



Public Record Update

June | 2025

North Carolina eCourt Update

North Carolina is comprised of a total of one hundred counties, of which seventy-three are currently live on the state's eCourt Portal. The most recent transition in April included the addition of eleven more counties, with the largest expansion yet planned for this summer. As a reminder, the eCourt Portal provides free access to search public records and view case details for participating courts. Records available include Criminal, Infraction, Civil, Family, and Probate cases.

On July 21st, fourteen additional counties will go live. These counties are Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caswell, Forsyth, Madison, Mitchell, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey. After this expansion, there will be thirteen counties left to transition by the end of the year. The final phase of this rollout is scheduled to be completed by February 2026, which will include the integration of the North Carolina business court. North Carolina's eCourt Portal can be found at <https://portal-nc.tylertech.cloud/Portal/>.

"Island of Hawaii"

The Island of Hawaii is considering changing its name to simply "Hawaii." This potential name change would have implications for various state and federal documents, such as signage, maps, and legal records. The original use of the term "Island of" was intended to differentiate the island from the state of Hawaii. Interestingly, none of the other islands include "Island of" in the name. If the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names approves the proposed name change, it will take about one year for the new name to be officially recognized and implemented across all relevant documents and signage. This potential change stems from a desire to show respect and love to the "Big Island" by referring to it by its true name.

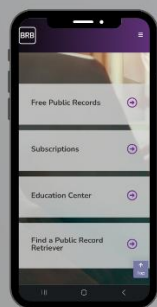
Illinois Supreme & Appellate Courts Now Online

Beginning May 1st, online access to Illinois Supreme and Appellate Court records became available to the public for free. Users can now search and review non-confidential case details by accessing the court's platform re:Search. To get started, users must first register, and they can choose to register as an Attorney/Firm/Organization, Self-Represented Litigant/Pro Se, or

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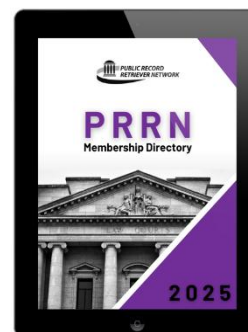
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as a member of the General Public. Please note that records are only available from April 1, 2025, onward, although there is a possibility that prior years may be added in the future. Due to this, the site is only useful for researching newly filed cases. As mentioned, access to this online system is free because fees for remote access have been suspended. There is a future possibility that the online offerings could be expanded to include free access to county-level records from across the entire state as well. This is not a path that has been set in stone, nor is there a plan in place, but it's certainly something to hope for.

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West Virginia Statewide Access

In the past year, West Virginia has made significant advancements in providing access to their records. Most recently, in March of this year, WVPASS – West Virginia Public Access Search System was launched. Records available on WVPASS include Criminal and Civil cases filed in the Circuit Court dating back to 1999.

To use WVPASS, users must first register. There is no fee for registration or for conducting searches. A search can be performed by case number, name, or attorney. However, note that a maximum of 100 cases are returned in a single search. It is recommended that users refine their search by using available filters to avoid this. Filters include County (all fifty-five will be searched if none are selected), and Date Range. Case details include tabs that allow users to view information on Parties, Attorneys, Docket Entries, Documents, Payments, Hearings, and Motions. Document images can be downloaded for \$.25 per page, plus a processing fee per transaction. This is a significant reduction from the \$1.00 per page fee charged by the clerk's office for in-person requests. The document images available in WVPASS date back to the start of electronic filing for each county. For older documents that are not available online, users can request them from the court. Public access computers at the court are still accessible and now display the same system.

It's important to note that searches cannot be conducted using date of birth, and the subject's date of birth does not appear in the results or case details. In speaking with a clerk, she stated that they can confirm a match if provided the case number(s) and date of birth, though this procedure may vary by county. Users of WVPASS are also required to report any findings of personally identifiable information (PII). See below the site's disclaimer.

Disclaimer

*The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia makes no representation as to the accuracy, completeness, or utility, and assumes no liability for any general or specific use of the information provided herein. While efforts have been made to protect confidential information from release, **any user shall immediately report the appearance or release of personal identifying information ("PII") to the circuit clerk of the county where the case was filed.** Entries made in individual court offices may not be reflected on this site. Contact the circuit clerk of the county in which the case was filed to validate information provided by this website. By utilizing this website, you accept all Terms of Use.*

Before the launch of WVPASS, a paid subscription service called Circuit Express had been available for many years, offering access to Circuit Court records in over 30 counties. However, access to this service was discontinued in August 2024.

Additionally, last year, the Magistrate Case Record System (MCRS) was introduced, providing free access to Magistrate court records for all counties. With WVPASS and MCRS, record research and investigative work can be conducted in all fifty-five counties, regardless of location. For access or to learn more visit <https://www.courtswv.gov/court-record-access>.

Looking ahead, there are also plans to add online records access to the Supreme and Intermediate courts of Appeal.

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