

## Location Overview

Crow Wing County is located in north central Minnesota, home to about 63,000 residents. Crow Wing County has implemented Court Integration Services to comply with state requirements, to improve their judicial processes and better serve their residents.

## Attorney Case Management

The Crow Wing County Attorney has a Case Management System called LENS. The county has implemented Court Integration Services to aid in the eFiling of cases in the Minnesota Court Information System, (MNCIS) using the BCA's eCharging system. Criminal cases originating as criminal complaints are filed in this manner.

### Case Notification Services

LENS updates its cases and other information using several case notifications, including Hearing Trial Setting, Court Decision, Charge Disposition, Case Detail, and Interim Condition.

### Hearing Trial Setting

As hearings are created and updated in MNCIS, Hearing Trial Setting notifications are sent to LENS. LENS uses these case notifications to update its calendar.

### Court Decision

As court decisions are updated in MNCIS, LENS receives the Court Decision notifications. This information is used to update case outcome information in LENS.

### Charge Disposition

When charges are updated in MNCIS, notifications are sent to the attorney case management system. The case management system uses this information to update the charges.

### Case Detail

Case Detail Notification is sent to the attorney case management system when various information is updated in MNCIS. The attorney case management system filters out information applicable to the attorney's office and updates cases appropriately.

### Interim Condition

Interim condition notifications are generated as various decision are being made through out the life of a court case. The attorney case management system records these decisions in the cases.

## **Benefits of Integration**

Crow Wing County has experienced many benefits through the use of these integrations. The Crow Wing County Attorney's Office began consuming electronic notifications in 2014. This has allowed the office to have a completely electronic court calendar for hearings associated with cases in their case management system.

- a) Receiving hearing notifications electronically saves considerable time every day in calendar management. Receiving electronically eliminates the need to manually create calendar events in a case management system or Outlook calendar as well as the filing of paper notifications in each physical file.
- b) Receiving the notifications electronically allows their office to begin using that information almost immediately. Electronic notifications are received throughout the day as modifications are made to calendar events. They no longer have the delay associated with the production and handling of the paper notices as well as the delay associated with processing those paper notices within their office.
- c) Electronic notifications are more reliable than paper notices. The instances of missing a paper notice were more frequent than any issues experienced with the electronic notifications. Also, by consuming notice information electronically, there is no opportunity for human error associated with staff entering those events in the case management system or calendar.
- d) The resource savings associated with electronic court notices, allow the office to have a more complete, accurate, and up-to-date calendar. The Crow Wing County Attorney's Office looks forward to reaping these same benefits with other electronic notifications as they become available from court.
- e) Another advantage of this system is when a criminal complaint is eFiled with the court, it is assigned a court file number and that court file number auto fills into the case in Lens. This eliminates another step of having this data entered by hand on each case file.
- f) In addition to complaints, they are looking forward to a system to system integration that would allow them to eFile and eService directly from LENS.