

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**RESOLUTION**

**of the**

**TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

**Consolidation of Civil Filing Fees and Standardization of Service Fees**

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, a 2014 study by the Office of Court Administration found 221 separate fees associated with filing a civil case or requesting services in a civil case; and

WHEREAS, effective January 2016, there were 41 separate civil filing fees spread across 8 categories, some required and some optional; and

WHEREAS, administering this complex system of civil filing fees is confusing to litigants and to the clerks responsible for collecting the appropriate fees; and

WHEREAS, the fees charged in civil cases for services provided by the clerk are not uniform between the district courts and county courts, including fees like the issuance of a citation (\$8 in the district court and \$4 in the county court) and an abstract of judgment (\$8 in the district court and \$5 in the county court), and

WHEREAS, the cost of performing these services is similar in the offices of the district clerk and county clerk; and

WHEREAS, current statutes for providing non-certified copies of court documents to the public have not been amended to consider providing electronic copies of documents to the public and are set by statute at "not to exceed \$1 per page" in the district court and "\$1 per page" in the county court; and

WHEREAS, the cost to provide non-certified electronic copies of court documents is not as large as the cost to provide paper copies; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for uniformity in the cost of non-certified electronic copies of court documents in the state.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council urges the Legislature to:

1. Consolidate civil filing fees to reduce the complexity of the filing fee structure;
2. Standardize the fees for services provided by the clerk of the district court and county court; and
3. Amend the statutes for provision of non-certified copies to add provisions for the cost of providing these documents in an electronic format.



---

Honorable Nathan L. Hecht  
Chair, Texas Judicial Council

Contact: David Slayton  
Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration  
512-463-1625