

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas



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WICHITA, KAN. — Each year over 100,000 paper subpoenas are issued by the District Attorney’s Office. After two years of work to change the computer language, a fully automated system has begun.

Subpoenas are issued to compel crime witnesses to testify. For several years, subpoena generation has been partially automated, but with the passing of time, it became clear the program that supported the automated system was not up to speed.

District Attorney staff members, with the assistance of the software vendor, worked together for two years to upgrade the system. This was to ensure the efficiencies the office came to depend on were not lost and did not revert back to hand processing the 100,000-plus subpoenas each year.

With the new platform in place, the District Attorney’s Office can begin the final steps to an “e-subpoena” process with professional witnesses like law enforcement officers and certain physicians and medical personnel who regularly testify. The paper subpoena will be replaced with an electronic subpoena notification system.

District Attorney Marc Bennett said, “The work that will ultimately be saved by the issuance of e-subpoenas to law enforcement (the bulk of our witnesses) rather than generating and processing the documents by staff, will be hard to quantify.”

The District Attorney’s office will implement the e-subpoena system in 2016.

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