

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Quick Reference Guide to Electronically Filing Trial Exhibits

Pursuant to Local Rule 5.3, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge, counsel must electronically file admitted exhibits within ten (10) days of the conclusion of any trial or hearing. This Guide will aid you in complying with these new requirements.

Pre-Trial Preparation. Before any hearing, make electronic copies of documentary exhibits and take pictures of non-documentary physical exhibits since most admitted exhibits will not be available for copying at the conclusion of hearings.

End of Trial Procedure. At the end of a proceeding, the Clerk's Office will retain documentary exhibits. Unless otherwise directed, counsel will retain non-documentary physical exhibits, not otherwise retained by the Clerk's Office, and electronically file with the Court a photograph of that exhibit.

Counsel's Post-Trial Responsibilities. Within ten (10) days of the conclusion of a hearing or trial, a party must file in the CM/ECF system (a) an electronic version of each documentary exhibit that the party offered or introduced into evidence and (b) a digital photograph of each non-documentary physical exhibit that the party offered or introduced into evidence. **See Local Rule 5.3(b)(3) for exhibits exempted from the electronic filing requirement.**

Events for Filing Exhibits in CM/ECF. The exhibits should be filed using the "Exhibits" event under the "Trial Documents" category. The event includes a prompt to attach a "Main Document" and "Attachments."

- **The "Main Document"** should be an index of exhibits filed within that entry. The index should include exhibit numbers and a brief description of each exhibit. If exhibits are filed as a batch, include the corresponding page on which the exhibit can be found.

- **The "Attachments"** will be the actual exhibits. Select "Exhibit" in the "Category" selection for each attachment. In the description field, only enter the exhibit number(s) for that specific attachment.

- **Single or Batch Exhibits** are acceptable, as long as the description box notes the exhibit number(s) in the attachment. You may upload multiple attachments. Each attachment file may not exceed 50MB.

Conventionally Filed Exhibits. Most of these may be filed with the Courtroom Deputy at the conclusion of a hearing. For any that were not filed with the Courtroom Deputy, contact the appropriate Exhibits clerk at the Clerk's Office location whether the proceeding was held.

Certificate of Compliance Re Admitted Evidence. After electronically filing exhibits you must file a "Certificate of Compliance Re Admitted Evidence". You will 1) certify that you have electronically filed those exhibits that you are required to file, and 2) list those exhibits not electronically filed.

Return of Exhibits. After the Certificate is filed, the Clerk will issue a notice for counsel to pick up exhibits. The notice will set a deadline for doing so and non-compliance may result in action by the presiding Judge.

Safekeeping. Any original exhibits returned to or retained by the filing party shall be kept for safe keeping until the conclusion of any appeals. Upon order of the Court, the filing party must return the original exhibits to the Clerk of Court.

If you have any questions, please call the Help Desk at (888) 318-2260.