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## MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING FOR ALL SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATIONS AND SEARCH WARRANT RETURNS BECOMES EFFECTIVE MAY 1

### **Superior Court of Los Angeles County Will Implement Mandatory Electronic Filing of Search Warrant Applications and Search Warrant Returns Through Its Electronic Search Warrant Portal Following Successful Pilot Program**

Effective Thursday, May 1, 2025, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County will require all search warrant applications and returns to be electronically filed (efiled) through the Court's [electronic search warrant \(eSW\) portal](#), as outlined in [General Order 2025 GEN-018-00](#). Beginning on that date, courthouses **will no longer accept in-person submissions of search warrant applications or returns.**

#### **Why eFiling?**

Efiling ensures faster, more efficient processing of search warrants by allowing magistrates to review applications and returns remotely, eliminating the need for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to appear in-person. After submission and judicial review, LEAs may log in to the eSW portal to:

- Check on the status of a search warrant application
- Access signed search warrants
- View unsealed warrants (including those connected to filed cases), also available by visiting the Clerk's Office

#### **How to Submit Search Warrant Applications and Returns:**

As of May 1, 2025, all search warrant applications and returns must be submitted electronically through the eSW portal at [esw.lacourt.org/eSearchWarrant/signin](http://esw.lacourt.org/eSearchWarrant/signin).

- Peace officers must file all supporting documents, including affidavits, through the portal.
- LEAs with access to the Court's Justice Partner Portal (JPP) may use the same login credentials.
- For assistance with access to the eSW portal, email inquiries to [eSearchWarrant@lacourt.org](mailto:eSearchWarrant@lacourt.org).
- If any part of the application for a search warrant or return is confidential, the peace officer must request to seal the document at the time of submission.

#### **System Downtime and Exceptions:**

In the event of an unexpected technical failure that prevents online submission, peace officers may seek an in-person review by a magistrate. The Court will notify LEAs in advance of any scheduled maintenance outages.

### **Magistrate Review Process:**

Magistrates are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to review search warrant applications within the eSW portal.

- **Exigent search warrants** are prioritized and reviewed promptly by a magistrate, and officers must clearly state the exigent circumstances when submitting.
- Peace officers can track the application's status and download the signed search warrant through the eSW portal.
- If an application for a search warrant is rejected, peace officers may contact the **District Attorney Command Center** for assistance.

### **Background: eSW Pilot Program**

This transition follows a successful pilot program launched in September 2024, during which the Court provided outreach, training, video tutorials, and support to participating LEAs as part of a phased approach.

For information, visit the Court's website, [www.LACourt.org](http://www.LACourt.org), and follow the Court on X ([@LASuperiorCourt](https://twitter.com/LASuperiorCourt)) and Threads ([@LASuperiorCourt](https://www.threads.net/@LASuperiorCourt)).