

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**STANDING ORDER RE: ELECTRONIC CASE FILING
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, WESTERN DIVISION**

December 27, 2005

PONSOR, D.J.

Recently promulgated Local Rule 5.4 requires that (with limited exceptions) all filings in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts be made by electronic means after January 1, 2006, "unless exempt or otherwise ordered by the court." The Western Division of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, sitting in Springfield, is hereby ordered exempt from the mandatory filing requirements of Local Rule 5.4. Pending further order, pleadings and other papers may, at the option of counsel, be filed, signed and verified in the Western Division in accordance with rules, practices and procedures in effect as of the date of this Standing Order.

This order of exemption comes with three caveats, which should be noted carefully by counsel.

First, this order does not exempt counsel from mandatory registration in the court's electronic filing system. All attorneys practicing before this court must register.

Second, this order of exemption covers only filings made by counsel to the court. All communications coming from the court will be by electronic means. Counsel practicing in this court must be able to receive electronic communications.

Third, the exemption from the mandatory filing requirements of Local Rule 5.4 may not continue for long. Counsel should promptly familiarize themselves with, and wherever

possible use, electronic filing to prepare for the time when it will be mandatory in the Western
Division.

It is So Ordered.

/s/ Michael A. Ponsor
MICHAEL A. PONSOR
U.S. District Judge

/s/ Kenneth P. Neiman
KENNETH P. NEIMAN
U.S. Magistrate Judge