

**This communication addresses the proper filing of Omnibus Motions.**

The use of Omnibus Motions, whereby multiple different motions are combined into one motion, is inconsistent with the current Maryland Rules and creates difficulty for clerks to apply the appropriate time standards for these motions. After consultation with various members of the bar and the clerks of courts, the MDEC Executive Steering Committee has identified three codes to replace the former code "Omnibus Motion." These codes can be used for both criminal and civil filings. In initial criminal defense filings, the codes provide the needed specificity while minimizing the number of PDFs needed to file initial defense motions, demands and requests.

Those codes are:

1. Motion/Demand for Speedy Trial
2. Request for/Certificate of Discovery and to Produce Experts
3. Motion to Suppress/Exclude Evidence, Dismiss or Sever

Each of these codes requires a separate PDF and will cover the filings typically included in Omnibus Motions.

The first code, Motion/Demand for Speedy Trial is self-explanatory.

The second code, Request for/Certificate of Discovery and to Produce Experts, may be used in both civil and criminal cases where a party requests or initiates discovery. It can also be used if a party is entitled to have an expert appear in trial as in the case of a chemist or analyst in a criminal or traffic case.

The third code, Motion to Suppress/Exclude Evidence, Dismiss or Sever, may be used in both civil and criminal cases where the relief sought is the exclusion of evidence, the dismissal of a case or the severance of a party.

While the codes generally describe the contents of a filing, Odyssey File and Serve provides a field for a filing description. The filing description field may, and should, be used to provide more specific information about the filing. The filing description will also appear in the events for the case and can be helpful in that regard.

Please also note that Rule 4-214 allows an appearance to be entered in criminal cases in one of two ways---by filing a written entry of appearance or by filing a motion in the case.

If a separate entry of appearance is required, it should be filed as a separate submission using the entry of appearance code. Separate entry of appearance may be necessary if the appearance is filed before any other submission.

**If you have general questions please contact the Judiciary's IT service desk at [mdcourts@service-now.com](mailto:mdcourts@service-now.com).**

