

Opening a Civil Case in CM/ECF

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Opening a Civil Case in CM/ECF

Required Documents

The following documents are required when opening a civil case and filing a civil complaint:

Civil Cover Sheet

Designation Form

Complaint

Electronically filed documents must include a signature block and must set forth the name, address, telephone number and the attorney's state bar identification number. In addition, the name of the ECF Filing User under whose log-in and password the document is submitted must be preceded by an "s/" and typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear.

Do **NOT** attach any of the following to your complaint:

Corporate Disclosure Statement

Notice of Appearance

Request for Waiver of Service of Summons

Application to Proceed in District Court without Prepaying Fees or Costs

Filing fee

The \$405 filing fee for filing a civil action will be tendered to the Clerk of Court during the process of filing the initial proceeding via the secured, online payment of the pay.gov system. A debit or credit card is required.

If you want to proceed without prepayment of fees, you must file an *Application to Proceed in District Court without Prepaying Fees or Costs* as a separate entry after the complaint is filed.

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Opening a Civil Case

Note: Certain screens on CM/ECF will display Helpful Hints at the top of the page. These hints are a summary of the information contained in this guide.

Log into CM/ECF and select **Civil** from the blue menu bar, then click **Open a Civil Case**. See figures below.



The **Office** will automatically default to Philadelphia. Choose Allentown office if any of the following apply: at least one plaintiff or one defendant is a resident of Berks, Lancaster, Lehigh or Northampton County, or, if the complaint's incident occurred in either Berks, Lancaster, Lehigh or Northampton County.

Do **NOT** make changes to the **Case Type, Other Court Name, and Other Court Number** fields.

Check the **Related Cases** box if your Civil Cover Sheet and/or Designation Form list a related case. Enter the related case and an association will be created between that case and the new case you are creating.

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ECF Civil Criminal

Open a Civil Case

Office Case type

Date filed: 1/29/2020

Other court name

Other court number

Related cases

Enter below the information as it appears on the Civil Cover Sheet.

Citizenship plaintiff and **Citizenship defendant** is entered only when **Diversity** is the basis of Jurisdiction. If the Jurisdiction is not **Diversity**, skip this step.

Change Fee Status to pend (IFP Pending) if filing an Application to Proceed in District Court without Prepaying Fees or Costs.

Change Fee Status to wv (waived) if filing on behalf of the U.S. Government.

ECF Civil Criminal Query Reports Utilities

Open a Civil Case

Jurisdiction

Cause of action Filter:

Nature of suit Filter:

Origin

Citizenship plaintiff

Citizenship defendant

Jury demand Class action Demand (\$000) (LEAVE BLANK)

Arbitration code (LEAVE BLANK) County

Fee status Fee date Date transfer (LEAVE BLANK)

Searching for a Party

Open a Civil Case

2:20-cv-?????

Search for a party

Last / Business Name First Name Middle Name

Parties must be searched for and added in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. Enter the party name exactly as it appears in the caption of the complaint, including punctuation. If the search

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results display a party with same name double click on the party. Do **NOT** pick that party if it is listed with address information. Instead, select **Create New Party**. If you find an exact match for the party you entered, and the party does not have address information, choose **Select Party**. After choosing **Create New Party** or **Select Party** you will be taken to the **Party Information** screen.

On the **Party Information** screen use the Title field if the party name has a title in the caption of the complaint, e.g. MR., OFFICER.

Use the Party Text field if there is clarifying text in the caption of the complaint., e.g. IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY, ACTING ON THEIR OWN BEHALF, etc.

Any titles that appear **after** a party's name should be added to Party Text, e.g. M.D., ESQ.

The Generation field is used for Jr., Sr., I, II, etc.

Parties that list a C/O in the caption should **NOT** have the C/O information added to Party Text. C/O is considered address information and should be omitted.

You must select the appropriate Role for the party you are adding.

Click Add Party when you are finished adding a party. Continue to Add New Party until all parties from the caption of the complaint appear on the Case Participant Tree, located on the left of the screen.

