Electronic Document Management System



Appellate Guide to Electronic Filing



Appellate eFile – User Guide

Topic Overview

The eFile training session includes the following topics:

Steps when eFiling	
Prepare Documents	1
Registering for an eFile Account	2
Forgot Your Password	5
Support Contact Information	
Home Screen	
Menu Options	
Home Page Buttons	8
New Case	s
Credit Card Payment Process	16
Existing Case	19
File on an Existing Case	
Adding a Document	
My Filings	22
Resubmit a Returned Filing	
Draft Filings	24
Cases	26
My Cases	
Page Display	
Search Fields	
Inactive Cases	28
Delete a Case	29
Notifications	30
Filing Charges	33
My Profile	33
My Profile	
Modify User Profile	35
Change Password	35
Withdraw from EDMS	36
Login History	20



Steps when eFiling

- 1. Prepare the necessary documents.
- 2. Login to eFile.
- 3. Select New Case.
- 4. Select a Case Type.
- 5. Enter case information.
- 6. Add the case parties
- 7. Add documents.
- 8. Review the new filing and enter payment information,
- 9. Submit the filing

Prepare Documents

Before initiating a case, you should prepare all necessary documents in PDF format.

Create Documents – When creating PDF documents for eFiling, utilize standard fonts (Times New Roman or Arial are the most common).

Document Size – There is a 50 MB limit per document. Multiple documents can be submitted per case. The submission size limit is 150 MB.

Document Format – Any filing requiring a signature must be signed, with either an actual signature, the symbol "/s/", or a digitized signature per Chapter 16 rules (rules regarding electronic filing). The following information about the person signing the filing, if applicable, must be typewritten or printed under the person's signature -

/s/Name Law Firm Mailing Address Phone Number Email Address

Paper Exhibits – Scanning – At times paper documents will need to be included with a case – such as a copy of a contract, a copy of a bounced check, or some other item. These items must be scanned in as an accepted electronic format to eFile them. This can be done utilizing a scanner. Court requirements should be reviewed for information on file size, color, and resolution. Most courts will reject a submission if images are larger than 1 MB per page. Blackand-white scans with the resolution set to 200 dpi create pages that are 25-40 KB in size. Using color adds to the size of the file. Only use color when it is a vital element of the exhibit.

Note! A 100-page document without images or graphs that has been saved in PDF format in black and white is about 1 MB in size.



Registering for an eFile Account

If you have already registered for an account in either the District or Appellate Court System, you do not need to register again. If you have forgotten your username, contact the Technical Help Desk.

- 1. Open a web browser (not illustrated).
- 2. Enter the following URL https://www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/Efile or via the link provided on the Judicial Branch homepage.
- 3. Click **Request Account** If you have previously registered, even in the district court system, go to: 'Logging into an eFile Account'.



4. Read and review the **User Agreement**. Read and review Chapter 16: lowa Rules of Electronic Procedure.



5. Click the acceptance radio button to acknowledge the User Agreement and Chapter 16 Rules.



- 6. Click Submit.
- 7. Select a User Role.

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lowa Attorney – An attorney with an AT PIN who is licensed to practice in lowa.

Government Agency – The non-lawyer staff for an agency such as Department of Public Safety, Department of Transportation, Department of Human Services.

Pro Hac Vice – An attorney not licensed to practice law in Iowa who is admitted to practice on a case under the sponsorship of a licensed Iowa attorney.

Registered Filer – A registered party or self-represented litigant not filing on behalf of a company or association.



Specialized Non-Party Filers – A non-lawyer who files documents on multiple cases but is not a party, such as a process server, health service provider, or bail bonds agent.

Agent - An officer, employee, or non-lawyer representative of a partnership, association, corporation, or Tribe who is authorized by lowa code to represent that entity, for example an employee of a property management company or a collector at a financial institution.

8. Click Next.

Note! Registered filers skip steps 9 and 10. Continue to step 11.

Select Existing and scroll through and select the desired organization. If the desired organization is not listed, click New and type the Company Name.



10. Click Next.



11. Complete the required fields to set up a User Account.

User Name - select a unique user name. This is used to log into the eFile system.

Password - choose a password that is at least 4 characters long

AT PIN - attorney's unique Personal Identification Number assigned by the Office of Professional Regulation. Include a capital AT prior to the numbers.

ICIS ID - For those eFile user accounts that request the ICIS ID, leave this field blank if this information is unknown.

Email - this address is used to receive courtesy notifications.

