

LOCAL CRIMINAL RULE 49.10
(Adopted effective March 1, 2004)

FILING AND SERVICE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

(a) General Information; Definitions

Pursuant to Rule 49(d) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Clerk will accept pleadings and other papers filed and signed by electronic means in accordance with this rule. All papers filed by electronic means must comply with technical standards, if any, now or hereafter established by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

This rule shall apply to all criminal actions filed November 3, 2003, and thereafter. The Court will maintain electronic case files for all criminal cases filed on and after that date. All documents, whether filed electronically or on paper, will be placed into the electronic case filing system. Electronic filing and service under this rule will be allowed in such cases on and after March 1, 2004.

As used in this rule, the term

- “ECF system” means the electronic case filing system maintained by this Court;
- “registered attorney” means an attorney who is authorized pursuant to Rule 49.10(b) to file documents electronically and to receive service on the ECF system;
- “charging document” means the complaint, indictment, information (or any superseding information or indictment) or other document by which charges are brought in a criminal case;
- “electronically filed document” means any order, opinion, judgment, pleading, notice, transcript, motion, brief or other paper (except a charging document) submitted electronically to the ECF system;
- “traditionally filed document” means a pleading or other paper submitted to the Clerk in paper form for filing;
- “NEF” means the Notice of Electronic Filing generated by the ECF system;
- “nonelectronic means of service” means one of the methods of service authorized by Rule 49(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 5(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, except electronic service under FED. R. CIV. P. 5(b)(2)(D).

(b) Attorney Training, Registration and Withdrawal of Registration

(i) The Clerk's Office will provide periodic training sessions on use of the ECF system. The Court will also provide on its Website an on-line tutorial demonstrating the use of the ECF system. Law firms are encouraged to have individuals responsible for electronic filing (attorney, paralegal or automation specialist) attend a live training session or use the on-line tutorial.

To use the ECF system, an attorney must be admitted to practice in this District, be a member in good standing, and have filed with the Clerk a completed ECF Attorney Registration form. In addition, the attorney or the attorney's firm must have a Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) account and an e-mail address. Detailed registration information is available on the Court's Website (www.miwd.uscourts.gov). Upon receipt of the ECF Attorney Registration form, the Court will issue a login name and a user password to qualified attorneys. All registered attorneys have an affirmative duty to inform the Clerk immediately of any change in their e-mail address. A registered attorney may not knowingly cause or allow another person to file a document using the attorney's login name and password, except for members of the attorney's staff. Authorized use of an attorney's login name and password by a staff member is deemed to be the act of the attorney. However, a registered attorney must not allow an unregistered attorney, even a member of the same firm, to use his or her login name and password. If a login name and/or password should become compromised, the attorney is responsible for notifying the ECF Help Desk immediately.

(ii) A registered attorney may withdraw registration by sending a letter with the attorney's original signature to the Clerk of the Court addressed as follows:

Attorney E-Filing Registration
399 Federal Building
110 Michigan St., N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Withdrawal of registration is complete when the Clerk removes the attorney's name from the ECF system.

(c) Charging Documents

The filing of charging documents must be accomplished in the traditional manner (not electronically). The United States Attorney, however, is strongly encouraged to accompany charging documents with a diskette or CD-ROM containing charging documents (bearing an image of any signature required by law) in portable document format (PDF), so that these documents can be added to the electronic case file. The Court may issue a summons or warrant electronically, but such process may be served only in accordance with Rule 4(c) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(d) Electronic Filing

(i) Filing. Registered attorneys may file pleadings and other papers permitted by the Federal Rules and the Local Rules of this Court (except charging documents) electronically in any criminal case without leave of Court, subject to the exceptions set forth below. All electronically filed documents must be in PDF digital format and must be submitted in accordance with the instructions set forth on the Court's Website in the User's Manual. Attorneys are strongly urged to accompany all traditionally filed documents with a diskette or CD ROM of their papers in PDF digital format, to facilitate adding the document to the electronic case file.

(ii) Papers That May Not Be Filed Electronically. The following documents may not be filed electronically, but must be submitted in paper form:

- (A) Documents filed under seal;
- (B) Documents containing the signature of a defendant;
- (C) Any document or attachment thereto exceeding 5MB in size.

