



MiFILE – Backgrounder • February, 2021

**Purpose**

- For FILERS: Significantly improve customer service and cut user costs by allowing case filing anytime from anywhere with a consistent user experience regardless of jurisdiction or case type.
- For COURTS: Achieve the biggest advancement in efficient court administration in a generation by dramatically reducing the need to process and manage paper files.
- For BOTH: Allow filers and courts to share documents through a central backbone.

**Courts on MiFILE**

*Pilot Courts*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit – Wayne\*
- 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit – Oakland\*
- 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit – Antrim / Grand Traverse / Leelanau\*
- 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit – Macomb\*
- 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit – Ottawa\*

*Model Courts*

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit – Washtenaw
- 37<sup>th</sup> District – Macomb, Warren
- 70<sup>th</sup> Probate – Ottawa

**Timeline**

- 2015 National Center for State Courts recommends statewide e-filing system with integrated electronic document management systems (EDMS). SCAO, state bar, and key stakeholders develop plan approved by legislature and governor.
- 2016 Legislation authorizing MiFILE takes effect January 1 and collection of new \$25 Electronic Filing System (EFS) fee begins March 1. Procurement process results in detailed RFP with more than 400 requirements.
- 2017 Following extensive review and demonstrations for stakeholders, a vendor was chosen as the statewide e-filing service provider. Pilot courts begin transition to MiFILE 1.0.
- 2018 Pilot courts complete transition. Circuit, district, and model courts chosen to develop and test MiFILE 2.0 that will be implemented statewide.
- 2019 Model courts go live in October. Pilot and model courts reach 2 million filings in December.
- 2020 Delayed all releases due to COVID-19 to maximize system stability and minimize disruption to courts.
- 2021 Based on experiences of model courts, revised rollout plans, and surveyed courts to identify initial candidates ready to implement MiFILE. User testing of MiFILE 2.0 and document management system development. Planned focus is implementing a series of probate courts expected to go online by end of year.
- 2022 - 50 to 75 additional court locations annually, implemented based on resource availability and court capabilities.

**FACT: There is no additional fee for using MiFILE. Filers pay the standard filing fees as authorized by the Legislature in any court regardless of whether they use MiFILE.**

**FACT: Local court clerks will not be able to charge their own fees.**

**Important Funding Considerations Going Forward**

- An additional \$1.5 million annually over three years (2022 through 2024) would speed MiFILE implementation and, as a result, 90+ percent of courts would be on the MiFILE system.
- Implementation of MiFILE is linked to transitioning courts to a modern, agile case management system that is flexible and more easily updated. SCAO estimates that an additional \$3.245 million is needed to accelerate completion of this project.