



# ELECTRONIC FILING- THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

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# The Panel

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# Benefits of electronic filing

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Faster – don't need to mail documents to the court

Cheaper- no postage and copying charges

More time to file (11:59 P.M. instead of 4:59 P.M.)

Convenience- pay by credit card- no need for checks

Public has access to court documents

# Drawbacks of electronic filing

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Technical glitches- could affect statute of limitations

Clerks, practitioners and judges not computer savvy

Not all courts are online or different courts are using different systems in the same state

Courts on different systems can't "talk" to each other

Challenges in filing nonstandard document (e.g. legal size)

# Minnesota & Wisconsin - the Good

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Minnesota and Wisconsin Courts finally have a unified statewide electronic filing systems.

**Minnesota:** As of July 1, 2016, the use of eFile and eServe (eFS) System is mandatory for attorneys in all court cases filed in all 87 Minnesota counties.

**Wisconsin:** Also beginning July 1, 2016, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered the mandatory use of the electronic filing system for all Circuit Court cases. I expanded to the WI Court of Appeals and Supreme Court in 2020.

Both MN & WI have resources such as guides and video training for the use of the e-filing systems.

# Minnesota & Wisconsin – the Good

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Some benefits to both systems:

- Service of Motions and Discovery
- No paper
- Electronic Signatures
- Ability to adapt to remote practice when necessary – COVID
- Relatively quick (Courts are struggling in some counties due to COVID and staffing)

# MN – Accessing and viewing existing case

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## Minnesota Public Access (MPA) Remote

Minnesota Public Access (MPA) Remote offers access to case information via the internet for certain court records in the Minnesota Court Information System (MNCIS). The information is limited as described in the [MN Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch](#).

Court documents cannot be viewed in MPA Remote.

## Minnesota Court Records Online (MCRO)

MCRO will eventually replace MPA Remote as the online platform for public access to district court records. MPA Remote will continue to be fully accessible to the public until all three phases of the MCRO rollout are complete.

Currently, in Phase 2: A Case Search tab allows users to search for cases by person name, business name, attorney name, case number, citation number, or attorney bar number. Case Search provides access to a Register of Actions (case details) for each case, as well as public documents filed in each case. The Document Search tab continues to be available, where users can search by case number to find documents in cases that are available online. While there is no charge for documents at this time, when MCRO is fully implemented, there will be a charge per document.

# WI – Accessing and viewing existing case

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## Wisconsin Circuit Court Access

The WCCA website provides access to certain public records of the Wisconsin circuit courts. The information displayed is an exact copy of the case information entered into the circuit court case management system by court staff in the counties where the case files are located. The court record summaries viewed here are all public records under Wisconsin open records law.

The data available on the WCCA website is limited:

Each county began using the circuit court case management system at different times and made independent decisions about the conversion or backloading of old cases. Converted cases may display less information.

The official judgment and lien docket is located in the office of the clerk of circuit court for each county. Although WCCA is not the official judgment and lien docket, it does accurately reflect the information entered into the circuit court case management system for that purpose.



# Michigan- the Bad

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# Massachusetts- the Ugly

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**Draft # 979894**

**Case Information**

Location: BMC - Central

Category: Civil      Case Type: Money Action - District Court/BMC ...

Lower Court/Agency: Click to select Low...      Lower Court/Agency Case #: Optional. Enter the lower c...      Short Title: Optional. Enter the lower c...

Undo    Save Changes

**Party Information**

Party Type	Party Name	Lead Attorney	
Plaintiff	John Q Plaintiff	John Postl	Required Party
Defendant	Mary J. Defendant		Required Party

+ Add Another Party

**Filings**

Filing Code	Client Ref #	Filing Description	
E-File complaint filed.			Actions
Statement of damages filed by Pl...			Actions

+ Add Another Filing

**Service Contacts**

Serve	Name	Email	
▶	Party: John Q Plaintiff - Plaintiff		Actions
▶	Party: Mary J. Defendant - Defendant		Actions
▶	Other Service Contacts		Actions

# Filing a new case

Fees Need Help?

