improved court access,” said Colorado Judicial Department Chief Information Officer Bob Roper. “In order to continue on that track and offer an expanded array of services, it was necessary to implement a modest increase.”

Effective Aug. 20, 2008, the e-file and serve transaction fees will increase \$1.15 per transaction. Under the new rates, an e-filing transaction fee will be \$6.00, with \$5.00 going directly to LexisNexis and \$1.00 to the Judicial Department. The e-service transaction fee will be \$7.50, with \$6.50 going directly to LexisNexis and \$1.00 to the Judicial Department. The Judicial Department’s cost recovery is used to maintain and replace hardware, improve the network to allow image files to be easily accessed and offset the system maintenance costs necessary to offer e-file and serve.

Roper said LexisNexis has asked the Colorado Judicial Department to increase the fees several times since 2004, but the department denied those requests until it was certain the fee increases would also come with a significantly expanded service offering.

The price increase will support numerous service enhancements including:

- Expansion of the e-file and serve program: The system has already been expanded to include appellate court filings, will be expanded to include other case types in the future and will now be made available to pro se users.
- Free access for certain pro bono litigants: Employees of Colorado Legal Services and litigants deemed indigent pursuant to CJD 98-01 will receive e-file and serve services free of charge.
- Increased staff support: LexisNexis will commit additional onsite staff in Colorado to support the expanded service offerings.

Offering free e-file and serve system access to Colorado Legal Service and indigent litigants is arguably the most significant service enhancement. In January 2008, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission issued a report titled “The Justice Crisis in Colorado: A Report on the Civil Legal Needs of the Indigent in Colorado.” In the report, the commission found, among other items, that only one indigent person in five who needs civil legal help will receive that assistance and that currently there is only one Colorado Legal Services attorney available for every 16,890 eligible individuals. Some of the recommendations made by the commission included improving services for pro se litigants and improving access to the legal system.

“Colorado Legal Services and the clients we serve very much appreciate the support of the State Court Administrator’s Office and Supreme Court in making this service available and for waiving the fees,” said Jon Asher, executive director of Colorado Legal Services. “Through this offering, we will be able reach out and serve more Coloradans who are in need of legal counsel.”

These enhancements will be rolled out over the next six to 12 months with the first phase of the program, availability to Colorado Legal Services, already implemented. The Colorado e-file and serve program has improved access to the courts by providing an Internet portal designed to reduce overall costs to litigants and their attorneys in addition to providing attorneys and court staff with a comprehensive electronic document management system that would otherwise not be available.

E-file and serve enables attorneys, and now pro se litigants, to electronically file documents with the court, thus making the filing process easier and more efficient. Those using the e-file and serve system save on everything from paper to parking and courier services, and are able to free up time formerly spent at the courthouse.