

# PACER Quarterly Newsletter

October 2021 | [pacer.uscourts.gov](https://pacer.uscourts.gov)

## New APIs Now Available; Legacy PCL Retiring in December

In September, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) released the application programming interfaces (APIs) for the PACER Case Locator (PCL) and PACER authentication. The new APIs will simplify access to PACER and PCL data for automated script users.

- PCL API: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/pacer/pacer-case-locator-pcl-api-user-guide>
- PACER Authentication API: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/pacer/pacer-authentication-api-user-guide>

### APIs in QA

The new APIs and documentation are available in the QA environment at <https://qa-pacer.uscourts.gov>. This allows users to test scripts as part of their development life cycle process.

To use QA, you need a PACER account in that environment. If you do not have one, register for a test account at <https://qa-pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/pscof/registration.jsf>. You may skip the credit card portion of the registration, as there is no charge to search in QA. Your account will be activated overnight.

**NOTE:** QA is a testing site that may occasionally be unavailable due to maintenance. In addition, there may be features in QA that are not currently available in the Production environment.

### Existing Authentication Endpoint

If you are an automated script user who has written authentication requests to automatically log in to PACER and/or CM/ECF, you must update these requests to meet new technical specifications and security requirements outlined in the PACER Authentication API User Guide.

Your existing authentication requests must be updated by **Nov. 21, 2021**, as they will fail after that date.

### Legacy PCL

Following the PCL API release, the legacy PCL website (<https://pcl-legacy.uscourts.gov>) will be retired on **Dec. 31, 2021**. At that point, the updated PCL ([pcl.uscourts.gov](https://pcl.uscourts.gov)), which launched in December 2017, will be the only source for PCL access.

### For More Information

For more API information, check out the PCL API Q&A here: [https://pacer.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/files/PCL\\_API\\_TownHall\\_QAs\\_Dec2020.pdf](https://pacer.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/files/PCL_API_TownHall_QAs_Dec2020.pdf).

## User Tips & Reminders

### Enhanced PACER Website Messaging

You can now dismiss alert messages on the PACER website. If an alert message appears at the top of the page when you go to [pacer.uscourts.gov](https://pacer.uscourts.gov), you can click Dismiss, and the message will not reappear—even on subsequent logins on the same day.

### Getting Faster, More Efficient PSC Support Via Email

When you contact the PACER Service Center (PSC) for help, please include the following information in your message to ensure you get the help you need, when you need it:

- Account number and username
- Specific federal court, if applicable
- Your specific issue (e.g., login reset questions)

**NOTE:** The PSC cannot locate accounts by state bar number.

### Updating Your Account

To update your PACER account information:

- Visit Manage Your Account at [pacer.uscourts.gov](https://pacer.uscourts.gov).
- Click **Manage Your Account**.
- Click **Manage My Account Login**.

OR

- Click **Log in to...** at the top right on [pacer.uscourts.gov](https://pacer.uscourts.gov).
- Click either **Manage PACER Account** or **Log in to Manage My Account**.

## Sign Up for PACER Announcements

You can sign up on the PACER website to receive PACER announcements by email. Visit [pacer.uscourts.gov](http://pacer.uscourts.gov) and go to the Email Updates section on the bottom right.

Enter your email address and click **Sign up** to get the latest PACER news delivered to your inbox.

## PACER Fee Remittance Address

Please note the current PACER fee remittance address. To avoid a payment delay, mail checks to the following address:

**U.S. Courts: PACER  
P.O. Box 5208  
Portland, OR 97208-5208**

## PSC Information

PSC hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. The PSC is closed for the following holidays:

**Columbus Day:** October 11  
**Veterans Day:** November 11  
**Thanksgiving:** November 25  
**Christmas:** December 24

## Billing Information

- PSC accepts Discover, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. Log in to Manage Your Account at [pacer.uscourts.gov](http://pacer.uscourts.gov) to pay by credit card.
- PSC federal tax ID: 74-2747938.
- A fee of \$53 will be assessed if your payment is returned.
- Accounts with credit cards onfile will be auto-billed up to 7 days prior to the due date.

## 22 Courts Convert to NextGen in Q3

In the third quarter, 22 courts implemented the next generation case management/electronic case files (NextGen CM/ECF) system:

- Arizona Bankruptcy
- California Eastern District
- Colorado District
- Georgia Middle Bankruptcy
- Georgia Northern Bankruptcy
- Hawaii Bankruptcy
- Illinois Southern Bankruptcy
- Illinois Southern District
- Kentucky Eastern District
- Kentucky Western District
- Louisiana Middle Bankruptcy
- Maine Bankruptcy
- Rhode Island District
- Massachusetts Bankruptcy
- Massachusetts District
- Mississippi Southern District
- North Carolina Western District
- Ohio Northern Bankruptcy
- Ohio Southern Bankruptcy
- Pennsylvania Eastern District
- Texas Southern Bankruptcy
- West Virginia Northern District

To date, 160 courts have converted. The following information covers what you should do when your court announces it will convert.

- If you have a PACER account, ensure it is upgraded. Log in to Manage Your Account at [pacer.uscourts.gov](http://pacer.uscourts.gov).
- If you do not have a PACER account, use this link to create one: [pacer.uscourts.gov/register-account](http://pacer.uscourts.gov/register-account).
- After your court converts, you must link your e-filing account to your PACER account.
  - ◆ For an overview on linking, go to: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/file-case/get-ready-nextgen-cmecf>.
  - ◆ For instructions on linking accounts, go to: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/cmecf>.

Continue to check your court's website for more information on when it will convert to NextGen.

## PACER Fees: How Users Are Charged

Access to case information through PACER costs \$.10 per page. If you accrue \$30 or less in a quarter, your fees are waived. The following describes how PACER fees are applied.

- Fees are \$.10 per page, with a cap of \$3.00 (30 pages) for:
  - ◆ Case documents (excluding transcripts)
  - ◆ Docket sheets
  - ◆ Case-specific reports
- The fee cap **does not** apply to:
  - ◆ Transcripts
  - ◆ Non-case-specific reports
- Court hearing audio files via PACER cost \$2.40 per file.

There is no additional fee to print or save information. Your PACER account will be billed for all use. To learn more about PACER fees, see the electronic public access fee schedule at: [uscourts.gov/services-forms/fees/electronic-public-access-fee-schedule](http://uscourts.gov/services-forms/fees/electronic-public-access-fee-schedule).