

## State legislature increases filing fees to offset cost of judicial system

Senate Bill 1718, effective June 1, imposes additional costs for court-related services by increasing filing fees and revising the distribution of the fees collected by the Clerk of the Court in order to offset the cost of the judicial system. Increases are reflected in service charges, flat filing fees and graduated filing fees which increase depending on the value of the property in question.

Below are samples of some of the changes imposed by SB1718:

The majority of filings for probate and guardianship cases will note an increased filing fee of \$115. The core fee for probate and guardianship matters ranges from \$235-\$400. Other fees or service charges may apply based on the requested proceedings.

In civil cases, the only known fee to *decrease* is the county court filing fee for an action to remove a tenant.

In circuit civil cases, the core filing fee for some trial and appellate proceedings has increased by \$100. Certain family filings, such as dissolutions of marriage and domestic relations, will not experience a fee increase.

Foreclosure filing fee structure changes: A civil action in circuit court relating to real property or mortgage foreclosure requires payment of a graduated filing fee based on the value of the claim. Core filing fees range from \$404 to \$1909, depending on the value of the property in foreclosure. Cross-claim, counterclaim, counter petition, or third-party complaints filings will match the original filing fee, and have also increased accordingly. Additional recording fees or service charges may apply.

Changes like the above examples may appear confusing. For assistance in identifying which fees affect you and your clients, please visit [www.SarasotaClerk.com](http://www.SarasotaClerk.com). A listing of fees, including those changed by Senate Bill 1718, will be posted to assist you.