Alternate Email – include additional addresses to receive notifications

Address - My Company's Address will display for existing organizations. A new organization will need to enter the information



12. Click Submit.

13. A confirmation page will display for the requested User Account. Click ${\bf OK}$.





Note! An email confirmation is sent to the registered email address when the registration has been approved.

Note! If an Attorney PIN and last name entered during the registration process is accurate, the account request is automatically approved and immediate access to the eFile system is available.

Logging into an eFile Account

- 1. Log into Appelate Court Filer's Interface at https://www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/acp, and enter the **User Name** and **Password** just registered.
- 2. Click Log In.



Forgot Your Password

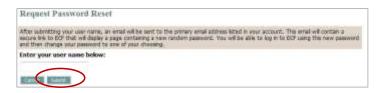
1. Click Forgot Your Password?



2. Type in the User Name.



3. Click Submit.



- 4. After submitting the user name, an email is sent to the primary email address listed in the account. This email will contain a secure link that will display a page containing a new random password.
- 5. Return to the **Log In** page, and enter the **User Name** and **Temporary Password** just assigned.
- 6. Click Log In.



Note! Passwords can be reused.



Support Contact Information

For technical problems or questions regarding eFiling, contact the Technical Help Desk. Find the number by using the support link on the eFiling website.





Home Screen

Note! The Home Page buttons may change dependent on which role is selected when setting up the account.





Menu Options

Home – This is a link to return to the home screen of eFiling.

eFile – Four types of eFile options are available: New Case, Existing Cases, My Filings, and Draft Filings.

Cases – Contains entries for My Cases, Notifications, and Filing Charges.

My Profile – Links to edit My Profile, Change Password, and Login History.

Log Out –This link will end the current session.

Note! A session will terminate automatically if there is no activity on the webpage for 20 minutes. A session is considered active as long as there is interaction with the web server.

Home Page Buttons

Six action buttons are easily accessible from the home page – New Case, Existing Case, Status, My Cases, and Notifications.



New Case – Initiate a new case

Existing Case – File subsequent document to existing case

Status - Check the status of your filings

My Cases – List of my electronic cases

Notifications – Review electronic notifications

District – Go to District Court Filing System



New Case

Initiate a case by clicking the New Case Button. The main types of cases to create are Appeals from District Court, Attorney Disciplinary Board, Grievance, or Other.

**Important Note! If you are filing an Appeal from District Court, you are still required to file the Notice of Appeal with the District Court as well.

Tip! Click Move to Draft to save a case to finish at a later time.

Important! All documents should be created or scanned prior to accessing or starting an eFile case.

1. Click New Case.



2. Select the Case Type.





- 3. Complete the following fields:
 - a. Appeals from District Court
 - Enter Filer Reference No. (optional) Number used for tracking within your organization.
 - ii. Select County Select the county of the trial court case.
 - iii. Enter Case Number Enter the trial court case number.



iv. Click Add a Case.

Note! If a county is electronic, the system will pull in party information from the trial court case. Follow the directions below to add additional parties as needed.

- v. Enter a Judgment Date.
- vi. Select the Trial Judge.



- b. Attorney Disciplinary Board, Grievance, or Judicial Qualification Commission:
 - Enter Filer Reference No. (optional) Number used for tracking within your organization.
 - ii. Enter Attorney Disciplinary Board Case Number(s).
 - iii. Click Add a Case.





- 4. Add Case Parties.
 - a. To add parties to the Appellant side, click Add My Parties.
 - b. To add parties to the Appellee side, click Add Other Parties.



Note! To delete a party entered in error, click the red X in front of the party's name.

Note! The **Add a Party (Add Other Parties) data page** defaults to **Person**. When entering in a company's data, select the Business radio button.

Note! The **Party Type** defaults to Appellant and Appellee. For those case types that use additional roles, select the drop-down menu to select other party roles.

Enter Party Information. Fields with an asterisk are required. Enter as much information as you have.





6. Once all party data is complete, click Next.



7. Once all parties have been added, click Next.



8. Select a **Document Category** for the type of document to be added to the case.

Note! If unsure of what category to select, leave this field blank.

9. Select a **Document Type**.

Note! Use the drop down to select the document or type the name of the document in this field to locate the **Document Type**.

Note! Additional Text – This additional text helps the clerk, judge, or other participants understand more about the document.



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- 10. If your document is public, skip to the next step, If If your document should not be a publicly viewed document,
 - a. Check Filed under order to restrict access or Confidential.



