



The
Public Record
Authority

The Public Record Update March 2019

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Court News

The Future of PACER

In the fall of 2018, Rep. Doug Collins introduced bill [H.R. 6714](#), the Electronic Court Records Reform Act. The bill, if passed, will directly affect the widely used Judicial Record System known as [PACER \(Public Access to Court Electronic Records\)](#). In Summary:

1. This bill directs the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to consolidate the Case Management/Electronic Case Files system into one system.
2. Establishes certain requirements for the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system, including the following:
 - documents filed with a federal court must be publicly accessible not later than five days after filing, and
 - documents on PACER must be available to the public and to parties before the court free of charge.

PACER currently charges \$.10 to view case documents, docket sheets, and case-specific reports, with a \$3.00 max charge when viewing 30 or more pages. The passage of this bill would create a free to use public system. Representative Collins [stated](#), "*Americans deserve a justice system that is transparent and accessible. I introduced the Electronic Court Records Reform Act to modernize the judicial records systems and remove fee-for-access barriers that technology has rendered unnecessary*". There's no doubt many are eagerly awaiting the final decision on this bill.

Party Verification Now Available in Idaho

Since the final transition of all forty-four Idaho counties from the legacy system [iStars](#) (Data Repository), to their new online portal [iCourts](#), users needing to verify the identity on a record were faced with a challenge. The legacy system iStars allowed users to search records by name and DOB statewide or by individual county, and by case number. On the new portal, iCourts, users have lost the functionality to search by DOB. One can search by Search by name, including a phonetic search, and case type. Users may also include the booking number, FBI number, SO number, or filter by case type or status and file date range. The results only display a year of birth. Depending

on need and depth of due diligence this may be enough, but not for a large industry of users including the background screening industry.

The court both recognizing the need and understanding the gap it caused in the verification process recently released a Party Verification site, <https://idcourts.service-now.com/public>. On this site, registered users can search by party to verify the date of birth on file. Below are some of the parameters for using the site:

- Data verification is available on cases from 1995 to present. Note that some information for older cases may be available on this site.
- The cost is \$6.00 **per party**.
- The site provides the capability to verify multiple parties in one search. You must provide the following for **each party**:
 - Subject's name, may include up to 6 variations of the first name
 - Date of birth
 - Specific case number(s), may include up to 16 case numbers per party in search
 - **Will only verify the information provided**
 - Please note that there is a strong disclaimer that includes the following, "**THE SERVICE IS DISTRIBUTED ON AN "AS-IS" BASIS WITHOUT WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO WARRANTIES OF TITLE OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE.**"

This isn't a free option; however, it does provide a means to obtain verification that is needed by a large portion of users.

New Haven City Court Abolished

The New Haven City Court in Allen County, Indiana has recently been abolished and closed. The court went live on the state's Odyssey Public Access case management system "MyCase" in June of 2009, therefore non-confidential cases from this court can be searched at <https://public.courts.in.gov/mycase/#/vw/Search>. All pending cases will be transferred to the Allen Superior Court for completion. The location where the closed case files will be moved to hasn't yet been confirmed.



Reliable Local Record Retrievers

With nearly 400 members in all states, [PRRN \(Public Record Retriever Network\)](#) is one of the largest trade organizations representing professionals in the public record industry. PRRN Members are professionals who provide on-site public record research and retrieval of public record information at government agencies. Members are recognized as the nation's leaders in local public record searching and document retrieval.

PRRN was the first group to adopt **Industry Standards** and a **Code of Professional Conduct** specifically for the retrieval of public record documents. Visit www.prrn.us for more information and to locate a researcher by county.

Motor Vehicle News

Be Wary of Unofficial Sites

With an ever-increasing rise of scammers and individuals with an intent deceive and steal personal information, we must stay alert when visiting websites - especially ones where we are providing our personal information or someone else's. Most recently in Colorado, citizens have complained about encounters on websites that appear very similar to the state's Motor Vehicle site and aren't. Due to complaints, the Colorado Department of Revenue warns about the risk of visiting a false site and tells you how to best determine the site you are visiting is the correct one for their state. Visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/unofficial-websites> to read the Department of Revenue's warning. Here's one tip to help you determine if the state's Motor Vehicle site you are visiting is valid:

Look for **.gov** in the site address. All states have .gov in their site address except the following eight states, along with their correct/official pages:

1. Hawaii - <http://www.courts.state.hi.us/>
2. Illinois - <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/>
3. Kansas - <https://www.ksrevenue.org/dovindex.html>
4. Louisiana - <http://www.expresslane.org/Pages/default.aspx>
5. Nevada - <http://dmvnev.com/nvdl.htm>
6. New Jersey - <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/>
7. South Carolina - <http://www.scdmvonline.com/Driver-Services>
8. Wyoming - <http://www.dot.state.wy.us/driverservices>

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