

State	Court Rules on Public Access?	Electronic Access?	Materials/Info on the web?
ALABAMA	yes	<p>State employs dial-up access program similar to Maryland. Public access terminals are available in every county. Remote access sites are available for a monthly fee.</p> <p>New rule charges a fee for requests that require a special computer program to locate information, which discourages people from requesting wholesale information.</p>	yes
ALASKA	yes	Nothing documented on electronic access.	yes
ARIZONA	yes	<p>State employs dial-up access program similar to Maryland. Recent report from Ad Hoc Committee recommended the opening of court records electronically, with the general exception of personal information, such as social security and credit card numbers, and cases related to domestic relations, juvenile, mental health, and probate. For the most part, criminal information should be accessible.</p>	yes
ARKANSAS	no	<p>Electronic access is provided for a small fee. The AOC is working towards employing an electronic case management system for many of the trial courts that will be made available to the public. No electronic access policies yet. Access guidelines are covered by law rather than by court rules. Aside from juvenile and adoption records, most records are open.</p>	yes
CALIFORNIA	yes	<p>Proposed rule changes include a general right of electronic access to trial court records, and preclude remote electronic access to filings in family law, juvenile, mental health, guardianship, and criminal proceedings. Also, the court may limit access to any court record based on overriding public or private interests.</p>	yes

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<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	yes	<p>The Judicial Branch offers to members of the press, bar and public, dial-in access to its civil/family system for a fee. This access allows users of the system to inquire directly into the civil and family case records contained in the Superior Court's database and to review the status of computerized court records.</p> <p>Available information includes: whether an appearance has been filed on behalf of a party and by whom; whether a motion has been filed or acted upon; whether the case is pending or disposed, and calendar information for the short calendar, family magistrate, civil assignment list, family assignment list and dormancy short calendar.</p> <p>The Electronic Bulletin Board System allows the electronic transfer of information from the Judicial Branch to a subscriber's personal computer. In addition to viewing the information, subscribers are able to download text onto their personal computers.</p>	yes

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COLORADO	yes	<p><i>CoCourts.com</i> is the first online, real-time court records site in the United States. It was created as an initiative of the Colorado Judicial Branch and developed, under contract, by a private company, e-InfoData.com of Boulder. Users can search both open and closed cases. Sealed cases are not available on the site. Also not included are these case types– probate, mental health and juvenile. Additionally, certain information within each case is non-public.</p> <p>Social security numbers are omitted, as are street addresses. All parties to a case except the plaintiff and defendant (and in domestic relations cases, the petitioner and the respondent) are considered non-public. This includes judges, victims, police officers and jurors. Attorney names, however, are public. Long narratives are excluded from the database, as are suppressed, sealed, or confidential filings. Financial information such as fines are summarized.</p>	yes
Delaware	yes	Few court record data is on the Internet. Court rules are linked to judiciary’s main site. Court access policy varies depending on jurisdiction and type of court. Courts for the most part set their own policies regarding access.	no
District of Columbia	yes	Could not locate access to court records on the web sites.	no
FEDERAL		Federal Judiciary has several electronic access services to obtain federal court information, including records.	yes
FLORIDA	yes	Electronic access authorized by statute, but not uniform statewide. A few jurisdictions provide web access to civil and/or criminal case information.	no

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<b>HAWAII</b>		<p>Program titled <i>Ho'ohiki</i> is the state's online public records access system. Court pleadings and home addresses are not available online.</p> <p><i>Ho'ohiki</i> has an interesting disclaimer which must be read before proceeding to the program.</p>	yes
<b>Georgia</b>		No perceived electronic access to court records.	yes
<b>Idaho</b>	yes	No perceived electronic access to court records.	yes
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	yes	<p>Special Supreme Court Committee on Electronic Transmission of Data studies and will make recommendations to the Supreme Court on permitting the service of notice and other papers and the filing of documents by facsimile transmission to the clerk's offices and on allowing the electronic receipt of dissemination of information regarding cases and other court business.</p>	yes
<b>INDIANA</b>	yes	<p>Judges Technical Committee is looking into electronic records-keeping access. Will likely institute a limited access policy. 1998 Task Force recommended broader implementation of electronic access to public records.</p>	yes
<b>IOWA</b>	no	Electronic Iowa Court Information System (ICIS) is available at courthouses.	no
<b>KANSAS</b>	yes	Some general docket/case information is available online.	yes

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<b>KENTUCKY</b>	no	<p>The State will soon implement a new policy that will provide more electronic access to court information. Currently, each county collects information that feeds into a mainframe. State is looking into providing access to that information via the Internet.</p> <p>Contact Ed Crocket at 502/573-2350 ext. 2029 for specifics on the policy and electronic access to court records.</p>	no
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	varies	No electronic access.	no
<b>Maine</b>	yes	<p>Newly created web page to include all administrative orders. Information will soon be available via public access terminals, but is already implemented in some jurisdictions.</p> <p>Criminal data information pretty much open and computerized. However, civil information more restricted.</p>	yes
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>	yes	A web advisory committee is seeking comments on a draft report regarding the dissemination of court records on the Internet. Draft report includes specific recommendations on what should and should not be made available on the Internet.	yes
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	yes	No statewide electronic access policy as of yet, and no real firm plans for one in the future. However, a few trial courts are offering electronic access to court records. Dan Voss 517/373-2106	no
<b>Minnesota</b>	yes	No perceived electronic access to court records.	yes

