

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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SF SUPERIOR COURT EXPANDS E-FILING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS AND PETITIONS

SAN FRANCISCO -- The San Francisco Superior Court is expanding its e-filing program to include new Requests for Domestic Violence Restraining Orders in FDV cases and new Petitions to Determine Parental Relationship in FPT cases, as well as subsequent filings in both respective caseloads in the Unified Family Court.

The new e-filing access expansion will become available **effective January 3, 2023**. The court will permit such requests / petitions and any filings related to those requests / petitions to be submitted electronically during and after normal business hours. The deadlines applicable to any action taken by the court with respect to such petitions / requests, filed directly with the court shall apply to any action taken with respect to such petitions / requests submitted electronically.

In recognition of the change inherent in expanding its e-filing requirements for all FDV and FPT case types, the court has selected File & ServeXpress to provide litigants and/or attorneys with the ability to electronically submit new and subsequent filings in all FDV and FPT case types in Unified Family Court.

*All other Family Law cases **that are not** FDI, FDV or FPT cases, new and subsequent filings will continue to be filed in paper form or “conventionally”.*

Electronic filing (e-filing) is not mandatory for self-represented litigants and non-parties.

Upon the Court's acceptance of a new e-filing, a case number will be assigned, and e-filers will be notified by receiving a vendor receipt.

E-filing rules are contained in San Francisco Superior Court local rule 2.11. File & ServeXpress (formerly LexisNexis), which has served as the Court's e-filing vendor for more than 20 years in Asbestos, Complex Litigation and Probate Trust and Estate cases and Misdemeanor Appeals, will continue to serve as the vendor for the program's expansion. File & ServeXpress also will remain as the agent of the Clerk to collect statutory filing fees.

File & ServeXpress will provide free training to law firms on the e-filing system and services; and will also provide free technical support to registered users. More information is available at :

www.fileandservexpress.com/san-francisco-superior-court/

The FDV and FPT **e-filing expansion** is a key element of the Court's Electronic Information Management (EIM) project, managed by Chief Operations Officer Wayne Parinas along with Court Manager Frances Yokota and overseen by Interim Court Executive Officer Mark Culkins.

This phase of the project, which began in June 2022, is aligned to the Court's strategic plan and aims to use technology to improve service to the public, expand access, and become “environmentally efficient” by reducing the use of paper.

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