

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

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In the Matter of: )  
)  
IMPLEMENTING MANDATORY ) Administrative Order  
ELECTRONIC FILING IN THE ) No. 2018 - 109  
SUPERIOR COURT IN APACHE, )  
COCHISE, GRAHAM, AND LA PAZ )  
COUNTIES )  

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In March 2016, this Court entered Administrative Order No. 2016-20 implementing e-filing pursuant to a plan and schedule established by the Administrative Director for the Superior Court in all counties other than Maricopa and Pima Counties. The Order also authorizes making e-filing mandatory as each court is ready to accept civil case filings electronically. E-Filing of civil cases has been successfully implemented in the Superior Court in Apache, Cochise, Graham, and La Paz Counties

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that, commencing January 1, 2019, attorneys are required to electronically file initiation and post-initiation civil case documents when filing into the Superior Court in Apache, Cochise, Graham, and La Paz Counties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the procedural requirements described in Administrative Order No. 2018-80 shall apply to all civil case documents e-filed in the Superior Court in Apache, Cochise, Graham, and La Paz Counties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, recognizing that a transition period will be necessary, absent good cause, effective February 1, 2019:

1. The Offices of the Clerks of Superior Court in Apache, Cochise, Graham, and La Paz Counties shall not accept civil case documents from attorneys on paper, unless the document is excluded under Administrative Order No. 2018-80, Section 2.
2. Documents not excluded from e-filing must be filed electronically unless an exception is granted, for good cause shown, by a judicial officer. A copy of the order granting the electronic filing exception must be provided to the clerk at the time of filing paper documents.
3. Any written motion and proposed order requesting an exception may be filed on paper.

4. Any rule that requires a written motion be served upon all opposing parties and that opposing parties be granted an opportunity to file and serve a response to the motion, shall not apply to motions filed requesting an exception to the mandatory e-filing requirements.
5. A judge or commissioner may initiate, permit, or consider ex parte communication with the attorney requesting an exception. Such communication between the attorney and the judicial officer must be limited to the reasons why an exception is necessary and must not involve the substance of the impending matter. Such ex parte communication shall be considered an exception to the prohibition against ex parte communication pursuant to Rule 81, Rules of the Supreme Court, Canon 2, Rule 2.9 (A)(5).

Dated this 21st day of November, 2018.

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SCOTT BALES  
Chief Justice