Searching for Individuals

Enter at least the first two letters of the individual's last name and first name in the corresponding fields and click **Search**. Examples of how to add individuals:

Caption Name: Tamika Myers

Last Name: MYERS

First Name: TAMIKA

Caption Name: JAMES P. SMITH

Last Name: SMITH

First Name: JAMES

Middle Name: P.

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Caption Name: Officer Carol Short

Last Name: SHORT

First Name: CAROL

Title field on the **Party Information** screen: OFFICER

Caption Name: JOHN DOES 1-5

Last Name: DOES

First Name: JOHN

Party Text field on the **Party Information** screen: 1-5

Caption Name: A.D., a minor, by and through his parents and natural guardians, T.D. and M.D.

Last Name: A.D.

Party Text field on the **Party Information** screen: A MINOR, BY AND THROUGH HIS PARENTS AND NATURAL GAURDIANS, T.D. AND M.D.

Searching for Companies, Agencies, Cities and all other non-individual parties

Enter the full name in the Last Name field and select Search. If the party begins with THE, make sure to include that in your search. If the caption abbreviates words such as CO. or INC., make sure to abbreviate them in your search.

Caption Name: Omnicare, Inc.

Last Name: OMNICARE, INC.

Caption Name: ARAMARK, a Pennsylvania limited liability company

Last Name: ARAMARK

Party Text field on the **Party Information** screen: A PENNSYLVANIA LIMITED LIABILTIY COMPANY

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Party Information Screen

Open a Civil Case

The screenshot shows the 'Party Information' form for 'TAMIKA MYERS'. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Title (OPTIONAL)**: Text input field.
- Role (REQUIRED)**: Dropdown menu with 'SELECT A PARTY (select)'.
- E-mail (LEAVE BLANK)**: Text input field.
- Party text (OPTIONAL)**: Text input field.
- Start date**: Text input field with '1/24/2020'.
- End Date (LEAVE BLANK)**: Text input field.
- Notice**: Dropdown menu with 'yes'.




Buttons: 'Add Party', 'Start a New Search', 'Add New Party', 'Create Case', 'Collapse All', 'Expand All'.

Do **NOT** make any changes on this screen other than choosing the party's Role and entering Title and Party Text, if applicable.


Click **Add Party** to add the party to the Case Participant Tree.

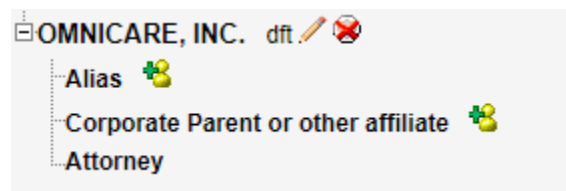
Case Participant Tree

The Case Participant Tree displays all party information for parties that have been added to a case. Via the Case Participant Tree a filer can add an alias, make changes to an existing party or alias, and delete a party or alias.

Icon	Description
	Delete a party or alias
	Add an alias
	Modify a party or alias

Aliases

If alias information is listed in the caption of the complaint you may add that information by selecting the **Alias** icon . Search for the alias name in the Last/Business Name field.



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<u>Alias Types</u>	<u>Description</u>
agent	agent of
aka	also known as
dba	doing business as
fdba	formerly doing business as
fka	formerly known as
icms	
nee	born
obo	on behalf of
other	other
rpi	real party in interest
ta	trading as

Alias Information

Last/Business name First name

Middle name Generation

Type Start date

If your party's alias does not match one of the types in this list do not add the alias on this screen. Instead, select the edit icon  next to the party. Add the descriptive information in the Party Text field, e.g. NOW KNOWN AS DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY.

Corporate Parent or Other Affiliate

Do **NOT** add a Corporate Parent or Other Affiliate when you are adding a party. Instead, file a Disclosure Statement Form pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1 using the *Disclosure Statement Form 7.1* event found under **Civil -> Discovery Documents**. File the Disclosure Statement only after the complaint is filed.

