

# Collier County Clerk of the Circuit Court

## **Business Portal User Guide**

Updated: January 2016

- On-Line Deposit Accounts
- E-Recording Official Records
- Electronic Funds Transfers

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#### **SUMMARY**

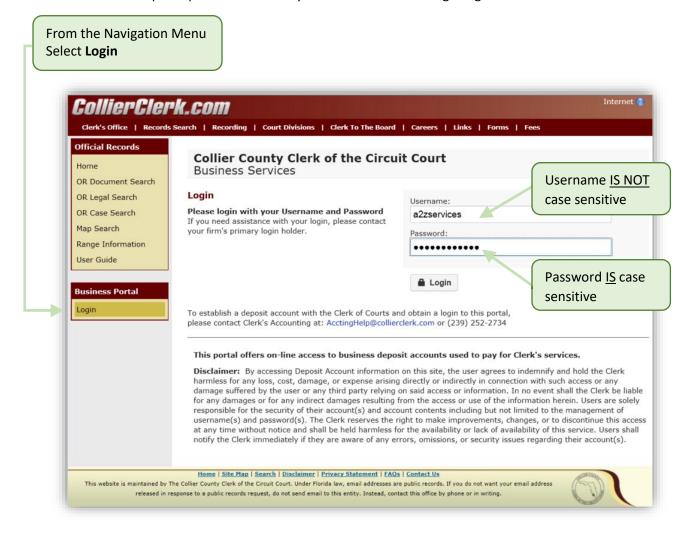
The Clerk's Business Portal provides easy access to:

- Deposit account balance information and document history
- E-Recording documents in the Official Records
- Electronic Funds Transfers & Account Withdrawals

#### **LOGIN**

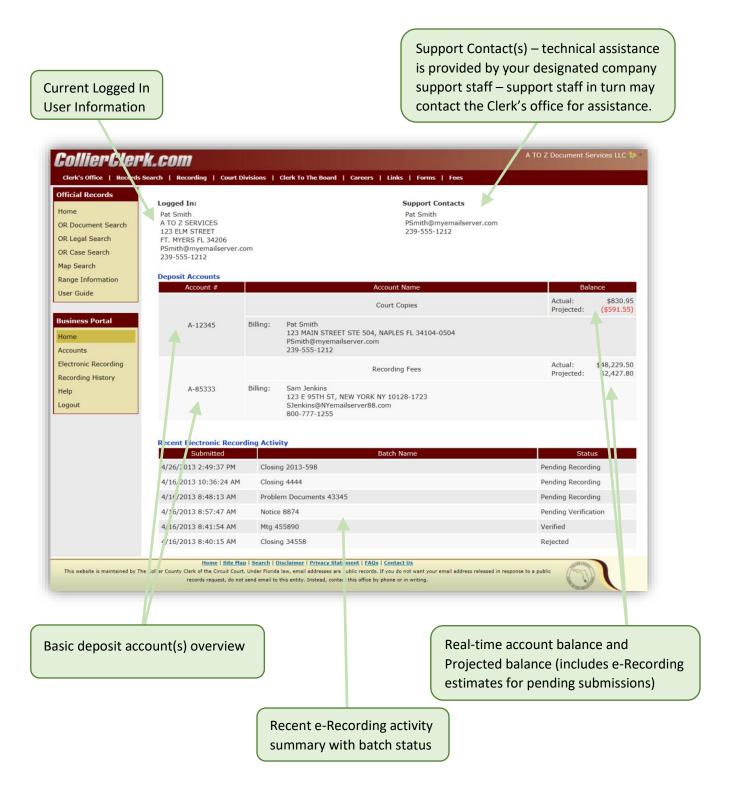
On-line access to deposit accounts is available from the Official Records Search page on the Clerk's website: www.collierclerk.com.

Each customer/firm is assigned a "Primary" login. This is typically assigned to the account holder's finance/bookkeeping personnel responsible for monitoring the account and managing staff access. Note: Customers with multiple deposit accounts may access them from a single login.



#### **HOME**

The home screen provides a quick overview of basic deposit account information and recent e-Recording history.