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MISSISSIPPI	no	State supreme court is moving toward electronic access to its docket, and soon will have links to the actual motions and petitions before the court. Citizen electronic access to the trial courts far down the road.	yes
MISSOURI	yes	<i>Case.net</i> provides access to the Missouri State Courts Automated Case Management System. From here you are able to inquire on case records including docket entries, parties, judgments, and charges in public court. Only courts that have implemented the case management software as part of the Missouri Court Automation Project and only cases that have been deemed public under the Missouri Revised Statutes can be accessed through <i>Case.net</i> .	yes
MONTANA	yes	Supreme Court is far behind in terms of electronic access to court records.	no
NEBRASKA	yes	No electronic access.	no
Nevada	no	Rules not yet available on the Internet. Courts seeking funds to establish web site for rules and other pertinent court information.	no
NEW HAMPSHIRE	yes	No perceived electronic access to court records.	no
New Jersey	no	Almost all court records on paper are available electronically. Nominal fee is charged for electronic services, but special program requests are not accepted.	yes

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<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	no	Electronic access provided without fee. Addresses and phone numbers not provided on the Internet. Internet contains case management information for all cases in the state, as well as statutes and rules.	yes
<b>NEW YORK</b>	yes	Electronic access to court records is provided. Fees are charged based on costs and revenue. State was in litigation over denying access to entire database for resale.	yes
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>	no	State has an electronic criminal calender, which can be searched by county, court type, or last name of the defendant.	yes
<b>North Dakota</b>	no	Online Dakota Information Network provides general judicial information, but no access to court records.	no
<b>OHIO</b>	yes	Currently no electronic access to court records. Supreme Court website provides party names, filing dates, entries, attorney names, and summaries.	no
<b>Oklahoma</b>	no	Electronic access is provided at no charge. No difference between electronic and paper in terms of public information access.	no
<b>Oregon</b>	yes	State maintains 18 regional databases known as Oregon Judicial Information Network. Dial-up access is permitted for all non-confidential (defined by statute) court cases.	no
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	yes	State provides electronic access for a fee. Court system is moving towards better unification.	no

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<b>Rhode Island</b>	no	Electronic access is limited. State was involved in access lawsuit with local paper. Paper requested detailed statewide traffic court information, but was refused because state sells that information to private insurance companies. State argued that if information was given to the paper, they would have to also provide it to private insurance companies free of charge. By law, state can either refuse or charge for information not normally collected.	yes
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	no	Technology plan is looking at making all records electronic, first for internal use and then for the public. A few counties provide electronic access of some court information for free.	no
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	yes	Electronic access to court records not provided.	no
<b>TENNESSEE</b>		No apparent electronic access to court records.	no
<b>TEXAS</b>	yes	No apparent electronic access to court records.	yes
<b>Utah</b>	yes	Utah Court Information Xchange database charges monthly fee, service charge; and usage fee; contract.	yes
<b>Vermont</b>	no	Electronic access to court records is limited for the time being. Recent committee, comprised of citizens, judicial officers, administrative personnel, and media, will offer suggestions regarding public access to court documents. Recommendations will address what should and should not be public accessible, what information should be provided on the Internet, and how to handle juvenile records.	yes

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VIRGINIA		Electronic access is available for many Circuit Court records in a pilot format. Committee is looking into the issues surrounding electronic access vs. paper access.	yes
WASHINGTON	yes	Under statute, electronic access is available for a fee. New legislation has been drawn up to limit Internet access to private information and some records. State has encountered cases of identity theft.	yes
West Virginia	varies	No specific provisions covering electronic case records. Majestries use the same electronic case system, but only accessible on a case-by-case basis. Limited information available via dial-up for a fee. Currently looking at web application that will make limited, basic case information available on main site.	no
Wisconsin	no	All unrestricted cases—excluding juvenile, mental, paternity, and adoption cases—are available on the Internet. However, text field may be missing, which may cause confusion. For example, a case may note that a motion was passed, but it may not explain what type of motion was passed. Internet service free and often includes phone numbers, addresses, date of birth, etc. Site gets between 200,000 and 250,000 hits per day, receives positive press, and has saved Clerks of the Court substantial time previously spent collecting court records requests. However, privacy advocates have complained about easy access to information deemed sensitive. Legislatures have contacted the Admin. office complaining, but nothing has advanced further...yet.	yes

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<b>Wyoming</b>		At this point, no electronic access to court records, but moving in that direction.	no

**Note:** All available court rules and state judicial sites can be accessed via *www.courts.net*.

**States in SMALL CAPS have recent changes.**

**Access chart prepared by Todd Silver, Maryland Judiciary Court Information Office.**