

2-20 e-filing questions submitted – Thanks!!

Key: [preliminary answers]

1. What happens if something is submitted for filing the day it is due, but does not actually get accepted & filed until after the due date?
2. Are client's actual signatures required on verified pleadings? [YES] Or are we allowed to use an e-signature for them? [NO] If an e-signature is allowed for client's verified pleadings - are we required to keep an actual signed document in our file in case anything was ever called into question later?
3. Will Judge's sign Order's in open court when Petition/ Motion hearings are held or will it just be a docket entry and we submit Orders at a later date?
4. For documents submitted for Judge's signature only (i.e. Memorandums of Judgment) - are we to receive them back via email? If Judge's elect to mail originals back after signed - will a fee be required for the mailing? [We don't]
5. Several counties have been placing a file stamp on Memorandum's of Judgment - even when instruction states that it is being submitted for Judge's signature only... is there a way to avoid the clerk's stamping on the section that the recorder requires for their stamp? [We don't]
6. Access to E-Filed Docs: Is there (or will there be) a way to see and/or print all e-filed pleadings/documents once we have entered into a case? (Presently, the Clerks' Office charges a fee for copies, but this should all be unnecessary if everything is done electronically now.)
7. Notice of E-Filed Docs: Is there (or will there be) a way to be notified when another party to one of our case files into that case? (This is how e-filing works on the federal level.)
8. Service on other parties of E-Filed Docs: Are paper copies still required to be sent to opposing counsel/ parties? Since everything is required to be e-filed and the filings are tied to an email account, are we able to just serve documents electronically? Is there - or will there be - a simple way to serve parties in case when e-filing a document?
9. In speaking with my secretary, it's a question more in comparison with other counties, but is a generic question. Apparently, Peoria County has a case portal, whereby once an attorney sets up an account and are entered into the case, you can click on any document that has been e-filed into the case and actually see it and print it for your records. There is no fee associated with it. I'm not aware of this being an option in McLean yet (which is certainly not to say that it is not already available), but it might be good to address if it will be possible in the future.