

PACER

Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) is a service of the federal Judiciary that enables the public to search online for case information from U.S. district, bankruptcy, and appellate courts. PACER offers convenient electronic access to federal court records, such as:

- dockets, which is the record containing case information (case number, names of parties, etc.), proceedings, and documents filed
- opinions
- searches of case-related information
- information about the status of a case
- audio files of court hearings

PACER was established in 1988 by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policy-making body of the federal courts, as a way to improve public access to court information. Today, PACER provides instantaneous access to more than 1 billion documents filed at more than 200 federal courts – nearly all the documents filed by a judge or the parties in any case.

For more information, visit
pacer.uscourts.gov

Contact the PACER Service Center
with questions

Phone: (800) 676-6856

Email: pacer@psc.uscourts.gov

PACER

Public Access to Court Electronic Records

Register for an Account

To search for court records online, you must create a PACER account.

Go to www.pacer.uscourts.gov and select Register for an Account. Then choose the preferred account type and complete the online form. For immediate access to PACER, provide a credit card at registration. Otherwise, an activation code will be delivered to you by U.S. mail.

There is no fee to register for a PACER account. However, there are fees to access court records.

Find a Case

Find federal case records with the PACER Case Locator or by searching from a specific court.

If you don't know where the case was filed, use the PACER Case Locator to search across the national index. Otherwise, log in to your PACER account to access case records directly from the court in which the case was filed. You can also customize search criteria to include advanced filters, such as region and date.

Filing Electronically

Attorneys filing documents electronically will need a PACER account to view court records and file in courts using NextGen CM/ECF. Courts use one of two versions of CM/ECF – NextGen or CurrentGen.

- When filing documents with a court using the NextGen CM/ECF, attorneys can apply for admission to a court or register to file electronically using the “Manage My Account” section of the PACER website.
- When filing with a court using the CurrentGen CM/ECF, attorneys should apply for admission and register to file directly with the respective court.

Pricing

Fees are based on the amount and type of information accessed using PACER. The fee structure is:

- 10 cents per page for documents (capped at \$3 per document for multi-page documents), for transcripts of court proceedings, and for general search queries not specific to a single case
- 10 cents per PACER search-result page
- \$2.40 per audio file

Records are Free If You:

- Accumulate \$30 or less in fees within a calendar-year quarter (Jan. to March, April to June, July to Sept., Oct to Dec.).
- Are a party in a case and receive a notification of a free copy from the court.
- Are an exempted individual or member of an exempted group.
- Access case information at a federal courthouse.
- Access court opinions.

You will be billed only when you access more than \$30 in court records within a quarter.

As mandated by Congress, the program is funded entirely through user fees set by the Judicial Conference. These fees are used to support the ongoing operations, development, and maintenance costs of electronic public access services.