



# COMAL COUNTY

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION

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### **Clerks' offices move to electronic filing on criminal cases**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MAY 12, 2017:**

*NEW BRAUNFELS* — Criminal cases in Comal County will begin moving to electronic filing this month, starting a process that will lead to the eventual elimination of paper files for all new cases in the local court systems.

The Comal County District Clerk and County Clerk's offices shifted to paperless dockets for all civil and misdemeanor criminal cases in January. Felony criminal cases will move away from paper on an optional basis beginning May 15.

"Since moving to e-filing on civil cases, our office has seen tremendous savings in both money and staff resources as we no longer have to print and organize paper files," said Heather Kellar, Comal County district clerk. "We're excited to begin this next step of transitioning to a fully electronic filing system across the district courts and county courts-at-law."

Texas law mandates that felony cases be filed electronically beginning in July 2018; however, the smooth transition of misdemeanor and civil cases earlier this year showed Kellar and County Clerk Bobbie Koeppe that their offices were ready to begin the transition early, Kellar said.

Beginning May 15, attorneys will have the option of filing electronically, and the county's state district judges will have the option of viewing electronic files rather than paper file folders.

"This is a big step forward," Kellar said. "Not only will it save money for taxpayers, it will make our offices and the courts more efficient."

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