- b. Enter the Date of order to restrict access and Comment on Rule you are using.
- 11. Click Browse.
- 12. Locate the document to attach.
- 13. Click Open in the system window (not illustrated).
- 14. Click Add.



Tip! If a document has been added in error, click the icon in the **Remove** column to delete the document.

- 15. Click the **File Name** in the View Document column to review the document loaded properly.
- 16. Repeat this process to add additional documents.

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17. Click Next.



Note! Your submitted document(s) will receive a file stamp with the time they were submitted by you (when they hit our server).

Note! There is a 150 MB limit per submission (multiple documents may be in one submission). Multiple documents can be submitted per case. Submissions that exceed 150 MB may be submitted in parts to meet the size requirements. Select the category **Attachment** to add parceled documents.

Protected Information Note! It is your responsibility to ensure, according to the Chapter 16 rules, that Protected Information is omitted or redacted from documents before the documents are filed. The Clerk of Court will not review filings to determine whether appropriate omissions or redactions have been made.

Tip! If a document has been added in error, click the icon in the Remove column to delete the document.

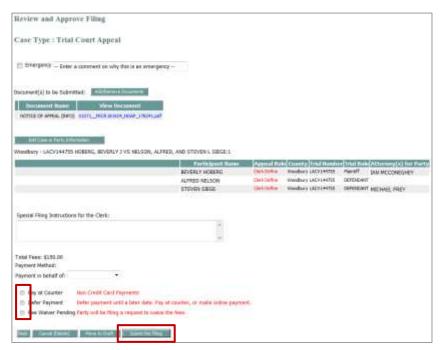
Note! Click Move to Draft to save this filing to complete at a later time.

- 18. **Review the filing** information. Verify the information (Case Data, Documents, and Parties) that has been added to the case.
- 19. **Check the emergency box** if your filing needs immediate attention. *You are required to enter a reason* for the emergency in the Comment Box.
- 20. Type any Special Filing Instructions for the Clerk.
- 21. Select Payment Method if applicable.

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22. Click Submit the Filing.





Credit Card Payment Process

When selecting to pay by credit card, follow this process.

- 1. Select Pay by Credit Card.
- 2. Select the **Party** you are paying in behalf of.



- 3. Click Submit the Filing.
- 4. Verify and Complete the Payment and Contact Information.



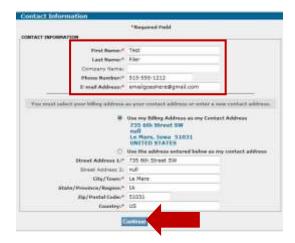
- 5. Complete the **Payment Method** section.
- 6. Verify the Card Billing Address.



7. Click Continue.



- 8. Verify the **Contact Information**.
- 9. The billing information will also be displayed. Make any changes as necessary.
- 10. Click Continue.



- 11. The Review Payment page will display all entered data. **Verify the email** to receive payment information.
- 12. Verify all information entered.
- 13. Click Confirm.





14. The Payment Confirmation will display. This information will also be sent via email to the account listed in step 8.





Existing Case

After a case has been initiated or converted to electronic format, a registered party will file subsequent documents to that case electronically.

Note! Prepare documents prior to accessing an existing case.

File on an Existing Case

1. Click Existing Case.



- 2. Enter the Appellate Case Number.
- 3. Type the Participant's Last Name.



4. Click File on this case.

Note! Cases where you are an active litigant will display at the bottom the Existing Case screen. You may click the Title of the case to file on that case.

Note! For those cases that you are a registered party to the case, click **Search My Cases** to locate a case not displayed on the page.

Adding a Document

Documents can be added to any existing case(s). The Case Number will display in a yellow banner for existing cases.

1. Select a **Document Category** for the type of document to be added to the case.

Tip! If unsure of what category to select, leave this field blank.

2. Select a Document Type.

Note! Type the name of the document in this field to locate the Document Type.



3. Complete Additional Text if desired.

Note! This additional text helps the clerk, judge, or other participants understand more about the document.



- 23. If your document is public, skip to the next step. If your document should not be a publicly viewed:
 - a. Check either Filed under order to restrict access or Confidential.



- b. If **Filed under order to restrict access is checked**, specify the Date of order to restrict access and the Rule you are using in the comment field.
- c. If Confidential was checked, enter the reason for in the comment field.
- 4. Click Browse.
- 5. Locate the document to attach.
- 6. Click Open in the system window (not illustrated).
- 7. Click Add.

