

Public Record Update

January 2016

Local Ordinance Violations Removed from Online Arizona Court Records

Background

The **Public Access to Court Case Information** online system provided by Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) contains information about court cases for a majority of the courts (153 of 180) in Arizona. The system includes many Municipal Courts. But courts not covered include certain courts in the counties with the highest populations: Pima, Yavapai and Maricopa counties. Information provided includes detailed case information (i.e., case type, charges, filing and disposition dates), the parties in the case (not including victims and witnesses), and the court mailing address and location. See <https://apps.supremecourt.az.gov/publicaccess/>.

The Removal of Data

Effective late 2015, **local ordinance violations heard by the limited jurisdiction courts are no longer displayed on this online system and on the bulk data feeds**. However, the cases will still show but without the local charge. Therefore, if there is a question about specific cases, the user must perform further research to verify the partial web information onsite against official court information filed at the court of record.

The decision to drop this information was actually made in late 2013 (with a 24 month timetable) by the Advisory Committee to Develop Policies for Retention, Destruction, and Access to Electronic Court Records. The Committee also made other recommendations regarding paper and electronic record retention. Their report may be viewed at www.azcourts.gov/Portals/74/ELECREC/Report.pdf

Other Conditions

There are several other cautions about using this system as a sole source in 15 of the 17 counties. Data is updated weekly on Fridays with data included through Wed. of the same week. Therefore data can be 2 to 9 days old at best before posted. According to local researchers and screening firms, the updating of records on the system is often inconsistent, especially at the lower court level. Also, the site has a strong disclaimer which states in part "...not all cases from a participating court may be included...information should not be used as a substitute for a thorough background search of official public records..."

Therefore it is recommended to use caution if this site is accessed for high due diligence needs such as employment screening purposes.

About Online Access in the Two Most Populous AZ Counties

In Maricopa County (Phoenix metro area) there is one free court docket search site

for the Superior Courts (www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/Docket/index.asp) and one for the Justice Courts (<http://justicecourts.maricopa.gov/FindACase/index.aspx>).

Pima County (Tucson metro area) provides online access for its civil Superior Court records on the state system, but not for criminal records. There are three Justice Courts in Pima; two provide online access on the state system while the Pima Consolidated Justice Court has its own online system at www.jp.pima.gov/casesearch/hmuver.aspx.

In summary, only 85% of the state's felony records are online. Use caution if approached by a vendor who is promising an instant AZ statewide criminal record search. There is no such search.

Recent Court Relocations and Closures

DE - Justice of the Peace Court 16 (Kent County)

This Justice of the Peace recently moved into the Kent County Courthouse at 414 Federal Street, Room 173. The new Zip Code is 19901. The phone number (302-739-4316) remains the same.

ID - Nampa Magistrate Court (Canyon County)

The Nampa Annex will close January 15th and be permanently relocated at Canyon County Courthouse in Caldwell, Idaho. Court will resume on January 19th. The Magistrate Court and District courts are essentially combined. A search of one court is a search of both courts.

OK - Drumright Judicial District Court (Creek County)

Late in 2015 the 24th Judicial District Court in Drumright was closed and all cases were transferred to the 24th Judicial District Court in Bristow.

UT - Heber City Justice Court (Wasatch County)

In January 2016, the Heber City Justice Court moved from 75 N Main to 301 South Main. The Zip Code (84032) and phone number (435-654-1662) remain the same.

WA - Sumner Municipal Court (Pierce County)

In January 2016, the Sumner Municipal Court contracted and moved their operation to the [Bonney Lake Municipal Court](#). Note the Eatonville Municipal court also contracts with Bonney Lake.

Recorders Information

Madera County CA

A \$1.00 fee increase for the recording of all real property instruments, with the exception of UCC filings, was implemented January 1, 2016.

Modoc County CA

Effective January 4th, 2016, the Modoc County Recorder's office was combined with the Assessor's office. The new address for both agencies is 204 South Court Street, Rm 106 Alturas, CA 96101

All Kansas Register of Deeds

Per legislation, as series of recording fee increases occur on January 1st 2016, 2017 and 2018. The fee increase for 2016 is approx. \$3.00 per recording (except UCC). Shawnee County has an excellent year-by-year schedule of all fees viewable at www.snco.us/rd/feeschedule.asp

Chester County PA

Effective January, 2016, the Chester County Office of Reorder of Deeds increased a number of recording fees. For example, the fee increased from \$82 to \$89 for recording a deed with up to 4 pages, one notation and four names. See a brochure at www.chesco.org/428/Fee-Schedule.

Champaign County IL

Per County Board Resolution 970, as of January 1, 2016 the GIS fee increased from \$10.00 to \$15.00. This makes the base recording fee for all documents, except UCCs, \$58.00 for the first four pages and \$1.00 for each additional page. The non-standard fee increased from \$83.00 to \$88.00 for the first four pages and \$2.00 for each additional page. See www.co.champaign.il.us/recorder/recorder.htm.

Motor Vehicle Information

Regulations issued by Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) are compiled in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Modifications made to [Title 49 CFR Part 383.153](#) require certain standardized CDL Restrictions (and associated codes) that states were to have in place by July 8, 2015.

Recently **New Jersey** and **Pennsylvania** instituted changes and have added the following CDL/CLP restrictions:

- E No Manual Transmission Equipped CMV
- K Intrastate Only
- L No Air Brake Equipped CMV
- M No Class A Passenger Vehicle
- N No Class A and B Passenger Vehicle

- O No Tractor-Trailer CMV
- V Medical Variance
- Z No Full Air Brake Equipped CMV

However, there are a handful of states that have not yet passed legislation or have modified their systems in order to comply with this rule. For example New Hampshire plans to be in compliance by start of Summer 2016. Florida will not implement the changes until 2018-2019 as part of their Motorist Modernization Phase 1.

Vital Records - Oregon

The Vital Records Fee Schedule in Oregon for the state and county levels increased on January 1, 2016. The cost for a obtaining a birth, death, marriage, or divorce certificate increased from \$20.00 to \$25.00. Expedited handling charges increased from \$5.50 to \$7.00, the verification fee increased from \$8.00 (with the first 10 free) to \$10.00 (with the first 5 free). See <https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/Pages/2016-fee-rules.aspx>.

Future Illinois Lawyers

According to a recent [Chicago Tribune article](#) per 2015 state legislation, people in the country illegally will now be able to obtain a license to practice law in Illinois. No comment.

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