



# Tarrant County Clerk

## Mary Louise Garcia

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**In 2014, the first year of mandated e-filing, the Civil Division generated and printed 8,545 cases filed and the Probate Division generated and printed 7,631 cases.**

**In 2014, this newly combined costs of paper and toner to create paper based case jackets was almost \$50,000.00.**

### E-filing

On behalf of the County Clerk team, I would like to share information with you regarding the impact of electronic case filing on our day to day activities.

#### Prior to e-filing

- Each filing was handled in paper, and in person, averaging just a few minutes.
- Clerks accepting the case conducted very little review of the filing.
- Case jackets for the court were created by inserting the paper files submitted by the filer.
- Acceptance of cases took minutes.

### E-filing Today



- Lengthy review process of the electronic filing by a clerk.
- Supreme Court mandated to return for correction files that don't conform to standards. Corrections are frustrating and slow down the judicial process.
- Clerks spend hours printing paper to create a case jacket.
- The time to process a new case has exponentially increased while staffing levels have remained the same.

### Where do we go

- Educate our law partners on the top five reasons for return of cases. Each returned case has notes from the clerk as to the reason for return. This is intended to reduce phone calls to the clerks. Phone calls significantly reduce the effectiveness of e-filing.
- Transition the County Clerk's Office and Courts to a paperless environment.
- Improve information for filers on our website, to include the latest e-file technology standards.



**Tarrant County's number one reason for returning e-filed cases:**

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**Document addressed to wrong clerk's office and/or county**

## E-filing Statistics

County	Percentage of cases rejected
Harris	<b>6.28%</b>
Dallas	<b>23.29%</b>
Tarrant	<b>19.27%</b>

THE ABOVE DATA IS FROM THE E-FILE PORTAL FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE & JULY

Top Filers	Filings	% rejected
Lafitte, Abbott, Wingo, Rehfeld & Holloway	<b>379</b>	<b>3%</b>
ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES	<b>333</b>	<b>6%</b>
ANONYMOUS	<b>180</b>	<b>19%</b>

THE ABOVE DATA IS FROM THE E-FILE PORTAL FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

TARRANT COUNTY TOP 5 REASONS FOR REJECTION	EXPLANATION
Document Addressed to Wrong Clerk	Primarily the filer choosing the wrong clerk's office and/or county
Incorrect Formatting - TRCP 21 (f)(8)	Primarily the filer submitting a document that does not follow the rules for submission of electronic documents.
Incorrect Fees - TRCP 99(d) and §51.318(b)(7) and (8)	Primarily the filer choosing a filing and/or case type that would assess incorrect fees.
PDF Documents Combined - Please separate Lead Documents	Primarily the filer does not separate Lead Documents.
Incomplete Signature Block - TRCP 21(f)(2)/TRCP 57	Primarily the filer does not complete Signature Block.

THE ABOVE DATA IS FROM THE E-FILE PORTAL FOR THE MONTH OF JULY