Missoula County Media Release

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Sept. 17, 2018



Fourth Judicial Court Launches E-Filing System for Civil, Domestic Relations Cases

The Missoula County Clerk of District Court office recently launched an electronic filing and document management system for all civil and domestic-relations cases filed in the Fourth Judicial District Court, providing a more convenient and environmentally friendly option for the legal community.

Previously, when attorneys and other members of the legal community filed cases, they had to mail or hand-deliver hard copies to the Missoula County Courthouse. Now, they can simply log on to a <u>secure</u> <u>website</u> to file them, saving time and consumable resources. Attorneys also will be able to easily access their cases online after they're filed.

"The e-filing system has been in place for prosecutors filing criminal cases since the fall of 2016, and over the summer we worked hard to get a new case management system up and running to allow for e-filing in civil and domestic-relations cases as well," Clerk of District Court Shirley Faust said. "Law firms from all over the state file cases in our court, and we're happy to provide this streamlined service to the legal community."

The Fourth Judicial Court, which encompasses Missoula and Mineral counties, is a pilot site for the system, which will eventually be available statewide. By expanding the web-based system to include more cases, the Clerk of District Court office and legal community will save considerably on consumable resources, such as paper and printers, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability and responsible resource stewardship.

The system will eventually be available to pro se litigants (those representing themselves) as well.

For more information, visit https://courts.mt.gov/courts/efile, call Faust at 406-258-3513 or email sfaust@missoulacounty.us.

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As the official keeper of Missoula County District Court records, the Clerk of District Court files more than 5,000 new cases and issues over 800 new marriage licenses annually and retains records related to adoption, civil, criminal, dependent neglect, domestic relations, guardianship, juvenile, paternity, probate and involuntary commitment cases. It is the Clerk of Court's responsibility to ensure these records are as accurate and up-to-date as possible.