

## Montana Water Court Local Rule 2

- (A) Effective March 30, 2023, use of the electronic filing system is mandatory for all lawyers practicing before the Montana Water Court, except as set forth below in subsection (B).
- (B) Exceptions. The only exceptions to the mandatory electronic filing requirement are filings that initiate a case, such as objections or motions to amend. Additionally, counterobjections and notices of intent to appear filed before Water Court case consolidation are excepted from the electronic filing requirement. The electronic filing requirement only applies to water court cases open in Full Court and does not apply to older cases not open in Full Court, or to current proceedings for which no case has been opened in Full Court.
- (C) Unrepresented Parties. Parties who do not have a lawyer are not required to use the electronic filing system. Unrepresented parties may submit their filings via email to [watercourt@mt.gov](mailto:watercourt@mt.gov) or by mailing a hardcopy to the Water Court.
- (D) The Montana Supreme Court has adopted rules governing access to and use of the electronic filing system. See *In Re Temporary Electronic Filing Rules*, AF 14-0745, filed October 3, 2017 (amended February 22, 2022). A copy of those rules is attached hereto, and they are incorporated herein, together with any subsequent amendments.
- (E) All lawyers practicing before the Montana Water Court shall become registered users of the electronic filing system and begin using the electronic filing system immediately, for both submission and receipt of filings. Upon application to the Water Court Administrator, waivers for use of the system may be granted for compelling and extenuating circumstances.

Instructions on becoming a registered user and accessing the electronic filing system are available at <https://courts.mt.gov/courts/efile>.