

**Debra DeBerry**  
Clerk,  
Superior Court



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## **DEKALB COUNTY**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

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**AUGUST 1, 2022**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Mandatory Criminal eFiling Becomes Effective on August 1, 2022**

**DECATUR, GA** – DeKalb County Superior Court, Georgia, has announced mandatory e-filing for all criminal cases via Tyler’s Odyssey eFileGA™, which will provide convenience and cost savings to DeKalb County residents and attorneys as it will enable them to open cases and file documents from a user-friendly, secure website — 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Superior Court bench, issued “*Order Implementing Electronic-Filing for Criminal Cases*” on August 1, 2022, made effective on the same date. The following cases are excepted from the Order: documents filed pre-indictment; indictments; accusations; any other case initiation filings; Sealed documents; Ex Parte Matters, or any other pleading imposing a penal sanction. The Court made civil e-filing mandatory on December 31, 2016.

“We have reached a pivotal moment in our transition to electronic court records and now documents can be digitally filed, served, distributed and delivered at any time and any place,” said Debra DeBerry, Clerk of the DeKalb County Superior Court. "The transition to electronic filing over time has achieved efficiencies and created time savings for attorneys and clerks, as well as garnered greater access to justice for self-represented litigants."

Using eFileGA helps courts streamline processes, reduce costs, and save paper. Nationally, Tyler is seeing the number of electronically filed transactions steadily rise while processing times are getting faster, with many filings taking less than 60 seconds.

By providing court participants with simplified and immediate access to court documents, DeKalb County is using Odyssey eFileGA to increase efficiency and more effectively use taxpayer dollars. This supports its strategic plan, which prescribes use of "equipment and technology in a way that enables high performance."

#### **About the Clerk’s Office:**

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Debra DeBerry has been the Clerk in DeKalb County, Georgia since March 2011. The Clerk of Superior Court is a constitutional office charged by the Georgia Constitution with the care, custody, and control of DeKalb County’s records. Additionally, in Georgia, the Clerk of Superior Court is responsible for the Board of Equalization legislated to hear appeals on property values and other exemptions. Judicial and Real Estate documents are filed, docketed, recorded, maintained, and archived in an expeditious manner and always available for public access. The Clerk’s Office archives same-day Real Estate recording, turnaround of judicial documents within minutes, and processes are in place to reduce fraud.