

**WYOMING JUDICIAL
BRANCH
EFILING REPORT**

**WYOMING SUPREME COURT
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Legislature directed the Supreme Court to report to the Joint Appropriations Committee and the Joint Judiciary Interim Committee by September 1, 2020 on: 1) progress on the implementation of eFiling, 2) status of all contracts with vendors engaged to implement eFiling, and 3) funding required before eFiling can be accomplished.¹

¹ 2020 Wyoming Session Law, Chapter 80, Section 101 (n.4).

SUPREME COURT

The appellate eFiling system was implemented in 2008. This system has become antiquated and requires a major upgrade. The Legislature authorized \$1.74M of general funds to update the system this biennium.

DISTRICT AND CHANCERY COURTS

1. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EFILING SYSTEMS

The Supreme Court sent a request for quotation for an eFiling system in district and chancery courts to potential vendors in June 2019. We received responses from four vendors by the end of July 2019. Of those four vendors, three were chosen to provide demonstrations of their systems. The Chief Justice created an ad hoc eFiling committee to evaluate the vendors representing a cross-section of future users:

Hon. Chief Justice Michael K. Davis

Hon. District Court Judge Jason Conder

Billie Addleman, Attorney

Tom Lubnau, Attorney

Josh Eames, Attorney

Devon Petersen, Attorney

Tracy Zubrod, Attorney

Marty Oblasser, Attorney and Chancery Court Project Manager

Diane Sanchez, Clerk of District Court

Mona McAuley, Clerk of District Court

Julie Babbitt, District Court Judicial Assistant

Tara France, Court Reporter

The vendor demonstrations occurred in September 2019 and the committee was given the opportunity to obtain training and test in each of the systems. The committee recommended File & ServeXpress, a Texas based company, as the vendor for eFiling in Wyoming. That recommendation was reviewed and approved by the Joint Court Automation Committee, and then on March 24, 2020, by the Supreme Court Justices, subject to negotiation of appropriate contract terms.

2. STATUS OF ALL CONTRACTS WITH VENDORS ENGAGED TO IMPLEMENT eFILING SYSTEMS

Contract negotiations are underway with File & ServeXpress. If agreeable terms are reached, a contract will be executed, and the implementation process will begin. Implementation of the eFiling system in district and chancery courts requires:

1. Configuration of the system with the assistance of the vendor, clerks of court, the Joint Court Automation Committee and the Office of Court Administration.
2. Creation of eFiling court rules and standards.
3. Clarification of statutes to clearly identify access by filers, judges, court staff, clerks, participants, and the public.

The tentative timeline for completion of the tasks to implement eFiling is shown below. eFiling activities, including configuration, migration and training, occur simultaneously with statutory and rule preparation undertaken by the Legislature and Judicial Branch.

ID	Task Name	Start	Finish	2020			2021				2022		
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
1	Complete Matrix	7/16/2020	3/31/2021										
2	Draft Committee Rules	4/1/2021	12/31/2021										
3	General Legislative Session	1/12/2021	3/12/2021										
4	Budget Legislative Session	2/8/2022	3/11/2022										
5	Bill Drafting	3/18/2021	12/31/2021										
6	Finalize Efiling Contract	7/16/2020	9/30/2020										
7	Finish Circuit Court FCE Roll Out	7/16/2020	3/31/2021										
8	Migrate District Court Data	7/16/2020	3/31/2021										
9	Establish Dist. Ct. Financial Migration	7/16/2020	3/31/2021										
10	Prepare FCE training curriculum	10/1/2020	3/31/2021										
11	Provide system training to Dist. Ct.	4/1/2021	5/31/2021										
12	District Court FCE Pilot - 1	6/1/2021	9/1/2021										
13	District Court FCE Pilot - 2	9/1/2021	11/30/2021										
14	District Court FCE Pilot - 3	1/3/2022	3/31/2022										
15	Efiling Pilot	4/1/2022	9/30/2022										

3. FUNDING REQUIRED BEFORE eFILING CAN BE IMPLEMENTED

The estimated cost to implement eFiling in district and chancery courts is \$2.1M. The Legislature appropriated \$2M of general funds in the 2020 Session for this purpose. Between this appropriation and funds that have been designated for eFiling from the prior biennium, no additional funding is necessary for implementation in district and chancery courts.

CIRCUIT COURTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought increased interest in eFiling in circuit courts. Consequently, the Supreme Court is investigating the possibility of initiating eFiling in circuit courts. Factors to be considered include additional cost and whether initiating eFiling in circuit courts can be accomplished without diverting time and resources needed for district and chancery courts eFiling.