

**STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER JB-20-03

APPLICATION OF THE MAINE RULES OF ELECTRONIC COURT SYSTEMS
(RECS) DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ODYSSEY CASE
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Effective: November 30, 2020

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court hereby issues this Administrative Order to govern the application of the Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems during the transitional period while the Maine Judicial Branch completes its adoption and implementation of a new electronic case management system (Odyssey CMS) and e-filing throughout the state court system.

The Maine Judicial Branch has started the process of converting its case management system from the Maine Judicial Information System (MEJIS) platform to the Odyssey platform and implementing an e-filing initiative on a court-by-court basis. In order to guide the use of the Odyssey CMS and to allow for e-filing, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court adopted the Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems (RECS) on August 21, 2020. There are a number of possible conflicts between the RECS and other, existing court rules, specifically, the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure and the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure. After the existing rules have been reviewed by the Advisory Committees on the Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure, any identified conflicts will be addressed by the Supreme Judicial Court. This process is expected to take six to twelve months.

The Odyssey CMS and e-filing systems will be operational at the Penobscot Judicial Center on November 30, 2020, for civil, family, and small claims cases. Other case types will be added in 2021. In order to ensure that these new systems can be used successfully by the litigants and attorneys involved in cases at the Penobscot Judicial Center, those users of the system must be guided by the RECS. Therefore, the Court ORDERS:

1. For any persons using the electronic filing system in any court locations where the Odyssey CMS and e-filing have been implemented, the Maine Rules of Electronic Court Systems (RECS) will govern in any circumstance where a conflict between RECS and any existing court rule exists.
2. Even in courts where the Odyssey CMS and e-filing have been implemented, existing court rules shall continue to govern the filing procedures for those persons who do not file electronically. Conventional filers in those courts must comply with the provisions of RECS that govern conventional filing, except that a conventional filer is not required to redact nonpublic information under Rule 38. After conventionally filed documents are scanned and entered into the Odyssey system as electronic documents, they are subject to the RECS rules of access. All conventionally filed documents containing nonpublic information should be marked as nonpublic and will not be accessible to the public. These documents marked nonpublic and filed conventionally will be accessible by the public as allowed by RECS only after the court records have been redacted by the court clerk in accordance with these rules upon request, or on the court's own initiative.
3. Where there is no conflict between RECS and the existing court rules, and also in those Regions where the Odyssey CMS and e-filing have not yet been launched, the existing court rules remain in full force and effect.

Dates and locations for subsequent implementations of the new systems will be announced in future revisions of this Administrative Order.

For the Court,

_____/s/_____
Andrew M. Mead
Acting Chief Justice

Promulgation Date: November 23, 2020