(iii) Documents That May Be Filed Electronically if Accompanied by a Signed Original. The following documents may be filed electronically only if a signed original document is also filed and a copy served on all other parties:

- (A) Affidavits in support of or in opposition to a motion (affidavits of service may be filed electronically without filing a signed original);
- (B) Declarations under penalty of perjury;
- (C) Certified copies of judgments or orders of other Courts.

The electronically filed version of such documents must contain an "s/ _____" block indicating that the paper document bears an original signature.

(iv) Deadlines. Filing documents electronically does not in any way alter any filing deadlines. An electronically filed document is deemed filed upon completion of the transmission and issuance by the Court's system of an NEF. In situations where attachments to an electronically filed document are submitted in paper form, the electronic document is deemed filed upon issuance of the NEF, provided that the paper exhibits are filed and served within 72 hours thereof. In situations where Rule 49.10(d)(iii) requires filing of a signed, original document in addition to the electronic document, the document is deemed filed upon issuance of the NEF, provided that the signed original is filed within 72 hours thereof. All electronic transmissions of documents must be completed (i.e., received completely by the Clerk's Office) prior to midnight, Eastern Time, in order to be considered timely filed that day. Where a specific time of day deadline is set by Court order or stipulation, the electronic filing must be completed by that time.

(v) Technical Failures. The Clerk shall deem the Court's Website to be subject to a technical failure on a given day if the site is unable to accept filings continuously or intermittently over the course of any period of time greater than one hour after 12:00 noon (Eastern Time) that day, in which case, filings due that day which were not filed due solely to such technical failures shall become due the next business day. Such delayed filings must be accompanied by a declaration or affidavit attesting to the filer's failed attempts to file electronically at least two times after 12:00 noon separated by at least one hour on each day of delay because of such technical failure. The initial point of contact for any practitioner experiencing difficulty filing a document electronically shall be the ECF Help Desk, available via phone at (616) 456-2206 or (800) 290-2742, or via e-mail at ecfhelp@miwd.uscourts.gov.

(vi) Official Record; Discarding of Traditionally Filed Documents. For purposes of Rule 55 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the official record of all proceedings filed on and after November 3, 2003, is the electronic file maintained on the Court's ECF system. After a case is closed and all appeals of right are completed, the Clerk's Office will discard all traditionally filed documents, except those papers that may not be filed electronically pursuant to subsection (d)(ii) of this rule.

(vii) Exhibits and Attachments. Filers must not attach as an exhibit any pleading or other paper already on file with the Court, but shall merely refer to that document. All exhibits and attachments, whether filed electronically or traditionally, must contain on their face a prominent exhibit number or letter. Exhibits too large to be filed electronically may be submitted traditionally. If one or more attachments or exhibits to an electronically filed document are being submitted traditionally under this rule, the electronically filed document must contain a notice of that fact in its text. For example:

(Exhibits 1, 2 and 3 to this Motion are filed electronically; Exhibits 4 and 5 are filed in paper form pursuant to Local Criminal Rule 49.10(d)(vii)).

or

(All exhibits to this brief are filed in paper form pursuant to Local Criminal Rule 49.10(d)(vii)).

(e) Signature

(i) Attorneys. A registered attorney's use of the assigned login name and password to submit an electronically filed document serves as the registered attorney's signature on that document, for purposes of Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 and for all other purposes under the Federal Rules of Criminal and Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court. The identity of the registered attorney submitting the electronically filed document must be reflected at the end of the document

by means of an “s/ _____” block showing the attorney’s name, followed by the attorney’s business address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

(ii) Multiple Signatures. The filer of any electronically filed document requiring multiple signatures (e.g., stipulations, joint motions) must list thereon all the names of other signatories by means of an “s/ _____” block for each. By submitting such a document, the filer certifies that each of the other signatories has expressly agreed to the form and substance of the document and that the filer has their actual authority to submit the document electronically. The filer must maintain any records evidencing this concurrence for subsequent production to the Court if so ordered or for inspection upon request by a party until one year after the final resolution of the action (including appeal, if any). A non-filing signatory or party who disputes the authenticity of a signature on an electronically filed document must file an objection to the document within ten days after service of that document.

(iii) Court Reporters. The electronic filing of a transcript by a court reporter by use of the court reporter’s login name and password shall be deemed the filing of a signed and certified original document for all purposes.

