

Maryland Rules

Title 16. Courts, Judges, and Attorneys

Chapter 500. Court Administration--District Court

RULE 16-506. ELECTRONIC FILING OF PLEADINGS AND PAPERS

(a) Applicability; Conflicts with Other Rules. This Rule applies to the electronic filing of pleadings and papers in the District Court. A pleading or paper may not be filed by direct electronic transmission to the Court except in accordance with this Rule. This Rule and any administrative order entered pursuant to it prevail if inconsistent with any other Rule.

(b) Submission of Plan. The Chief Judge of the District Court may submit to the Court of Appeals for approval a detailed plan for a pilot project for the electronic filing of pleadings and papers. In developing the plan, the Chief Judge shall consult with the District Administrative Judge and the District Administrative Clerk of each district included in the plan, the District Court Chief Clerk, appropriate vendors, the State Court Administrator, and any other judges, court clerks, members of the bar, vendors of electronic filing systems, and interested persons that the Chief Judge chooses to ensure that: (1) the proposed electronic filing system is compatible with the data processing systems, operational systems, and electronic filing systems used or expected to be used by the judiciary; (2) the installation and use of the proposed system does not create an undue financial or operational burden on the District Court; (3) the proposed system is reasonably available for use at a reasonable cost or an efficient and compatible system of manual filing will be maintained; (4) the proposed system is effective, secure, and not likely to break down; (5) the proposed system makes appropriate provision for the protection of privacy and for public access to public records; and (6) the court can discard or replace the system during or at the conclusion of a trial period without undue financial or operational burden. The State Court Administrator shall review the plan and make a recommendation to the Court of Appeals with respect to it.

(c) Approval; Duration. A plan may not be implemented unless approved by administrative order of the Court of Appeals. The plan shall terminate two years after the date of the administrative order unless the Court terminates it earlier or modifies or extends it by a subsequent administrative order.

(d) Evaluation. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals may appoint a committee consisting of one or more judges, court clerks, lawyers, legal educators, bar association representatives, and other interested and knowledgeable persons to monitor and evaluate the plan. Before the expiration of the two-year period set forth in section (c) of this Rule, the Court of Appeals, after considering the recommendations of the committee, shall evaluate the operation of the plan.

(e) Public Availability of Plan. The Chief Clerk of the District Court shall make available for public inspection a copy of any current plan.