



WHITEPAPER

SAGINAW COUNTY BLOOD SEARCH WARRANTS GO PAPERLESS WITH PDFFILLER

How an Online PDF
Editor Transformed Legal
Document Transactions
Between Courts and Police



a publication of  PDFfiller

INTRODUCTION

What do you do when fast document turnaround is not just a convenience but an absolute necessity for your job? This was the problem faced by the [Saginaw County 70th District Court](#) and various law enforcement organizations in seeking a better way to obtain judge's signatures for blood search warrants for drunk drivers. The old system was both disruptive and slow, requiring police officers to request signatures from judges either in person or by fax, often in the middle of the night, which meant losing precious time in the determination of a defendant's blood alcohol levels.

What was needed was a simple and user-friendly system that could be shared between judges and the police officers on duty, and used in the field after hours on various platforms and on various devices including laptops, smart phones and tablets. The system had to be straightforward, easy to use, and with the capacity to fill, store and sign warrants, request signatures from other officials, and share completed warrant forms. Additionally, the system had to be paperless in the field, but with the capacity to print hard copies for legal filing purposes.

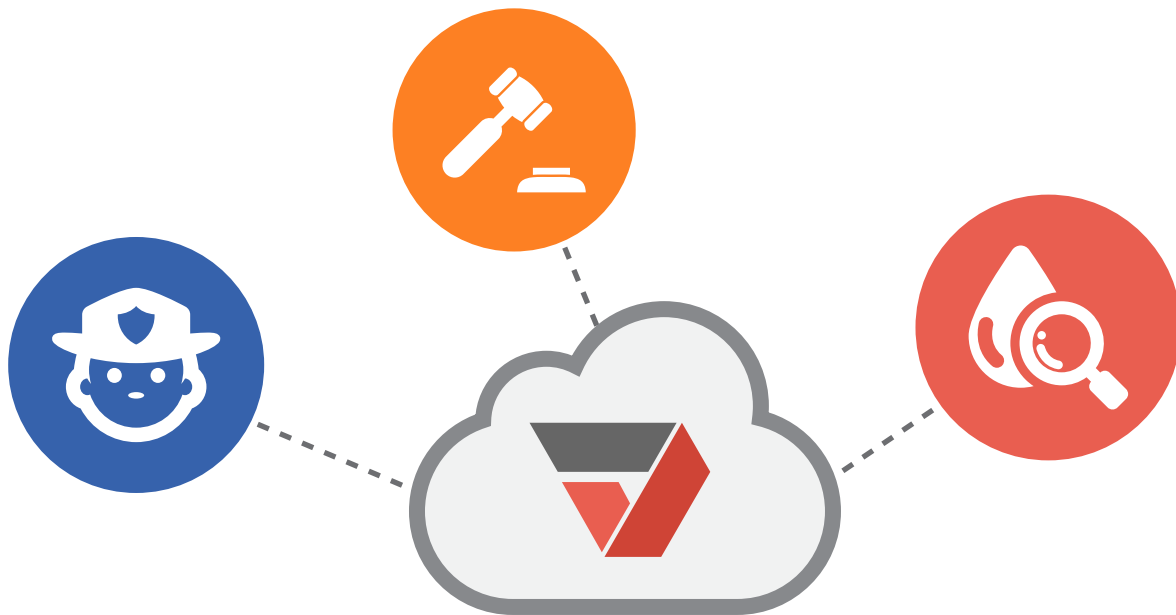


Given this problem, officials from [Saginaw District Court](#), various law enforcement bodies, and their respective IT services came together to form the [Saginaw County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee \(SCCJCC\)](#), which put their heads together to develop a new solution.

After debating the use of multiple software platforms, the committee decided it was essential to come up with an all-in-one package that could fulfill their multiple needs.

PDFFILLER TO THE RESCUE!

For the past four months, the [Saginaw County Blood Search Warrant Project](#) has made use of a new and improved system that involves **PDFfiller**, a comprehensive online document editor and workflow solution. This system has not only streamlined the after-hours process for filling, sending and signing warrant forms, but has provided a model for document management that could be extended to other court documents or even potentially to other government agencies interested in converting to cloud-based document management



The way the new process works is that after pulling over a suspected drunk driver, a police officer uses **PDFfiller** on a laptop running Windows to fill a warrant form and send it for signature to an on-call judge. The judge in turn uses **PDFfiller** on an Apple iPad to add a signature, and then emails the form back to the police officer. That police officer, rather than searching for a fax machine or returning to the local police department, can proceed directly to a hospital to obtain a blood sample. It's that simple. Editing and sharing documents online not only increases the speed in obtaining necessary warrants but creates a digital record that the judge automatically emails to a court clerk for legal record keeping.

EVALUATING THE RESULTS

In the new system, a total of 5 district court judges from the 70th District Court and about 250 police officers from 18 departments work with **PDFfiller** software. After a period of beta testing, the results have been very positive. The implementation of the new system has benefited participants particularly in terms of:



Faster Document Turnaround

The first and most important outcome is that by using **PDFfiller** to fill, sign and send warrants, law enforcement is able to receive their warrants much more quickly and therefore obtain more accurate blood alcohol readings from defendants. [Saginaw County's Director of Information System and Services \(ISS\)](#) Johnathan Miller suggested that the time savings could be as much as 50%. In terms of ensuring safety on the road, that is good news for everyone.



Flexibility & Convenience

The new system makes it possible to fill warrants on laptops and sign documents on mobile devices, making the process far less disruptive to the lives of the law enforcement officers and the judges who happen to be on call.



Cost-Savings

Over time, the money saved by not maintaining fax accounts, equipment and phone lines will help the new software system to pay for itself.

WHY PDFFILLER?

PDFfiller was selected for use in the [Saginaw County Blood Search Warrant Project](#) in large part because of its simplicity and flexibility. IT departments for the court and law enforcement agencies found that working with multiple software products including a cloud storage program like Dropbox, PDF reader like Adobe, and signature request software like DocuSign was not only cumbersome, but required additional training and lead to greater user error. According to Miller, “With **PDFfiller**, we liked the start to finish. Some of the other software applications worked well on the iPad and only on the iPad. For us, it’s the versatility of working on different operating systems, and with an all-in-one package.”

Also important were the 24/7/365 technical support provided by **PDFfiller** and the development of an enterprise solution that allowed greater flexibility in dealing with the needs of each of the collaborating organizations. According to Miller, “**PDFfiller** takes customer support seriously because it propagates out to other customers that benefit as well. If you don’t have good support, it might be a great product but ultimately it won’t be useful”.



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LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

As the [Saginaw County Blood Search Warrant Project](#) has begun to demonstrate what a more successful workflow looks like for law enforcement agencies and courts, it has generated more interest in [PDFfiller](#) from other departments. The [Saginaw District Court](#) is currently planning to add new users along with different kinds of fillable forms to the current system. Along with the incorporation of building and special task force warrants, a new step will be added to the signature request chain as on-call prosecutors start to fill PDF forms for special warrants, send them to on-duty police officers, who in turn send them for signature by a judge.

The upshot of this collaborative experiment is that things can work better if you've got some imagination along with the right tools at your disposal. By incorporating the services on an advanced online PDF Editor like [PDFfiller](#) into their document management system, the [Saginaw County Blood Search Warrant Project](#) has transformed the way after-hours law enforcement and court business get done, with concrete results in terms of road safety and broad implications for the future of legal document transactions.

