



***Appeal & Expungement
Event Updates
-Court Release Notes-***

***Version 1.0
February 5, 2018***



New Features/ Enhancements

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to inform the Chancery & Circuit Courts using the MEC system that several updates have been made to the Electronic Appeals filing process, specifically the *pro se* appeals process. The *pro se* process has been merged into the normal “attorney” Electronic Appeals filings process. There is no longer a difference in holding/sending documents to the MS Supreme Court for cases where *pro se* parties are involved than in cases where there are no *pro se* parties.

Additionally, several new events have been added to the Circuit Court Civil module to allow for more specific docketing of expungement related filings. This will allow the Courts to use the Docket Activity Report to retrieve expungement filings more easily, if needed. In the past, the courts were instructed to use generic filing events for docketing expungement filings because there were no specific expungement filing events.

Civil Events (Chancery & Circuit Courts)

➤ New Events

1. Exhibit List for Appeal (Lower Court Appeal ONLY) –

- New event, located on the Civil->Appeal Documents list.
- The purpose of this event is to docket exhibit lists for appeal in cases appealed from a lower court (municipal, justice, county court) to the Circuit or Chancery Courts.
- The filing event will notate on the docket that the exhibit list is for an appeal to the County/Chancery/Circuit Court. This designation will allow courts to distinguish lower court exhibit lists from exhibit lists filed in the County/Chancery/Circuit appeal case if the case is later appealed to a higher court.
- This event is only available to court users.

2. Exhibits for Appeal (Lower Court Appeal ONLY) –

- New event, located on the Civil->Appeal Documents list.
- The purpose of this event is to docket exhibits for appeal in cases appealed from a lower court (municipal, justice, county court) to the Circuit or Chancery Court.
- The filing event will notate on the docket that the exhibit list is for an appeal to the County/Chancery/Circuit Court. This designation will allow courts to distinguish lower court exhibit lists from exhibit lists filed in the County/Chancery/Circuit appeal case if the case is later appealed to a higher court.
- This event is only available to court users.



➤ Updated Existing Events

1. Record on Appeal (Lower Court Appeal ONLY)

- Event located on the Civil->Appeal Documents list.
- Event previously named “Lower Court Appeal Record”
- The purpose of this event is to docket records in cases appealed from a lower court (municipal, justice, county court) to the Circuit or Chancery Court. Some courts were using this event to docket and transmit the appeal record to the MS Supreme Court for SC appeals, which caused numerous issues.
- This event is only available to court users.

2. Clerk’s Notice of Service

- Event located on the Civil->Appeal Documents list.
- This event was updated to require linking the Clerk’s Notice of Service filing to the document in the case being served/noticed. Previously, this linking was optional.
- This event is only available to court users.

3. Clerk’s Papers for Pro Se Party Appeal

- This event is no longer necessary due to the consolidation of the *pro se* appeals process and the “attorney” appeals process. This event should now ONLY be used on an existing *pro se* appeal that was filed prior to this update. Once all of these appeals have cleared, the event will be removed from MEC.

Civil Events (Circuit Courts Only)

➤ New Events

1. Petition for Expungement

- This new event has been added to provide the Circuit Courts with a specific docketing event for Petitions for Expungement.
- The new event is located on the Civil->Complaints, Other Initiating Documents list.
- This event is treated as a “motion” type event for reporting purposes and so that court users may select the “gavel” icon beside the filing on the docket report to file the Order of Expungement (as an alternative to going to the “Other Orders/Judgements” list and filing it there).
- This event is only available to court users; attorneys do not have access to e-file this event even though it’s treated as a motion.

2. Order of Expungement

- This new event has been added to provide the Circuit Courts a specific docketing event for Orders of Expungement.
- This new event is located on the Civil->Other Orders/Judgements list.
- This event requires the user to link the Civil Expungement case to the Criminal Case where the charge(s) being expunged are filed (if the criminal case is filed in MEC). If the case is not filed in MEC, the event will prompt the user to enter the criminal case number in a free text box in order to notate the case number on the civil docket.



- This event also seals and closes the Civil Expungement case.
- This event is only available to court users.

3. Order on Motion for Expungement

- This new event has been added to provide the Circuit Courts a specific docketing event for Orders of Expungement, through the use of the “gavel” icon on the docket report for Petition of Expungement filings.
- This event functions similarly to the Order of Expungement event previously mentioned.
- This event is only available to court users through the use of the “gavel” icon or the Civil->Orders on Motions link.

Criminal Events (Circuit Courts Only)

➤ New Event

1. Case Sealed (by Expungement Order)

- This new event has been added to provide the Circuit Courts utilizing the criminal module in MEC a specific docketing for sealing criminal cases where the charge(s) have been expunged based on an Expungement Order.
- The new event is located on the Criminal->Utility Events list.
- This event seals the criminal defendant case related to the civil expungement and makes a notation on the docket for locating the civil case, if needed.
- By creating a specific criminal Case Sealed event for expungements, the courts may utilize the docket activity report to find all criminal cases expunged using the specific criminal case sealed expungement event.
- This event is only available to court users.

Query (Circuit Courts Only)

- The Query screen Civil and Criminal radio buttons now function for all parameters entered on the screen. Previously, the Criminal and Civil case type filtering only worked when a user entered a case number for the query.

Bug Fixes

- Fixed Case association errors - issue with cases being related, then terminated, then related again not working.
- Fee Report errors - duplicate fees were displaying on the Fee Reports when only 1 fee was entered.
- Sealed document checkbox error on Unseal Screen (Capias Returned event – Circuit Criminal) - the Unseal screen will now default to uncheck documents instead of checking them (default is unseal with no user input requirement). This is a fix for a bug introduced with Circuit District server conversions.



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- Display related cases on docket report for Criminal Cases – bug fix to allow display of related case hyperlinks on criminal case docket reports.
 - Civil Scheduling Order bug fix (Circuit Only) – Several deadlines on the Circuit Civil Scheduling Order event were not correctly being printed to the case docket text. This issue has been resolved.