

Internet Access in the Courthouse

Internet access via wireless fidelity (WiFi) and wired connections is now available to attorneys and legal staff in designated areas within the United States Courthouses in the Northern District of Mississippi. This Internet access is to be used for court-related business reasons only. This includes e-mail, electronic case filing (CM/ECF), PACER access and legal research. Users are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and refrain from accessing and/or transmitting documents or e-mail which contain indecent or obscene materials, profanity, or any form of discrimination or sexism. Violating this policy may result in sanctions.

A laptop computer or PDA with a built-in wireless network card or with an external wireless adapter that is 802.11b or 802.11g compatible is required to utilize this service. While the Court's IT staff can assist in accessing the Internet, they will not be able to assist in problems with the user's equipment.

Both wired and wireless connections will require the acceptance of the terms of access before access to Internet is allowed.

Requirements for **wireless** connections:

- Notebook computer or PDA capable of 802.11b or 802.11g wireless ethernet.
- Wireless network port set to DHCP.
- Access code available from the courtroom deputy clerk.

Requirements for **wired** connections:

- Notebook computer with an ethernet/LAN port
- Ethernet/LAN port set to DHCP

To access the Internet:

1. **Wireless** connections only
 - a. When in range of the wireless signal, a "wireless network detected" notice will appear on the menu bar at the bottom of your computer screen.
 - b. Click on the message to view the available networks. The Court's wireless network is identified by the name "Aaccess".
 - c. Click "Connect" at the bottom of the window.
 - d. Enter the access key provided by the courtroom deputy clerk.
2. **Wired** connections only
 - a. Connect the Network Patch Cord on the table in the Attorney Conference/Witness room to the ethernet/LAN port of the notebook computer

Be aware that there are security, privacy and confidentiality risks inherent in Internet communications. The United States District Court does not make any assurances or warranties relating to such risks. By using this service, you acknowledge and knowingly accept the potentially serious risks of accessing the Internet over an unsecured network. Some precautionary measures that you should consider include:

- Using the latest software patches and anti-virus software.
- Using a personal firewall.

- Using VPN software to securely communicate with office intranets.

For further information on how to protect yourself on this open network, consult a security professional.