

# Judicial Council of California

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# INVITATION TO COMMENT

**SPR24-07** 

#### Title

Civil Practice and Procedure: Memorandum of Costs

**Proposed Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes** Revise forms MC-010 and MC-011

### **Proposed by**

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee Hon, Tamara L. Wood, Chair

### **Action Requested**

Review and submit comments by May 3, 2024

### **Proposed Effective Date**

January 1, 2025

#### Contact

Eric Long, 415-865-7691 eric.long@jud.ca.gov

# **Executive Summary and Origin**

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee proposes revising the optional form for claiming prejudgment costs under Code of Civil Procedure sections 1032 and 1033.5 (form MC-010), effective January 1, 2025, to add a certification under penalty of perjury for the costs submitted. The committee also proposes (1) removing item 15 from both form MC-010 and form MC-011 (the companion worksheet) because fees for hosting electronic documents have sunsetted as an expressly allowable cost under section 1033.5 and (2) relocating "Models, enlargements, and photocopies of exhibits" on both forms to follow more closely the sequence of costs in section 1033.5. The changes are recommended based on a litigant's challenge to form MC-010's verification language, a sunset provision in the statute, and a suggestion from a paralegal.

## The Proposal

This proposal is responsive to three issues identified since the last revisions to forms MC-010 and MC-011.

### Adding a sworn verification to form MC-010

At least one party has argued unsuccessfully that form MC-010 does not comply with applicable verification requirements because it is not signed under penalty of perjury. A Court of Appeal in an unpublished case rejected the argument, holding that form MC-010's verification complies with the requirements of California Rules of Court, rule 3.1700 because it provides for a signed statement from the party, attorney, or agent that "to the best of [their] knowledge the items of cost are correct and were necessarily incurred in the case." Without a published decision resolving the issue, parties who choose to use form MC-010 remain open to similar challenges.

To conform the existing verification of costs on form MC-010 to other council forms, the committee proposes adding a penalty-of-perjury recital to form MC-010. The committee observes that the council's mandatory form for seeking costs on appeal (form APP-013, *Memorandum of Costs on Appeal*) and its mandatory form for requesting entry of default or default judgment, CIV-100, *Request for Entry of Default (Application to Enter Default)*, which also includes a memorandum of costs as item 7, both contain penalty-of-perjury recitals after the verification language from rule 3.1700 that to the best of the party's, counsel's, or the agent's knowledge the costs are correct and were necessarily incurred in the case. Based on those two forms, the committee proposes adding a penalty-of-perjury recital to form MC-010. This should reduce the incidence of litigants having to defend challenges to the legal sufficiency of the verification.

### Removing references to fees for the hosting of electronic documents

The committee also proposes deleting item 15 on form MC-010, "Fees for hosting electronic documents," and item 15 on form MC-011, "Fees for hosting electronic documents through an electronic filing service provider." Removing these items is necessary because subdivision (a)(15) of section 1033.5—the subdivision that expressly authorized electronic document hosting costs—became inoperative as of January 1, 2022. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1033.5(a)(15); Assem. Bill 2244 (Stats. 2016, ch. 461).)

### Other changes to forms MC-010 and MC-011

A paralegal pointed out that the items of allowable costs on forms MC-010 and MC-011 are not in the same sequence. These companion forms are used by litigants claiming prejudgment costs. The sequence of the items of costs set out in both forms should be the same. With the purpose of more closely following the statutory list of costs in section 1033.5, the committee is proposing a minor technical change of relocating "Models, enlargements, and photocopies of exhibits," which is presently out of order in the two forms (listed as item 12 in form MC-010 but item 11 in form MC-011), to item 13 in both forms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Srabian v. Triangle Truck Ctr. (Aug. 12, 2022, F080066) 2022 Cal.App.Unpub. LEXIS 4963, at \*11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See id. at pp. \*12–13; see also form MC-010 (Rev. Sept. 1, 2017), www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc010.pdf.

### **Alternatives Considered**

The alternative not to make changes to the forms was not considered because one of the changes removes references to costs for the hosting of electronic documents that are no longer expressly awardable due to a sunset provision in section 1033.5. The committee considered making no other changes because form MC-010 already includes a signed verification of the costs claimed and the items listed in the two forms are the same. However, the committee concluded that adding a penalty-of-perjury recital would be consistent with other council forms involving costs. The committee also believes that resequencing the items of allowable costs to harmonize the two forms would be helpful to parties and courts.

### **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

The committee anticipates that this proposal may result in costs incurred by courts to incorporate the revised form into their paper or electronic processes and to train court staff. However, given that the proposal only makes minor modifications to existing forms, any such costs or impacts are likely to be minor.

### Request for Specific Comments

In addition to comments on the proposal as a whole, the advisory committee is interested in comments on the following:

• Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?

The advisory committee also seeks comments from *courts* on the following cost and implementation matters:

- Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.
- What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?
- Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?
- How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?

#### Attachments and Links

- 1. Forms MC-010 and MC-011, at pages 4–9
- 2. Link A: Form APP-013 (Rev. Jan. 1, 2020), www.courts.ca.gov/documents/app013.pdf
- 3. Link B: Form CIV-100 (Rev. Jan. 1, 2023), www.courts.ca.gov/documents/civ100.pdf

ATT	ORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY	STATE BAR N	NUMBER:	FOR COURT USE ONLY
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	REET ADDRESS:			Not approved by
	LING ADDRESS:			the Judicial Council
	AND ZIP CODE:			the Judicial Council
	BRANCH NAME:			
	PLAINTIFF:			
	FENDANT:			0.405 NUMBER
	MEMORANDUM C	F COSTS (SUMI	MARY)	CASE NUMBER:
The	following costs are requested:			TOTALS
1.	Filing and motion fees			\$
2.	Jury fees			\$
3.	Jury food and lodging			\$
4.	Deposition costs			\$
5.	Service of process			\$
6.	Attachment expenses			\$
7.	Surety bond premiums			\$
8.	Witness fees			\$
9.	Court-ordered transcripts			\$
10.	Attorney fees (enter here if contractual determination; otherwise a noticed mo		re fixed without neces	ssity of a court \$
11.	Court reporter fees as established by	statute		\$
12.	Interpreter fees			\$
13.	Models, enlargements, and photocopi	es of exhibits		\$
14.	Fees for electronic filing or service			\$
15.	Other			\$
то	TAL COSTS			\$
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Page 1 of 2

SHORT TITLE	CASE NUMBER:
PROOF OF MAILING PERSONAL DELIVERY	
At the time of mailing or personal delivery, I was at least 18 years of age	and <b>not a party</b> to this legal action.
My residence or business address is (specify):	. , ,
3. I mailed or personally delivered a copy of the <i>Memorandum of Costs (Su</i>	mmary) as follows (complete either a or b):
a. Mail. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the r	nailing occurred.
(1) I enclosed a copy in an envelope AND	
(a) deposited the sealed envelope with the United State	es Postal Service with the postage fully prepaid.
our ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar correspondence for mailing. On the same day that co	e date and at the place shown in items below following with this business' practice for collecting and processin prespondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is United States Postal Service in a sealed envelope with
(2) The envelope was addressed and mailed as follows:	
(a) Name of person served:	
(b) Address on envelope:	
(c) Date of mailing:	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
(d) Place of mailing (city and state):	
b. Personal delivery. I personally delivered a copy as follows:	
(1) Name of person served:	
(2) Address where delivered:	
(3) Date delivered:	
(4) Time delivered:	
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that	t the foregoing is true and correct.
Date:	
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	(SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)

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MC-011

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MC-011

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