

E-Filing Authority and FCCC Pro Se Committee Recommendations

Background:

1. As mandatory e-filing is not envisioned for pro se filers, both electronic and in-person support will be required. Florida Courts E-Filing Portal has created a help-desk to provide customer support, which will provide assistance for attorney and pro se filers. Additionally, Clerks will continue to provide assistance through self-service centers in local Clerks’ offices.
2. For those filers who require additional assistance, web-based tutorials will be developed and made available on the e-portal.
3. Since approximately 2008, the FCCC has held a license to A2J, a software tool that allows for the creation of web-based interviews and completion of court approved forms. In 2004, the A2J was created by Chicago-Kent Law School and the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction. Since that time, A2J has become an industry leader, guided interviews have been developed in over 30 states and is viewed a superior product compared to private options (TurboCourt, Tyler). A2J has been integrated into the e-portal, allowing for seamless e-filing. The committee voted and recommends the use of A2J as the uniform, interactive software to be used by the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal.
4. Unlike attorney filers, there is no separate database to verify the identity of a pro se filer. Nationally, of the seven states that allow pro se e-filing, none require a separate verifiable authentication for pro se filers. Additionally, pro se remote electronic access remains prohibited pursuant to AOSC 07-49. Therefore, the committee voted and recommends no additional verifiable authentication of pro se filers occur.

Attorneys	Pro Se
a) Verifiable authentication/credentialing through Florida Bar.	a) No database to allow for verifiable authentication through credentialing.
b) Nationally, verifiable authentication is not required in states which accept e-filing.	b) Nationally, verifiable authentication is not required in states which accept pro e-filing.
c) Per AOSC 07-49, attorneys may remotely access non-confidential court files.	c) Per AOSC 07-49, parties are prohibited from remotely accessing court files.
d) Recourse available for unauthorized e-filing.	d) Recourse available for unauthorized e-filing.

4. On January 28, 2014, the E-Filing Authority approved these recommendations be presented to the Consolidated Pro Se committee.

2/4/2014

Recommendations:

1. No mandatory e-filing for pro se. FCCC to staff and maintain service-desk.
2. Web-based tutorials to be used seamlessly with e-portal.
3. A2J software to be used to create uniform state-wide process, which populates Supreme Court forms.
4. Credentialing through verification of email address.