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Tip! If a document has been added in error, click the icon in the **Remove** column to delete the document.

- 8. Click the File Name in the View Document column to review the document loaded properly.
- 9. Repeat this process to add additional documents.
- 10. Click **Next**. Your submitted document(s) will receive a file stamp with the time they were submitted by you (when they hit our server).

Tip! There is a 150 MB limit per submission (multiple documents may be in one submission). Multiple documents can be submitted per case. Submissions that exceed 150 MB may be submitted in parts to meet the size requirements. Select the category **Attachment** to add parceled documents.

11. On the Review and Approve Filling page, **verify all information** being submitted to the case is accurate and complete. Add additional information as needed (not illustrated).

Note! If applicable, complete the Payment Information.

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12. Click Submit the Filing.



My Filings

1. From the eFile menu option, select My Filings, or click My Filings on the home page.



2. Enter the date or date range of the filing in the **search fields**.

Note! Client # is the Filer Reference number if entered when creating a new case.

- 3. Enter additional fields as necessary.
- 4. Click Go.





5. To review according to the Filing Status, click the **Status** heading.

Note! The status may take a few minutes to update. Refresh the status page to see the status of the submission change.

Listed below are the filing statuses and definitions.

Package Pending – Documents and data are being prepared in an electronic package to be sent to the Court's Electronic Document Management (EDMS) System.

Packaged – The submission is prepared and sent to EDMS.

Received – Documents and data have been received by EDMS and the filing time has been recorded.

Awaiting Approval – The submission is available in Clerk Review but the court clerk has not yet reviewed and approved the filing.

Filed – If the submission includes a proposed document, the status is 'Filed' once that document has reached the Judicial Interface Queue is.

Return Not Filed – The clerk has found a problem that will prevent the submission from being processed and has therefore returned the submission to you with an explanation. Click the **Resubmit** button from the My Filings page to create a new submission based on the previous submission. The potential new submission will include links to the documents from the returned submission.

Resubmitted – The filing has been resubmitted.



Resubmit a Returned Filing

If a filing has been returned for clarification by the Clerk of Supreme Court, it is returned to you. These filings can be resubmitted. When a filing is returned, it is assigned a status of 'Returned Not Filed'. A **Resubmit** button will appear next to the filing. You can correct the error by either deleting the document in question or correcting the information about the document.



Note! If a submission is 'Returned Not filed', the receipt will include a reason field. Click **Returned Not Filed** to see the reason the clerk provided for returning the filing.

1. Click My Filings from the homepage.



Type in search data to locate the case. For example, the date range the case was submitted. Click Go.



3. Locate the filing marked as Returned Not Filed in the Status column. Click Resubmit.



This opens a new filing, copying the data from the original filing, but it will enable you to remove the old document and replace with the corrected one. Make changes as needed and complete the filing (not illustrated).

Draft Filings

At any time (prior to final submission) a case/filing can be saved as a draft to complete at a different time. Draft filings can be accessed via the eFile menu, Draft Filings.



1. From the eFile menu, click **Draft Filings** to access any cases saved as drafts.



Note! When creating or filing to a case, click **Move to Draft** to save without submitting it to the clerk's office. Cases that have been moved to draft are available via the **Draft Filings** in the eFile menu illustrated above.



2. Click the Filing Description to continue where you left off in the filing.



Note! Draft filings remain in the eFiling system for 90 days. A **Days until Deletion** column displays the days remaining to file on the case.

Note! Click the checkbox in front of a Draft Filing and click Delete to permanently remove the filing.





Cases

Three options are available in the Cases menu – My Cases, Notifications, and Filing Charges.

My Cases

When a case is initiated or a follow-up has been filed, even if just a notification, the case number is added to My Cases for those where the username matches the registered filer.

1. Select My Cases from the Cases menu or click My Cases from the home screen.



2. Click the Case Number to access the case information and documents (if available).



Note! Dependent upon your role and the case level security settings the case documents may be available for downloading within My Cases listing.

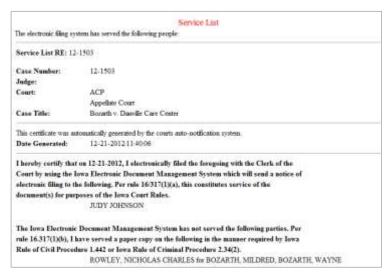


3. The case information will display in a separate window. Review any information that has been submitted on the case.



4. Click on Service List to display the service list notification generated by the system.







Page Display

The page display defaults to 50 cases displayed per page. You can change the number displayed from the drop-down menu as desired.



