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Bar News - July 15, 2015

Court News: Court Cancels 'Convenience Fee' for e-Filing


The NH Judicial Branch is no longer assessing a 3 percent convenience or service fee on electronic payments made when attorneys and litigants e-file a case through the NH e-Court Project, effective July 1, 2015.

When the NH e-Court Project first went live last summer, the court initially began assessing the separate "convenience fee," in addition to the \$10 e-filing fee for small claims cases (\$20 for other case types) and the regular case initiation fee. In response to suggestions by e-filers, the court has decided to discontinue the fee, said Don Goodnow, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Chief Justice Dalianis said: "The goals of the NH e-Court Project are to make e-filing as simple, efficient, and user-friendly as possible. The 3 percent fee does not advance those purposes, so we have discontinued it."

The remaining e-filing fees go to the state's general fund to help offset the cost of the NH e-Court Project development and implementation, which continued last month by moving guardianship cases in Laconia and Brentwood to the online filing system, with other jurisdictions to follow over the next several months.

The NH Judicial Branch launched the e-filing system in July 2014 for small claims cases in a few courts. It is now used for small claims cases at all 32 district division sites.



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