Create Case

Review your parties in the Case Participant Tree for final accuracy. Once you click **Create Case** you can **NOT** go back and add, delete and/or modify parties. When all parties appear correctly in the Case Participant Tree click **Create Case** to generate a case number and to

Opening a Civil Case in CM/ECF

open the case. This will complete the searching and adding parties' portion of opening a civil case and you will be prompted to begin the process of docketing your complaint.



Docketing the Lead Event

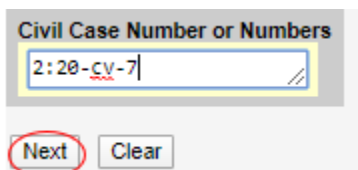
After opening a case in ECF, click on **Docket Lead Event?** from the **Open a Civil Case** screen.

From the list of Available Events choose **Complaint (Attorney)** if you are paying the \$405 filing fee by credit card

Choose **Complaint (Attorney-IFP ONLY)** if you are filing an *Application to Proceed in District Court without Prepaying Fees or Costs* on behalf of the plaintiff. **NOTE: Do NOT** attach the application to your complaint filing. You will be responsible for filing the application separately, using the **Motion to Proceed in Forma Pauperis** event after the complaint is filed.



ECF will display the case number.



ECF will display the case caption and number.

Opening a Civil Case in CM/ECF

Complaints and Other Initiating Documents

[2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.](#)

ECF will prompt you to choose the filer of the complaint. If there is more than one plaintiff, hold down the Control key on your PC while selecting the additional plaintiffs. On a Mac, hold down the Mac key while selecting the additional plaintiffs. See figure below.

Complaints and Other Initiating Documents

[2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.](#)

Pick Filer

[Collapse All](#) [Expand All](#)

TAMIKA MYERS pla
OMNICARE, INC. dft

Select the filer.

Select the Party:

MYERS, TAMIKA [pla]
OMNICARE, INC. [dft]

The next screen creates the attorney/party association. Do **NOT** uncheck the box.

Complaints and Other Initiating Documents

[2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.](#)

The following attorney/party associations do not exist for the above case(s).

Please **DO NOT** uncheck the box below.

TAMIKA MYERS (pty:pla) represented by law1 (aty)

The next screen will prompt you to choose the defendant(s). Again, use the Control key on a PC or the Mac key on a Mac to select multiple defendants.

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Complaints and Other Initiating Documents
[2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.](#)

Pick Party

[Collapse All](#) [Expand All](#)

- TAMIKA MYERS pla
- OMNICARE, INC. dft

Please select the party that this filing is against.

Select the Party: OR Select a Group:

MYERS, TAMIKA [pla]
OMNICARE, INC. [dft]

No Group
 All Defendants
 All Plaintiffs
 All Parties

Next Clear New Party

On the next screen you will upload the *Complaint*, *Civil Cover Sheet* and *Designation Form*. Each .pdf attachment must be 50 MBs in size or less. There can be an unlimited number of .pdfs. The civil cover sheets can be included in the same .pdf as the complaint, or separately.

Complaints and Other Initiating Documents
[2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.](#)

A description must be entered for each attachment added. You may select a category, but it is not required.
Select the pdf document and any attachments.

Main Document

Choose File Myers v. Om...mplaint.pdf

Attachments	Category	Description
1. Choose File Cover Pages.pdf	Civil Cover Sheet ▼	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Remove"/>
2. Choose File No file chosen	▼	<input type="text"/>

Next Clear

ECF will prompt you to answer whether the complaint is being filed on behalf of the U.S. Government. You **MUST** enter N in order to initiate the payment of the complaint through pay.gov

Complaints and Other Initiating Documents
[2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.](#)

Is The Attorney Filing The Complaint On Behalf Of The U.S. Government Y/N?

Next Clear

ECF will display the \$405 fee.

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Complaints and Other Initiating Documents
[2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.](#)
Fee: \$405.00

After clicking **Next** you will be prompted to pay the filing fee.

NOTE: If you are practicing in CM/ECF Train use card type: Mastercard, credit card #5105105105100 with security code 998 and an expiration date 11/2025. Use your own credit card information if you are in CM/ECF Live.