Search Fields

Use the searchable fields to locate non-confidential cases that are not displayed in the My Cases listing.

1. Click Search My Cases.



2. Type the Case Title and Case Number.



3. Click Search.

Inactive Cases

Mark cases as Inactive to remove them from the My Cases display. This does not delete them, instead it hides them from the Active view. To return the case to the Active view, remove the Inactive status. Registered participants of the case will continue to get electronic notifications on Inactive status cases.

1. To inactivate a case, click the checkbox in the Inactive column.





2. To view inactive cases, click **Show Inactive**.

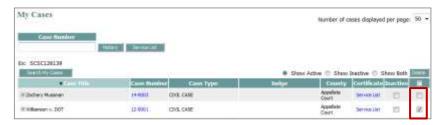


3. To reactive a case, uncheck **Inactive**. This moves the case back to the Active status.

Delete a Case

If you are no longer a participant or the case has been dismissed, you may want to delete a case from your list.

1. Click the checkbox in the **Delete** column next to the case.



- 2. Click Delete.
- 3. A confirmation window will appear. Click **OK** to delete the case from the view.





Note! Deleting a case from the My Cases view does not delete the case from the court server. It is deleted from your My Cases view. Cases can be re-added if the need arises.

Notifications

EDMS Notifications fall into two categories:

- 1. Status e-mails that eFlex generates back to you on your own filings
- Notification of Electronic Filing or Presentation (NEF) that the system sends to all parties
 indexed on the case when something is filed or presented electronically. Call this second
 category the 'electronic service' notifications; they are not send on case initiation, or if you don't
 have adequate security to see what was filed.

Status e-mails

These go to your email, not your Notifications page. These can be turned off in your My Profile page. These notifications are sent when a filing has been received, when a filing has been approved, and when a filing has been returned from the clerk.

NEFs (Notice of Electronic Filing)

These are sent as email and are posted to your account. These are sent for Service of a document when a document you filed is being returned by the clerk, and a rescinded notice when a party's filing is returned.

The number next to **Notifications** represents the number of notifications not accessed. It does not include the notifications already .

1. Click **Notifications** from the home screen or via the Cases menu.





2. Notifications are displayed. Those that are not read will appear in bold. Click the **Notification Name** to open the Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF).



Note! Notifications are retained for 90 days, and are then deleted. The court sets the time period.



3. The NEF will display. The NEF will also be sent to the registered email account for registered filers.



Tip! If NEFs are not received, check the SPAM filters for the registered email account.

Note! Follow the standard paper process whenever necessary to notify parties. The courtesy notifications are not a replacement for the paper notices.

- 4. Click the **Document Name** to review the document that was submitted to the case.
- 5. To delete notifications, click the checkbox for the NEF and click **Delete**.





Tip! To change the status of an NEF, select Mark as Read or Mark as Unread.

Filing Charges

For each case that requires a Filing fee and is paid online through the eFile system will display in the Filing Charges window. The current month is displayed by default. Select a month from the Report Month drop-down menu to change the view.

1. Select Filing Charges from the Cases menu.



2. Filing Charges for the current month will display. Change the **month drop down** to view previous month's charges.



My Profile

The My Profile enables you to edit profile information, change your log in password, and review log in history.



My Profile

1. Click My Profile, from the My Profile menu.



2. The User Profile information is displayed. Click the desired action button.





Modify User Profile

1. **Edit details of the profile** such as notifications status or other basic information (address, phone number, email, etc.) provided during registration.



2. Click Submit to accept changes.

Change Password

Passwords can be changed at any time. Passwords need to be 4 characters in length.



- 1. Enter current password.
- 2. **Enter new password** and **confirm** new password.
- 3. Click Submit.



Note! Click the **Forgot Password link** on the Login screen to assign a temporary password. After logging on with a temporary password, the password will need to be reset.

Note! Passwords can be reused.

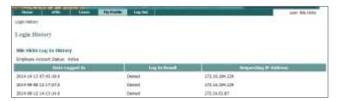
Withdraw from EDMS

You can choose to withdraw a registration in the Iowa Electronic Document Management System. This action will cancel the login and password and remove you from the applicable electronic service lists and case histories will no longer be available.



Login History

The Login History will display any Login failures for the account profile. The list shows the attempts along with the date, login result, and IP address.



The information contained in this document for the Iowa Judicial Branch Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) is for instructional purposes only and is not intended to and does not constitute legal advice under any circumstance.