

Section 1-26 [Repealed and Readopted]

ELECTRONIC FILING AND SERVICE SYSTEM

1. Definitions:

(a) **Document:** A pleading, motion, writing or other paper filed or served under the E-System.

(b) **E-Filing/Service System:** The E-Filing/Service System (“**E-System**”) approved by the Colorado Supreme Court for filing and service of documents via the Internet through the Court-authorized E-System provider.

(c) **Electronic Filing:** Electronic filing (“**E-Filing**”) is the transmission of documents to the clerk of the court, and from the court, via the E-System.

(d) **Electronic Service:** Electronic service (“**E-Service**”) is the transmission of documents to any party in a case via the E-System. Parties who have subscribed to the E-System have agreed to receive service, other than service of a summons, via the E-System.

(e) **E-System Provider:** The E-Service/E-Filing System Provider authorized by the Colorado Supreme Court.

(f) **S/ Name:** A symbol representing the signature of the person whose name follows the “**S/**” on the electronically or otherwise signed form of the E-Filed or E-Served document.

2. Types of Cases Applicable: E-Filing and E-Service may be used for certain cases filed in the courts of Colorado as the service becomes available. The availability of the E-System will be determined by the Colorado Supreme Court and announced through its web site <http://www.courts.state.co.us/supct/supct.htm> and through published directives to the clerks of the affected court systems. E-Filing and E-Service may be mandated pursuant to Subsection 13 of this Practice Standard 1-26.

3. To Whom Applicable:

(a) Attorneys licensed to practice law in Colorado may register to use the E-System. Any attorney so registered may enter an appearance pursuant to Rule 121, Section 1-1, through E-Filing. In districts where E-Filing is mandated pursuant to Subsection 13 of this Practice Standard 1-26, attorneys must register and use the E-System.

(b) Where the system and necessary equipment are in place to permit it, pro se parties and government entities and agencies may register to use the E-System.

4. Commencement of Action–Service of Summons: Cases may be commenced under C.R.C.P. 3 by E-Filing the initial pleading. Service of a summons shall be made in accordance with C.R.C.P. 4.

5. E-Filing–Date and Time of Filing: Documents filed in cases on the E-System may be filed under C.R.C.P. 5 through an E-Filing. A document transmitted to the E-System Provider by 11:59 p.m. Colorado time shall be deemed to have been filed with the clerk of the court on that date.

6. E-Service–When Required - Date and Time of Service: Documents submitted to the court through E-Filing shall be served under C.R.C.P. 5 by E-Service. A document transmitted to the E-System Provider for service by 11:59 p.m. Colorado time

shall be deemed to have been served on that date. E-Service shall entitle the party being served an additional 3 days as provided by C.R.C.P. 6(e).

7. Filing Party to Maintain the Signed Copy–Paper Document Not to Be Filed–Duration of Maintaining of Document: A printed or printable copy of an E-Filed or E-Served document with original or scanned signatures shall be maintained by the filing party and made available for inspection by other parties or the court upon request, but shall not be filed with the court. When these rules require a party to maintain a document, the filer is required to maintain the document for a period of two years after the final resolution of the action, including the final resolution of all appeals.

8. Documents Requiring E-Filed Signatures: For domestic relations decrees, separation agreements and parenting plans, original signature pages bearing the attorneys', parties', and notaries' signatures must be scanned and E-Filed. For all other E-Filed and E-Served documents, signatures of attorneys, parties, witnesses, notaries and notary stamps may be in S/ Name typed form to satisfy signature requirements, once the necessary signatures have been obtained on a paper form of the document. For probate of a will, the original must be lodged with the court.

9. C.R.C.P. 11 Compliance: Use of the E-System by an attorney constitutes compliance with the signature requirement of C.R.C.P. 11. An attorney using the E-System shall be subject to all other requirements of Rule 11.

10. Documents under Seal: A motion for leave to file documents under seal may be E-Filed. Documents to be filed under seal pursuant to an order of the court may be E-Filed at the direction of the court; however, the filing party may object to this procedure.

11. Transmitting of Orders, Notices and Other Court Entries: Beginning January 1, 2006, courts shall distribute orders, notices, and other court entries using the E-System in cases where E-Filings were received from any party.

12. Form of E-Filed Documents: C.R.C.P. 10 shall apply to E-Filed documents. A document shall not be transmitted to the clerk of the court by any other means unless the court at any later time requests a printed copy.

13. E-Filing May be Mandated: With the permission of the Chief Justice, a chief judge may mandate E-Filing within a county or judicial district for specific case classes or types of cases. A judicial officer may mandate E-Filing and E-Service in that judicial officer's division for specific cases, for submitting documents to the court and serving documents on case parties. Where E-Filing is mandatory, the court may thereafter accept a document in paper form and the court shall scan the document and upload it to the E-Service Provider. After notice to an attorney that all future documents are to be E-Filed, the court may charge a fee of \$50 per document for the service of scanning and uploading a document filed in paper form. Where E-Filing and E-Service are mandatory, the Chief Judge or appropriate judicial officer may exclude pro se parties from mandatory E-Filing requirements.

14. Relief in the Event of Technical Difficulties:

(a) Upon satisfactory proof that E-Filing or E-Service of a document was not completed because of: (1) an error in the transmission of the document to the E-System Provider which was unknown to the sending party; (2) a failure of the E-System Provider to process the E-Filing when received, or (3) other technical problems experienced by the

filer or E-System Provider, the court may enter an order permitting the document to be filed nunc pro tunc to the date it was first attempted to be sent electronically.

(b) Upon satisfactory proof that an E-Served document was not received by or unavailable to a party served, the court may enter an order extending the time for responding to that document.

15. Form of Electronic Documents

(a) **Electronic document format, size and density:** Electronic document format, size, and density shall be as specified by Chief Justice Directive # 05-02, as amended.

(b) **Multiple Documents:** Multiple documents (including proposed orders) may be filed in a single electronic filing transaction. Each document (including proposed orders) in that filing must bear a separate document title.

(c) **Proposed Orders:** Proposed orders shall be E-Filed in editable format. Proposed orders that are E-Filed in a non-editable format shall be rejected by the Court Clerk's office and must be resubmitted.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

The Court authorized service provider for the program is Lexis Nexis File & Serve (www.lexisnexis.com/fileandserve).

"Editable Format" is one which is subject to modification by the court using standard means such as Word or WordPerfect format.

C.R.C.P. 77 provides that courts are always open for business. This Practice Standard is intended to comport with that rule.

Amended and adopted by the Court, En Banc October 20, 2005 effective January 1, 2006

BY THE COURT:

**Nancy E. Rice
Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court**