



involve employees' time as well as the expense of the copy machine and paper.

4. If the attorney or litigant is to follow up the fax with a hard copy by mail, this would involve double filing and docketing from the standpoint of the clerk's office. Also, until the required copy was received the clerk's office would have to somehow keep track of the matter. One can envision a situation where the clerk's office would be required by the court to communicate with an attorney's office in the event that the hard copy was not received.

5. The clerks' offices do not presently have fax machines but these are generally located in the other offices in the various district courts of appeal. This would require the presence of a deputy clerk so that faxed material would not fall out on the floor. Additionally, in the limited use of the fax machines at present, the clerks have experienced technical difficulties with the fax machines. For example, in situations where multi-page documents are faxed, it sometimes happens that pages are missing or are not completely legible. In such case, the clerk's office must telephone the transmitting party.

6. The receipt of faxed documents involves some expense for the receiving party, mainly the cost of the paper. Either this expense will not be recouped or the clerk's office will have to bill for the expense. In the latter case, the expenditure of employee time in billing, collecting and accounting for the expense monies would probably not be worth the amount collected.

7. With the vast amount of filing every day in Florida District Courts of Appeal, it is likely that the fax machine would be tied up for substantial amounts of time and not available for the emergency situations it is now used for. Also, if many attorneys or litigants were trying to fax documents toward the end of the day it is possible that some would not get through before the fax machine was shut down for the day,

In short, with the present amount of personnel in each clerk's office, routine fax filing would present substantial difficulties. Balanced against these difficulties, there does not appear to be any pressing need for routine fax filing.