

TEXAS SUPREME COURT ADVISORY

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COURT ORDERS SCHEDULE FOR MANDATORY ELECTRONIC CIVIL FILINGS IN MOST TEXAS COURTS

The Supreme Court of Texas has ordered mandatory electronic filing for cases in the Supreme Court and for civil cases in the Texas courts of appeals by January 1, 2014.

The [order](#) also requires electronic filing in most of the state's trial-level courts to start on a graduated schedule by court population from January 2014 through July 2016. That part of the order will apply to district courts, statutory county courts, constitutional county courts and statutory probate courts:

- ¶ January 1, 2014, in counties with a population of 500,000 or more
- ¶ July 1, 2014, in counties with 200,000 to 499,999
- ¶ January 1, 2015, in counties with 100,000 to 199,999
- ¶ July 1, 2015, in counties with 50,000 to 99,999
- ¶ January 1, 2016, in counties with 20,000 to 49,999
- ¶ July 1, 2016, in counties with fewer than 20,000.

Once courts are subject to mandatory e-filing, attorneys must e-file all documents in civil cases, except documents exempted by Court rules, through TexFile, the portal provided by the Texas Office of Court Administration. Attorneys must not file documents by any alternative electronic means, including by facsimile, except in emergencies. Courts and clerks must not offer attorneys in civil cases any alternative electronic means to file documents.

Litigants acting without an attorney may file electronically, but e-filing is not required.

The order notes that courts or clerks who believe they cannot implement electronic filing by the effective date may petition the Supreme Court for an extension based on good cause.

[Order](#)