PAED CM ECF

Please provide the Credit or Debit Card Information below

* indicates required fields

Agency Tracking ID: 0313-231431
Payment Amount: \$405.00

* Country:

* Billing Address:

Billing Address 2:

* City:

* State/Province:

* ZIP/Postal Code:

* Account Holder Name:

* Card Number:

* Expiration Date:

Card Security Code:

[Cancel](#)

Authorize the credit card on the next screen to continue payment.

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* I authorize a charge to my card account for the above amount in accordance with my card issuer agreement.

[Previous](#)

[Cancel](#)

Continue

The docket text screen will appear after your payment has processed. Do **NOT** enter additional text on this screen. Only when you are filing a Complaint in Confession of Judgment can you enter additional text: IN CONFESSION OF JUDGMENT.

The screenshot shows the ECF interface with a blue header containing 'ECF' and navigation links for 'Civil', 'Criminal', 'Query', 'Reports', 'Utilities', and 'Search'. Below the header, it says 'Complaints and Other Initiating Documents' and '2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.'. The main area displays 'Docket Text: Modify as Appropriate.' followed by a text field containing 'COMPLAINT' and another field containing 'against OMNICARE, INC. (Filing fee \$405 receipt number 0313-231431.), filed by TAMIKA MYERS. (law1,)'. At the bottom, there are 'Next' and 'Clear' buttons.

Below is that last screen you will see before submitting the complaint. Clicking **Next** submits the complaint.

This screenshot shows the final ECF screen. The header is the same as the previous one. It displays 'Docket Text: Final Text' and the same case information: 'COMPLAINT against OMNICARE, INC. (Filing fee \$405 receipt number 0313-231431.), filed by TAMIKA MYERS.(law1,)'. A red warning message reads: 'Attention!! Pressing the NEXT button on this screen commits this transaction. You will have no further opportunity to modify this transaction if you continue. Have you redacted?'. Below this, it shows 'Source Document Path (for confirmation only): C:\fakepath\Document10.pdf pages: 1'. At the bottom, the 'Next' button is circled in red, and there is a 'Clear' button.

ECF opens a screen which has the Notice of Electronic Filing. The notice displays the case caption, case number, docket text and document number. The notice also displays the names of the persons who will be notified electronically and who will not be notified electronically.

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	Civil	Criminal	Query	Reports	Utilities
Complaints and Other Initiating Documents 2:20-cv-00007 MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.					
United States District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania					
Notice of Electronic Filing					
The following transaction was entered by law1, on 1/30/2020 at 8:47 AM EST and filed on 1/30/2020					
Case Name: MYERS v. OMNICARE, INC.					
Case Number: 2:20-cv-00007					
Filer: TAMIKA MYERS					
Document Number: 1					
Docket Text: COMPLAINT against OMNICARE, INC. (Filing fee \$405, receipt number 0313-231431.), filed by TAMIKA MYERS.(law1,)					
2:20-cv-00007 Notice has been electronically mailed to:					
law1 ray_gilchrist@paed.uscourts.gov					
2:20-cv-00007 Notice will not be electronically mailed to:					
The following document(s) are associated with this transaction:					
Document description: Main Document					
Original filename: n/a					
Electronic document Stamp: [STAMP dcecfStamp_ID=1001600548 [Date=1/30/2020] [FileNumber=126324-0] [3f9fabe9fa5a6c8e97ef8d035a3bfba821da71fafaeb6158166b9a3b04cd5363caab 89be8cbdbd3540dfdae558b55e15a9cf92a3313a016258e1f146dfa270f1]]					

After the Civil Case is opened

The Clerk's Office will review the complaint for accuracy, arbitration eligibility and a judge will be assigned to your case. If applicable, summons will be issued. Forms are available on the Clerk's Office website for parties who choose to seek a waiver of service pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(d). If you encounter any issues during the case opening process call the Clerk's Office at 215-597-7704 and choose option 3 from the automated menu.