



State of Maine
JUDICIAL BRANCH



Maine eCourts

Lewiston & Auburn

June 14, 2023



Maine eCourts



eFiling

eAccess



Agenda

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- Demo of eFileMaine

III. **Electronic Case Access**

- Demo of Odyssey Portal

IV. **Questions & Answers and Next Steps**

Housekeeping

How can I get my questions answered?

- Submit questions via the Q&A feature. Panelists will answer them during the designated Q&A session.
- Have additional questions after the session? Email us any time at ecourtshelp@courts.maine.gov

I. Welcome to Maine eCourts

What is Maine eCourts?

Maine eCourts is the Judicial Branch's new eFiling, online payment, digital court records, and electronic case management system.

What is the new system?

We have partnered with Tyler Technologies (Tyler) to implement Odyssey, a suite of products that support the electronic processing of court functions and forms.

I. Welcome to Maine eCourts

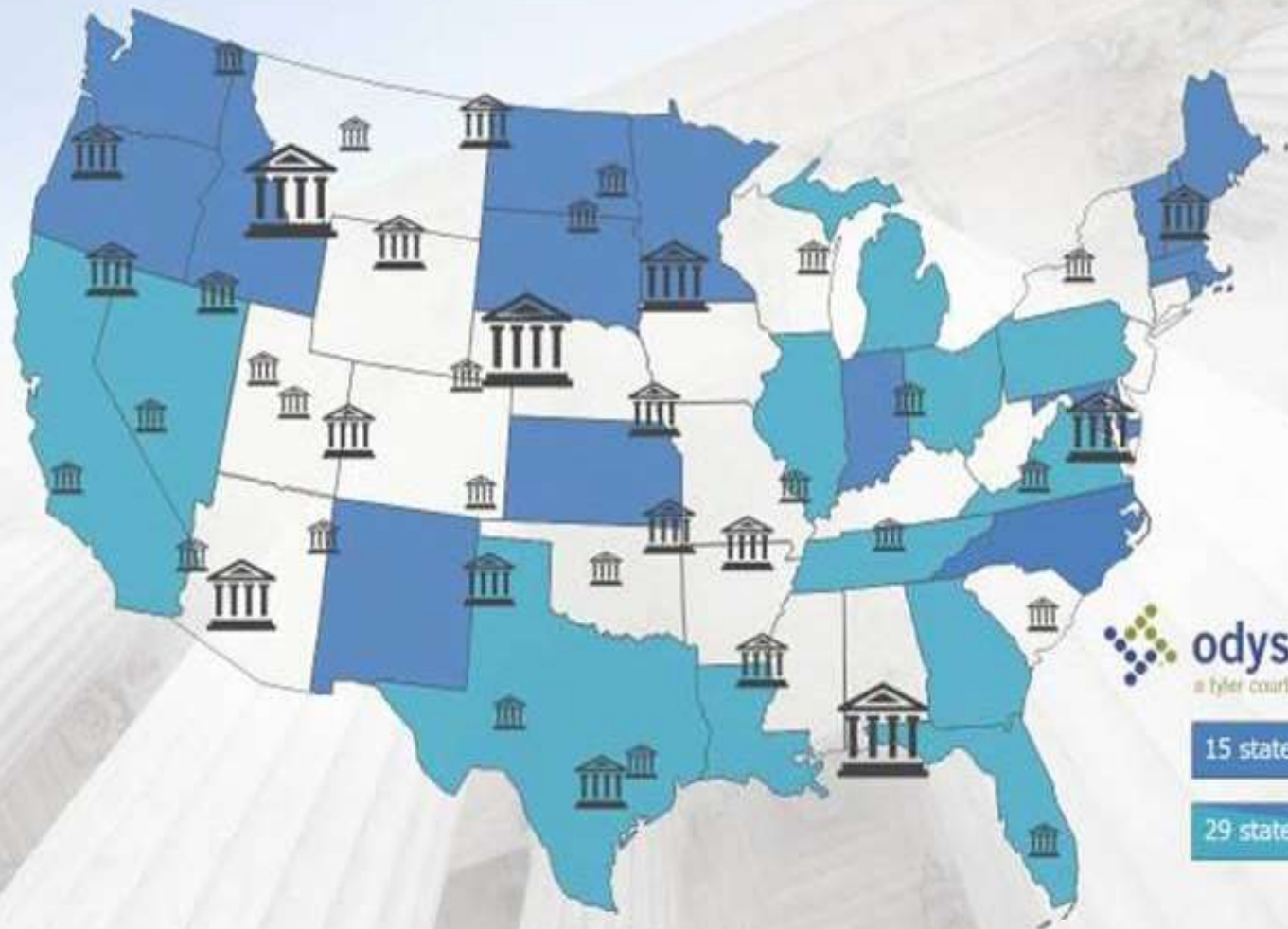
What is Odyssey and who is Tyler Technologies?

- Odyssey Case Manager → Case Management
- File & Serve (A.K.A. eFileMaine) → eFiling (*File upload and submission service*)
- Guide & File → eFiling (*Guided interviews, like Turbo Tax*)
- Portal → eAccess (*Case search and payment service*)

Same company with headquarters in Maine, however Odyssey is provided by Tyler's Courts & Justice Division, which is located in Plano, Texas.

Odyssey is the most widely adopted commercial court case management system nationwide, spanning 29 states, over 700 counties, and 15 statewide implementations.

Tyler's justice solutions serve **more than 45%** of the US population



odyssey
a tyler courts & justice solution

15 state-wide

29 states

tyler
technologies

I. Welcome to Maine eCourts

Where is Maine eCourts Implemented?

