



CIVIL ELECTRONIC FILING (eFILING)

IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

Civil Superior and Foreclosure eFiling Counties implemented:

Chowan County
Wake County

Domestic Violence (DV) eFiling Counties implemented:

Alamance County
Brunswick County
Cumberland County
Davidson County
Durham County
Forsyth County
Guilford County
Onslow County
Orange County
Rowan County
Wake County

Approximately 10,548 DVPO complaint eFilings annually

North Carolina Business Court
13,766 eFilings annually

WHAT USERS ARE SAYING

Davidson County Clerk of Superior Court

"The use of domestic violence eFiling is better for the victims and gives the organizations like Family Services the ability to offer wrap around services to fully support them and their children. It has made for a smoother process for our citizens and the courts."

Wake County Assistant Clerk of Superior Court

"In addition to being cost effective, eFiling will bring our court to a level of technology equal to the private sector."

Chief District Court Judge, District 18

"Initially, the introduction of the eCourts system for domestic violence was challenging. However, now, two years later, we consider the system an invaluable part of the fabric of how domestic violence cases are processed in Guilford County."

Guilford County Domestic Violence Victim

"I had to go through this process before and it was so confusing. Being able to stay in one place makes such a huge difference! It is nowhere near as scary for me and my kids."



Civil electronic filing (eFiling) allows civil court documents to be filed electronically and applicable filing fees to be paid online via credit card or eCheck, court notices to be sent, and court information to be retrieved via the internet. Currently, civil superior, special proceeding foreclosure cases, complex business cases designated for the North Carolina Business Court, and complaints for domestic violence protective orders may be filed electronically. Electronic filers of civil superior cases and special proceeding foreclosure cases may file case data and pay associated filing fees online. Civil Superior and Foreclosure eFiling has been successfully implemented in Chowan and Wake counties.

The N.C. Business Court allows registered attorneys and pro se filers to securely file documents electronically at any time. Users may also access court documents, case histories, status notifications, and other information at any time. The web-based electronic filing system also provides public access to case information online.

A program for domestic violence filers further expanded North Carolina's use of eFiling. The system introduced an electronic process for the application of an ex parte domestic violence protective order, which starts and ends at a domestic violence service agency that is separate from the courthouse. The applicant files the petition, is heard by the judge, and receives signed orders and notification regarding service on the defendant all while they are in a secure, remote location. All matters are conducted electronically and through live video feeds with judges, clerks, and sheriff's deputies, while the applicant receives wraparound services from the domestic violence agency, such as safety planning, financial assistance, housing, and child care.

The system will send automated email and text messages to alert the proper parties as specific events occur in the case, such as service of the documents upon the defendant. Local law enforcement has the ability to access the system via laptops in their patrol cars or smartphones and view defendant identification forms, orders, and service documents. Sheriff's deputies and administrative assistants may print summonses, notices, and orders and enter data following service of these documents.

Alamance, Brunswick, Cumberland, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Onslow, Orange, Rowan, and Wake counties are fully operational with the domestic violence eFiling system. The system is expanding to additional counties with funding through a three-year grant from the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). Once implementation concludes in 2019, the system will be live in approximately 16 counties and serve more than half of the state's population.

ABOUT THE ELECTRONIC FILING BENEFITS

Electronic filing is faster and easier than manual filing. Cases are automatically added to the Civil Case Processing System (VCAP), thus saving clerks data entry time. The system improves data quality and accuracy by eliminating duplicate data entry and preventing lost or misplaced files.

Services	Brief Description
Civil Superior and Special Proceeding Foreclosure Cases	<p>North Carolina attorneys can file documents, pay filing fees, and view documents in any participating county without traveling to the courthouse. They can view opposing counsel's electronic submissions within minutes rather than waiting to receive mailed copies. Electronic filing reduces attorneys' expenses for courier services, mail, or other delivery methods. Filers can file and view documents nearly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and receive electronic notifications when a document is eFiled.</p> <p>Clerks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review documents online• Accept or deny filings online• Cases are added to VCAP automatically when filed <p>Filer / Attorneys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• eFile documents to the court• eFile nearly 24 hours a day• Pay filing fees online using a credit card or bank draft• Resubmit a returned filing• Save filing as a draft• View status of eFiling• View eFiled documents and notifications• View case history of eFiled events• View filing charges by month
Domestic Violence eFiling	<p>Advocates providing assistance to domestic violence victims can file complaints from a secure, remote location and obtain ex parte protective orders in a short amount of time. The automated routing of documents reduces the risk of physical harm to individuals seeking legal protection by eliminating opportunities for interaction between the victim and the perpetrator at the ex parte level, which is one of the most dangerous times during the process. Judges can view documents and sign orders quickly and more efficiently. Electronic versions of all service documents can be searched and accessed in the ECCDV system and, soon, NCAWARE by law enforcement officers to improve criminal justice responses to domestic violence matters, and generate safer outcomes for all involved.</p> <p>Clerks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review documents online• Accept or deny filings online• Cases are added to VCAP• Other documents in the system are auto-populated• Automatically issue and sign service documents <p>Filer / Advocates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• eFile documents to the court• Provide clients with wraparound services• Receive documents electronically• Receive notification of service via text or email• View status of eFiling• View eFiled documents and notifications• View case history of eFiled events <p>Judges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review case filings online• View case history of eFiled events• Grant or deny orders online• Sign orders online <p>Sheriff Deputies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• View service and orders online• Record service documents and orders online• View case history of eFiled events• Integration with NCAWARE <p>Other Law Enforcement (Police Officers and Magistrates)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integration with NCAWARE• View case history of eFiled events• View service efforts• Effectuate warrantless arrests more efficiently and effectively