(iv) Judges. The electronic filing of an opinion, order, warrant, judgment or other document by a judge (or authorized member of the judge’s staff) by use of the judge’s login and password shall be deemed the filing of a signed original document for all purposes.

(v) Clerk of Court or Deputy Clerks. The electronic filing of any document by the Clerk of Court or by a Deputy Clerk by use of that individual’s login and password shall be deemed the filing of a signed original document for all purposes.

(vi) Probation Office and Office of the U.S. Marshal. The Probation Office and Office of the United States Marshal for this district are authorized to file and serve documents electronically. The electronic filing of any document by the Probation Office and Office of the United States Marshal by use of the assigned login and password shall be deemed the filing of a signed original document for all purposes.

(vii) Signature of Defendant. Documents containing the original signature of the defendant may not be filed electronically. They must be submitted either in paper form or as a scanned PDF document containing the image of defendant’s manuscript signature.

(f) Proposed Pleadings

If the filing of an electronically submitted document requires leave of Court, such as a brief in excess of page limits, the proposed document must be attached as an exhibit to the motion seeking leave to file. If the Court grants leave to file the document, the Clerk of Court will electronically file the document without further action by the attorney.

(g) Proposed Orders

Proposed orders may be submitted electronically or in paper form. All proposed orders submitted electronically must be in PDF format and must be: (1) attached as an exhibit to a motion or stipulation; or (2) contained within the body of a stipulation; or (3) submitted separately. If the Judge approves the proposed order, it will be refiled electronically under a separate document number.

(h) Service of Electronically Filed Documents

(i) Summons and Warrants. Service of warrants and summons must be made in accordance with FED. R. CRIM. P. 4(c) and may not be made electronically.

(ii) Service on Registered Attorneys. By registering under this rule, an attorney automatically consents to electronic service by both the Court and any opposing attorney of any electronically filed document in any case in which the registered attorney appears. Consequently, service of an electronically filed document upon a registered attorney is deemed complete upon the transmission of an NEF to that attorney under subsection (h)(iv) of this rule. Traditionally filed documents must be served on registered attorneys by nonelectronic means of service, and a proof of service filed.

(iii) Service on Unregistered Attorneys and Pro Se Parties. Counsel filing any pleading or other paper must serve attorneys not registered under this rule and *pro se* parties by nonelectronic means of service, and a proof of service filed.

(iv) Method of Electronic Service. At the time a document is filed either electronically or by scanning paper submissions, the Court's system will generate an NEF, which will be transmitted by e-mail to the filer and all registered attorneys who have appeared on that case. The NEF will contain a hyperlink to the filed document. The attorney filing the document should retain a paper or digital copy of the NEF, which serves as the Court's date-stamp and proof of filing. Transmission of the NEF to the registered e-mail address constitutes service of an electronically filed document upon any registered attorney. Only service of the NEF by the Court's system constitutes electronic service; transmission of a document by one party to another by regular e-mail does not constitute service.

(v) Effect on Time Computation. Electronic service under this rule is complete upon transmission. The additional three (3) days to do an act or take a proceeding after service of a document applies when service is made electronically, by virtue of FED. R. CRIM. P. 45(c).

(i) Court Orders and Judgments

Judgments and orders may be filed electronically by the Court or authorized Court personnel. Any order or other Court-issued document filed electronically without the image of the manuscript signature of the judge or clerk has the same force and effect as a document bearing an original signature. Upon entry of an order or judgment in a criminal proceeding, the clerk will transmit an NEF to all registered attorneys. Such transmission constitutes the notice to registered attorneys required by FED. R. CRIM. P. 49(c). The clerk will provide notice to attorneys not registered under this rule and *pro se* parties by nonelectronic means of service.

(j) Access To Electronically Stored Documents

Any person may review at the Clerk's Office filings in a criminal case that have not been sealed by the Court. Any person may retrieve a docket sheet in a criminal case through the PACER system, but only registered attorneys who are counsel of record may access the text of documents stored electronically in a criminal case. In no event may any person (except the Court and its personnel) access electronically the text of transcripts or sealed documents. The Court may modify or restrict electronic access to documents by future order in conformity with resolutions of the Judicial Conference of the United States. The provisions of Local Civil Rule 10.7 concerning privacy apply to all electronically stored documents.

(k) Facsimile Transmissions

The Clerk will not accept for filing any pleading or other paper submitted by facsimile transmission.