- ***Violations Bureau*** was successfully implemented statewide in October of 2018.
- The ***Bangor District Court, Penobscot County Superior Court***, and the statewide ***Business and Consumer Docket*** went live in November of 2020, with all Family and Civil case types, ***except for protection from abuse, protection from harassment, and civil violation cases.***

I. Welcome to Maine eCourts

When is it scheduled to be implemented in Lewiston & Auburn?

- During the week of **October 23rd**, (an Admin Week) both the ***Lewiston District Court*** and ***Androscoggin Superior Court*** will go live.
- All **Family & Civil** cases types, *except for protection from abuse, protection from harassment, and civil violation cases* will be included.
- There will be more communication and training will be provided.

II. eFiling

- eFiling will be mandatory for professional filers.
- eFiling procedures are governed by the [Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems](#).
- Tyler Technologies will be providing training. The training will be a 1-hour online session. A schedule of available sessions will soon be published.
- Filer support will be available from both the Maine Judicial Branch and Tyler Technologies Help Desk (phone email, and chat)

M.R.E.C.S. Filing Rules Table of Contents

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M.R.E.C.S. 33 Use of the Electronic Filing System

- (B) Required Use of the EFS.** Except as provided in subdivisions (C) and (D), use of the EFS in all case types is mandatory for required electronic filers. “Required electronic filers” are:
- (1)** Attorneys acting on behalf of a party or themselves in a court case;
 - (2)** State, county, and municipal filers, except for:
 - (a)** Maine Law Enforcement, meaning all officers defined in 25 M.R.S. § 2801-A;
 - (b)** Bail Commissioners, as defined in 15 M.R.S. § 1023; and
 - (c)** Representatives of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services filing Requests for Preliminary Protection Orders pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4034; and
 - (3)** Self-represented litigants filing or intending to file more than six cases that are filed and are not emergency cases in the current calendar year. For purposes of this subdivision, emergency cases are protection from abuse or harassment requests, mental health requests, requests for emergency guardianship of a minor, and three-party child protection petitions.

M.R.E.C.S. 36 Service of Electronic Documents

(A) Applicability. All documents filed in the EFS must be served through the EFS, except the following, which must be served by conventional service:

- (1) Summonses, complaints, indictments, informations, and other case initiating documents;
- (2) Subpoenas;
- (3) Any documents that cannot by law be served electronically;
- (4) Any documents to be served on those who are not registered users; and
- (5) Any documents for which a court order requires conventional service.

M.R.E.C.S. 36 Service of Electronic Documents

- Documents filed through eFileMaine must be served on the other parties through eFileMaine.
- Users of eFileMaine must provide the filer's name and service email address.
- "Public List" function coming to eFileMaine will allow a user to add the service email address of any lawyer in the case who has not already added their service contact on the case service contacts list.
- Public List will be populated with email addresses provided by lawyers to the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar during the bar registration process and annual renewal cycles.

Service Email Requirement in New Maine Bar Rules

M. Bar R. 1. Structure

(g) Roster of Lawyers. The Board shall maintain current information relating to all lawyers admitted to the Maine Bar including, but not limited to, the following:

...

(14) an email address to be used by other parties and the courts for electronic service of documents, notices, and any other records through any electronic court systems implemented by the Maine Judicial Branch.

M. Bar R. 4. Registration

(a) Requirement.

...

Every lawyer admitted to active practice in Maine shall provide as part of the annual registration process required by Rule 4(b) an active, current email address for electronic service that will be used by other parties and the courts for electronic service of documents, notices, and any other records through any electronic court systems implemented by the Maine Judicial Branch and shall notify the Board immediately of any change in that address.

M.R.E.C.S. Applicability

- Filing and service under M.R.E.C.S. will start on October 23 if:
 - The case is in one of these courts: Lewiston District Court or Androscoggin Superior Court.
 - The case was filed electronically or on paper as permitted by M.R.E.C.S. or was pending at implementation and scanned into the system.
 - The case is of one of these types:
 - Family and child protective matters (divorce, parental rights, child support, post-judgment motions, adoptions, guardianship, and name changes);
 - Civil cases (including foreclosures and forcible entry and detainer) except for civil violations.
- Existing rules remain in effect but M.R.E.C.S. supersedes in any case of a conflict.

Five Things To Do Before Using eFileMaine

1. View the eFileMaine training video.
2. Set up your firm account on eFileMaine.
3. Read MRECS.
4. Be familiar with the eCourts web page.
5. Learn about elevated access.

II. eFiling

Demo: [eFileMaine](#)

Fun Fact: In the first full year of use, professional filers submitted 13,891 electronic envelopes, containing 22,334 documents to the Bangor District and Penobscot Superior Courts.

III. eAccess

How will I access my cases?

- Access to cases is currently made available via the Odyssey Portal.
- Electronic access to cases is governed by the [Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems](#).
- Professional filers and parties can request a user account for elevated access to their cases.

III. eAccess

Demo: [Odyssey Portal](#)

Fun Fact: Did you know that all publicly available cases for the Violations Bureau, Bangor District, Penobscot Superior Courts and the Business and Consumer Docket are accessible through the Odyssey Portal?



- **Have additional questions?** Email us at: ecourtshelp@courts.maine.gov
- Become familiar with the [**Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems**](#).
- Visit our Maine eCourts page for additional details -- <https://www.courts.maine.gov/ecourts/>
- Sign up for updates here -- <https://www.courts.maine.gov/news/signup.html>
- Watch for communications on future eFiling training opportunities and future presentations.