

Memorandum

STATE OF WISCONSIN
SUPREME COURT



DATE: February 17, 2016
TO: Rule Petition 14-03 file
FROM: Shirley S. Abrahamson
SUBJECT: E-filing fees information

Attached for filing as a comment to Rule Petition 14-03 is the text of an e-mail I received from Richard Schauffler, Director of Research Services at the National Center for State Courts, in response to my request for information about e-filing fees in state courts.

In response to your recent inquiry regarding e-filing fees in the state courts, data provided by the Administrative Office of the Court/Supreme Court and/or on the public web sites of the state courts from the following states indicates that these states, which have a statewide e-filing system, do not charge fees (except as indicated for Minnesota):

Examples of no-fee states include:

Alabama: No fee

Florida: No Fee

Kansas: No Fee

Illinois (civil, criminal, traffic) No Fee

Minnesota: \$2 Technology Fee

Missouri: No fee

Nebraska: No fee

New Jersey: No fee

North Dakota: No fee

Texas: No fee

Utah: No Fee

Policy discussions among state court leaders suggest there are several reasons states have adopted this approach: a) e-filing saves money for the courts for not handling, managing and storing paper; b) e-filing is part of providing increased access to justice and improved service to litigants; and c) to encourage the adoption of e-filing where it is not mandatory. A number of states are making e-filing mandatory in order to achieve the efficiencies and savings it allows). In states where there is no statewide e-filing tool and the individual courts do not provide their own e-filing software solution, vendors may charge fees, but these are fees paid to the vendor, not the court. In those states, some courts may charge convenience fees in addition to the vendor charges.

Richard Schauffler

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