



➔ Improving Legal Logistics

Court systems across the U.S. use paper-based workflows for signing documents such as Orders, motions, Warrants, TRO etc. Allowing the judges, Court staff and attorney's to electronically signing these documents will gradually eliminate the reliance on paper-based workflows and improve courtroom logistics. Electronic signatures allow court officials to legally sign and send court orders, anywhere within a single state, with a single click. The process will save judges, sheriffs, clerks, and attorneys' time and money.

Current Issues with Physical Signatures

Most court systems in the United States still use paper-based workflows. Choosing to continue using this work process increases the pressure on judges, court clerks, and staff by decreasing efficiency and requiring additional work.

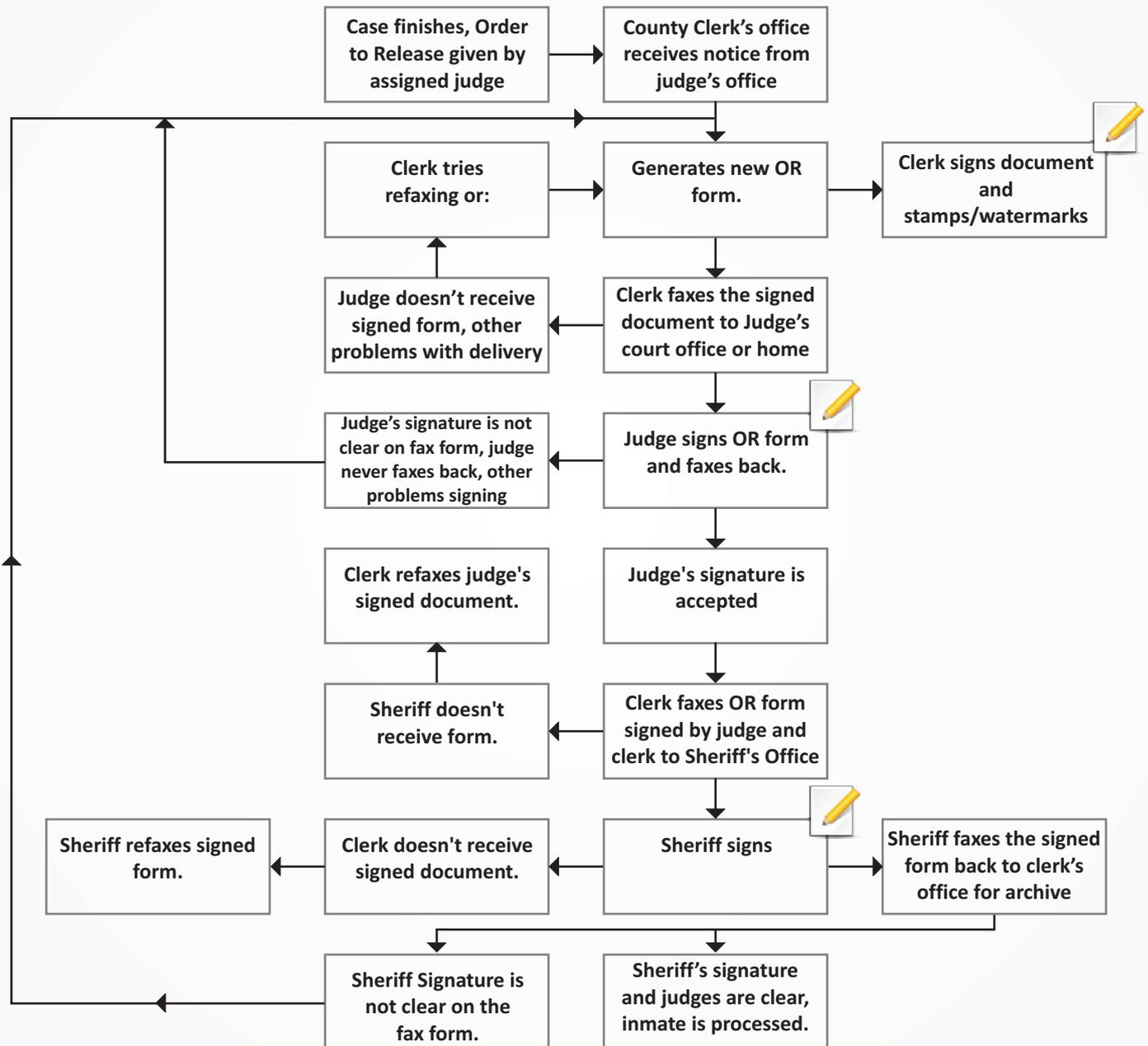
Judges, for example, are required to sign a large amount of documentation for each case they hear. Physically signing each of these documents with a “wet” or “ink” signature can be a hassle. Receiving a faxed order, signing the document, and faxing it back can take a substantial amount of time. As a result, judges lose work hours that could be spent hearing additional cases.

In many cases, court officials are forced to sign and fax documents from home, after working hours. In an example from one court, a clerk had to drive out to a judge's house with a physical copy of the document for him to sign because he did not have a fax machine at home. While this is an extreme example, the process of using physical signatures and fax machines to process court orders is both time consuming and inefficient.

The workflow associated with all court processes can delay information being delivered for vital cases. This causes problems not only for judges and clerks, but also for administrators, looking to improve circuit court logistics. It can take days or weeks for all the parties to sign a document if judges must move between courthouses in different counties. For certain forms that must be signed by certain deadlines, this process puts added stress on the judges and costs the court system time and money.