▼ E-File complaint filed.

Description	Amount
Filing Fee	\$0.00
Filing Total: \$0.00	

▼ Statement of damages filed by Plaintiff alleging contract action for damages of more than \$25000.

Description	Amount
Filing Fee	\$0.00
Summons	\$5.00
Filing Total: \$5.00	

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Total Filing Fee	\$5.00
Court Case Fee	\$195.00
E-File Fee	\$22.00
Envelope Total: \$222.00	

Payment Account ?

Click to select Payment Account

Party Responsible for Fees ?

Click to select Party Responsible for Fees

Filing Attorney

Click to select Filing Attorney

Undo Save Changes

Submission Agreements

Pursuant to Supreme Judicial Court Rule 1:24, when filing documents with the court, the filer is responsible for redacting personal identifying information. The clerk will not review each filed document for compliance. Personal identifying information is defined as: a social security number, taxpayer identification number, driver's license number, state-issued identification card number, or passport number, a parent's birth surname if identified as such, a financial account number, or a credit or debit card number. "Redacted" shall mean a filing that either does not include complete personal identifying information or has portions of such information whited or blacked out so they are not readable. Please review the rule for details on redaction and for general and specific exceptions to the rule. <http://www.mass.gov/courts/case-legal-res/rules-of-court/sjcr124.html>

NOTE: Filers are advised that if they use E-File and Serve for initial case filings on opposing counsel's agreement to accept service or otherwise, Filer still must perfect personal service on a defendant/respondent in the regular manner where such service is required by statute or rule.

Save as Draft Summary

# Filing into existing case

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### Case Information Need Help?

<b>Location</b> Superior Court - Suffolk	<b>Category</b> Torts	<b>Case Type</b> Other Negligence - Personal Injury / Property Damage
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**Case #**  
2184CV01541

### Party Information Need Help?

Party Type	Party Name	Lead Attorney
Plaintiff	Alexander Noren	
Defendant	Lacerda And Company Mason...	
Plaintiff	John A. Noren	
Plaintiff	Diana H. Noren	
Defendant	Bradford Clark	

### Fillings Need Help?

Enter the details for this filing

**Filing Type** ? **Filing Code**

EFileAndServe

**Filing Description**

Optional: Enter the name of the document you are filing

**Client Reference Number** ? **Comments to Court** ?

Optional: Enter your client billing code or firm tracking number if appl

**Courtesy Copies**

Optional: Enter a list of email addresses sep

**Filing on Behalf of**

Select the parties you are filing on behalf of

Undo Save Changes

### Fees

**Payment Account** ?

# Accessing existing court case

John Post Home Search Results Calendar Cases Log off

**2184CV01541 Noren, Alexander et al vs. Lacerda And Company Masonry, Inc. et al**

Case Type: Torts      Initiating Action: Other Negligence - Personal Injury / Property Damage  
Case Status: Open      Status Date: 07/07/2021  
File Date: 07/07/2021      Case Judge:  
DCM Track: F - Fast Track      Next Event:

[All Information](#) [Party](#) [Tickler](#) [Docket](#) [Disposition](#)

### Party Information

**Noren, Alexander - Plaintiff**

Alias	Party Attorney
	Attorney Postl, Esq., John O
	Bar Code 567729
	Address John Postl, P.C. 21 Major Thomas J McGrath Highway Suite 404 Quincy, MA 02169
	Phone Number (617)423-6400

[More Party Information](#)

**Noren, John A. - Plaintiff**

Alias	Party Attorney
	Attorney Postl, Esq., John O
	Bar Code 567729
	Address John Postl, P.C. 21 Major Thomas J McGrath Highway Suite 404 Quincy, MA 02169
	Phone Number (617)423-6400

