



State of Maine
JUDICIAL BRANCH



External Partner Briefing

Maine eCourts: Protection Orders

May 15, 2024

Agenda

- I. Introduction to Maine eCourts**
- II. Filing Options and Guidance**
- III. Access Options**
- IV. Form Updates & METRO Integration Considerations**
- V. Available Training & Resources**
- VI. Questions**

I. Maine eCourts

- Maine eCourts is the Judicial Branch's new eFiling, online payment, digital court records, and electronic case management system.
- The new system is a suite of products provided by Tyler Technologies. This product is implemented in over 29 states, 700 counties, including 15 statewide implementations.
- Maine eCourts has been implemented for most FAM and CIV case types → in the following court locations: Bangor, Lewiston, Auburn, Rumford, Farmington, and South Paris.

I. Maine eCourts

- The Protection Order case types are scheduled to be added to the Bangor, Farmington, Lewiston, Rumford and South Paris district court locations on **June 10, 2024**.



eFiling

eAccess



II. Filing Options for Self-Represented Litigants in Courts with Maine eCourts

- Rules 31 - 40 of the [Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems \(M.R.E.C.S.\)](#) govern electronic filing and service of documents in Maine eCourts.
- Self-represented litigants are **not required electronic filers**. See M.R.E.C.S. 33(B)(3).
 - **Please note**: protection from abuse or harassment requests are “emergency cases” and, therefore, the rule that would otherwise make a self-represented litigant who files more than 6 cases in the same calendar year does **not** apply to this type of filing. See M.R.E.C.S. 33(C).
- Therefore, “conventional filing” will continue to be allowed for self-represented litigants. This means that:
 - Self-represented litigants will still be able to file **in person with paper** at the courthouse.
Self-represented litigants will still be able to file complaints or motions to extend **without a fee by email** pursuant to [PMO-SJC-3](#).
 - **Form PA-027** (included in the [PA/PH email packets](#)) is **required** to file a complaint or motion to extend via email.

II. Filing Options for Attorneys in Courts with Maine eCourts

- Attorneys are **required electronic filers**. See M.R.E.C.S. 33(B)(1). This requirement will go into effect on day one of the go-live.
 - Electronic filers may request to be excused from mandatory use of eFileMaine for good cause. See M.R.E.C.S. 33(D).
 - Completion of **form PA-027** is necessary to file a complaint or motion to extend electronically.
- **eFileMaine**
 - eFileMaine is the electronic filing system for Maine eCourts.
 - To register for an eFileMaine account, watch tutorials, and request assistance, please visit the [Maine eCourts webpage](#) of the Maine Judicial Branch website.

II.A Short List of Dos and Don'ts for eFileMaine Users

IF YOU USE EFILEMAINE TO SUBMIT THE COMPLAINT, DO:

- File an Attorney Information Form before you register your account.
- Remove security from downloaded court forms.
- Write or type the lawyer's bar number on any document signed by a lawyer.
- If you have a case number, write or type it on all pleadings.

DON'T:

- Scan or save multiple separate documents as one PDF for uploading to the EFS.
- Use old, out-of-date forms. NOTE: Visit the forms website on June 10.
- Put passwords on your documents.
- Upload documents that are illegible, incomplete, or scanned defectively.

III. Access Options

- Rules 3 - 15 of the [Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems \(M.R.E.C.S.\)](#) govern access to court records in Maine eCourts.
- **Public Access:** Electronic access to protection from abuse/harsassment court records by members of the public will continue to be limited to the courthouse. See M.R.E.C.S. 7(C).
- **Party/Attorney Access:** Parties and their attorneys will be able to access the court records in their protection order cases remotely and at the courthouse except as provided by law or court order. See M.R.E.C.S. 3(B).
 - **re:SearchMaine**
 - re:SearchMaine is the new online platform for accessing electronic court records in Maine eCourts. re:SearchMaine is replacing the Maine eCourts Odyssey Portal.
 - To register for a re:SearchMaine account, watch tutorials, and request assistance, please visit the [Maine eCourts webpage](#) of the Maine Judicial Branch website.

IV. Form Updates & METRO Integration Considerations

- The PFA and PFH order forms (PA-002, PA-009, PA-011) have been revised and now include condition codes. Also, the temporary order has been split into two forms – one for abuse and one for harassment (PA-034).
- The implementation will include the activation of a new electronic integration between Odyssey and the Dept. of Public Safety (DPS) METRO Switch → an integration designed to be a parity of the existing protection order integration with the legacy MEJIS system.
- The only noticeable change to the law enforcement community will be the format and structure of the “originating agency number,” commonly known as the “OCA.”

SAMPLE ODYSSEY OCA	SAMPLE MEJIS OCA
10512020240095	BANDCPA2021000030005

V. Training & Resources

Visit the Maine eCourts Training & Resources web page for recorded videos, documentation, and how to contact support.

<https://www.courts.maine.gov/ecourts/efile-resources.html>

Noteworthy recordings:

- [National EFSP Filer Webinar](#) National webinar by Tyler using eFileMaine for demonstration. View before using eFileMaine.
- [Demonstration of re:SearchMaine](#)
- [Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems \(MRECS\)](#) A presentation on the rules of eFiling.

FAQs: Troubleshooting Failed or Rejected Filings:

<https://www.courts.maine.gov/ecourts/faqs.html#trouble>

Visit the [Abuse & Harassment](#) web page for forms and general information about protection order cases.

V. Resources

Judicial Branch eFiling Support (for questions about eFiling rules/process)

- ecourtshelp@courts.maine.gov
- (207) 213-2813 (phone support available Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Tyler Support (for eFiling technical support)

- Efiling.Support@Tyler.com
- (800) 297-5377 (phone support available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
- Chat support is available on [Tyler's eFile Knowledge Base](#) website.

Questions?

ecourtshelp@courts.maine.gov