Order to Release Form Workflow

As an example of a typical workflow, an Order to Release form (OR) requires the signature of the court clerk, the presiding judge, and the sheriff. The below diagram illustrates the issues with faxing signed documents. The boxes with pen pictures next to them indicate points at which an e-signature could be used to streamline the process.

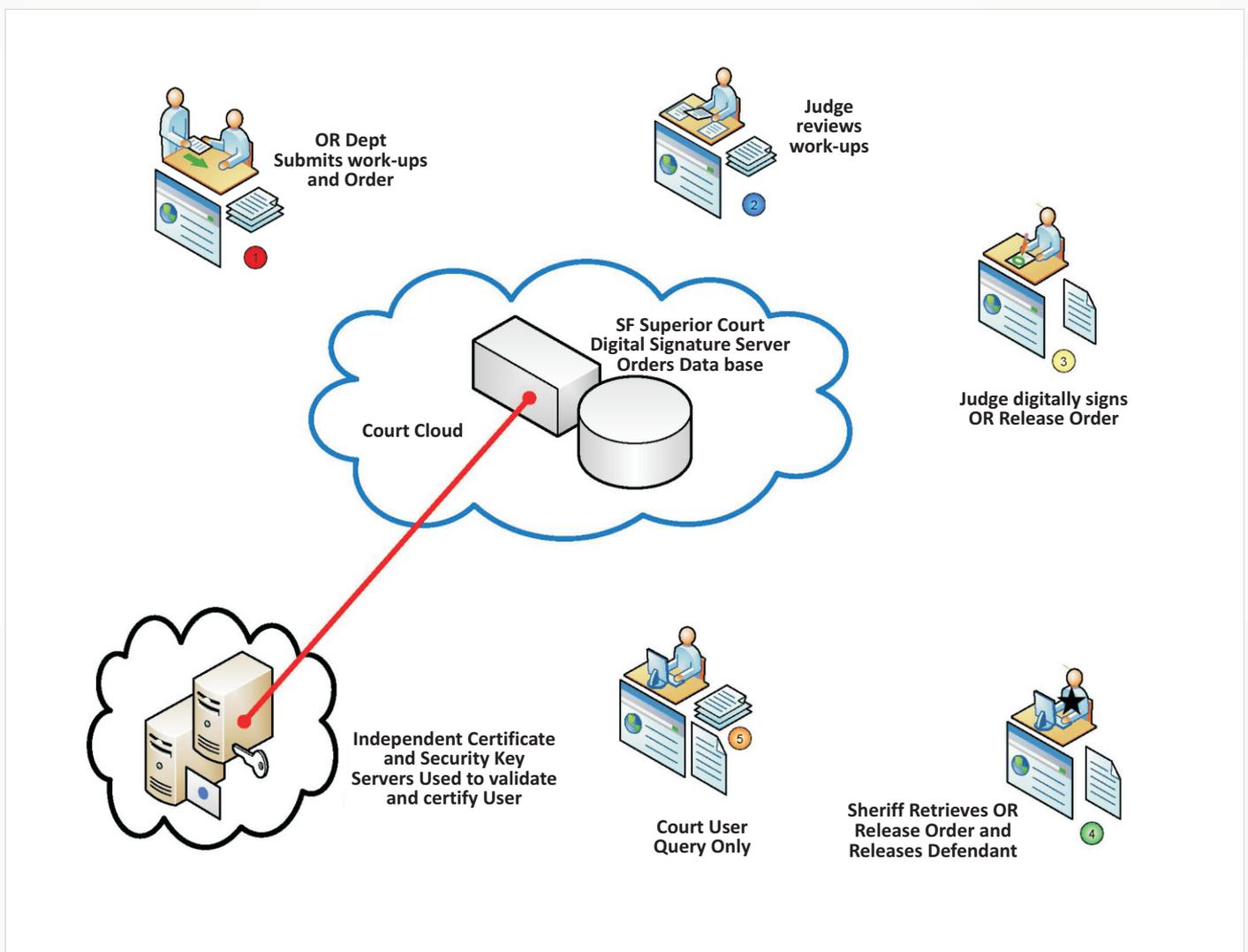


This scenario can be applied to any similar court order form that requires court officials or attorneys' signatures.

Cloud Technology and Electronic Signatures

Electronic signature technology operates through a secure web interface to allow for easy signing and processing of court documents from anywhere. Document exchange, storage, and signing technology, integrated with a court's existing internal network, can be a powerful tool to harness optimal security and efficiency. In addition to providing the standard login and password gateway to access the network, 256 bit encryption ensures that the document is transmitted and stored with the highest possible level of security.

The following diagram illustrates how cloud technology with encryption makes storing, signing, or transmitting court order forms easy and secure:



The cloud allows all three parties to sign and approve the document simultaneously and at their convenience. If the document needs to be referenced, it can be easily and securely retrieved from the court's database. This eliminates the court's physical document storage and streamlines both the signing and filing process.

Conclusion

E-Signature statutes have been adopted by legislatures across every single state in compliance with federal standards, but not all counties have implemented electronic signature systems. Implementing e-signature systems can improve courtroom logistics by:

- Reducing paperwork clutter
- Eliminating time wasted in the faxing process
- Allowing judges to sign from any location, including pcs, mobile phones, and tablets
- Allowing judges to sign, send, and organize court order forms efficiently
- Allowing judges to sign, send, receive, and organize the order forms in “real-time” with the use of cloud technology.

The incorporation of a well-organized electronic signature system can provide these benefits.

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