[More Party Information](#)

**Noren, Diana H. - Plaintiff**

Alias	Party Attorney
	Attorney Postl, Esq., John O
	Bar Code 567729
	Address John Postl, P.C. 21 Major Thomas J McGrath Highway Suite 404 Quincy, MA 02169
	Phone Number (617)423-6400

[More Party Information](#)

**Lacerda And Company Masonry, Inc. - Defendant**

Alias	Party Attorney
	Attorney Reiling, Esq., Richard B
	Bar Code 632603
	Address Bolstone I Reiling 63 Atlantic Ave 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02110
	Phone Number (617)412-4291

[More Party Information](#)

**Clark, Bradford - Defendant**

Alias	Party Attorney
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[More Party Information](#)

# Viewing court documents online

**Massachusetts Trial Court Electronic Case Access**

John Post | Home | Search | Results | Calendar | Cases | Log Out

**2184CV01541 Noren, Alexander et al vs. Lacerda And Company Masonry, Inc. et al**

Party Attorney  
 Attorney: **Reiling, Esq., Richard B**  
 Bar Code: **629201**  
 Address: **Boston 1 Reiling**  
**63 Atlantic Ave**  
**3rd Floor**  
**Boston, MA 02110**  
 Phone Number: **(617)412-4291**

Clark, Bradford - Defendant

Party Attorney

**Ticklers**

Tickler	Start Date	Due Date	Days Due	Completed Date
Service	07/07/2021	10/05/2021	90	
Answer	07/07/2021	11/04/2021	120	
Rule 1219/20 Served By	07/07/2021	11/04/2021	120	
Rule 1219/20 Filed By	07/07/2021	12/06/2021	152	
Rule 1219/20 Heard By	07/07/2021	01/03/2022	180	
Rule 15 Served By	07/07/2021	11/04/2021	120	
Rule 15 Filed By	07/07/2021	12/06/2021	152	
Rule 15 Heard By	07/07/2021	01/03/2022	180	
Discovery	07/07/2021	05/03/2022	300	
Rule 56 Served By	07/07/2021	08/02/2022	330	
Rule 56 Filed By	07/07/2021	07/04/2022	362	
Final Pre-Trial Conference	07/07/2021	10/31/2022	481	
Judgment	07/07/2021	07/07/2023	730	

**Docket Information**

Docket Date	Docket Text	File Ref Num.	Image Avail.
07/07/2021	Civil action cover sheet filed.	2	10300
07/07/2021	Complaint electronically filed.	1	10300
07/08/2021	Case assigned to: DCJ Trial F - Fast Track was added on 07/08/2021		
07/08/2021	Notice of 93A complaint sent to Attorney General		10300
08/27/2021	Amended: original complaint filed by Alexander Noren, John A. Noren, Diana H. Noren	3	10300
10/04/2021	Service Returned for Defendant Lacerda And Company Masonry, Inc. Service through person in charge / agent.	4	10300
10/13/2021	Service Returned for Defendant Clark, Bradford. Service made at last and usual. (Filed on 10/12/2021)	5	10300
10/28/2021	Plaintiff Alexander Noren, John A. Noren, Diana H. Noren's Request for Entry of Default	6	10300
12/15/2021	Answer to amended complaint	7	10300
12/15/2021	Applies To: Lacerda And Company Masonry, Inc. (Defendant); Clark, Bradford (Defendant) Applies To: Lacerda And Company Masonry, Inc. (Defendant) Attorney appearance On this date Richard B Reiling, Esq. added for Defendant Lacerda And Company Masonry, Inc.		

**Case Disposition**

Disposition	Date	Case Judge
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# Other issues with electronic filing

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Recovery of e-filing “convenience fees”

Redaction of documents to be filed online

General IT security procedures

Use of e-file by staff/ non-lawyers

Uploading of large documents/ exhibits

Handing of original documents (summonses, writs, promissory notes)

Questions?

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