Page: 4

#### **ACCOUNTS**

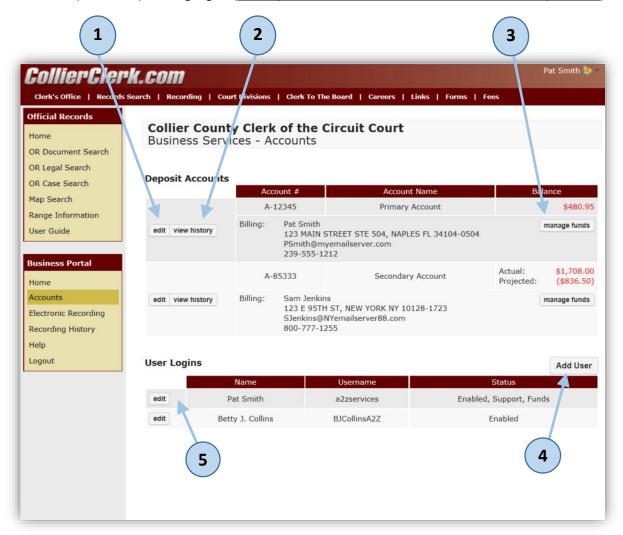
The Accounts screen provides access to deposit account management tools. Some functions may not be available to all users depending on their designated permissions.

#### **DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS:**

- 1. EDIT: Deposit account billing/contact information (Requires "Support" permission)
- 2. VIEW HISTORY: Display account history and receipt images
- 3. MANAGE FUNDS: (Requires "Funds" permission)
  - a. Submit: Deposit via electronic funds transfer
  - b. Withdraw: Request a refund check

**USER LOGINS:** (Requires "Support" permission to add new users or to edit other user's logins)

- 4. Add new logins to your deposit account (one for each staff member)
- 5. Edit (or disable) existing logins (It is important to disable accounts when staff leave your firm)





#### ACCOUNTS: Deposit Accounts: Edit (Requires "Support" permission)

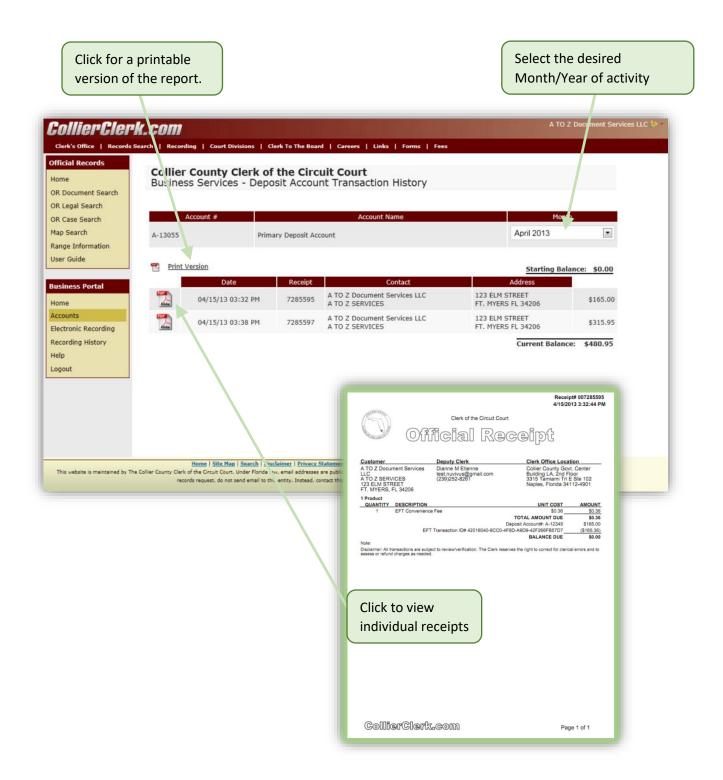
Use this screen to maintain your company address and business contact information. It is important to update this information on a regular basis to reflect any changes. This is the contact/address used for communications regarding your account.

	,	aintain multiple accounts for different (e.g. Recording vs. Courts), name your
		s accordingly to assist the Clerk in charg
CollierCler	<b>rk.com</b> you corre	ectly.
	Search   Recording   Court Divisions   Clerk To The Board   Careers   Links	Forms   Fees
Official Records		
	Collier County Clerk of the Circuit Court	
Home	Business Services - Deposit Account Settings	
OR Document Search	Deposit Account: A-12345	
OR Legal Search	Deposit Account Name (Required) is a description used to distinguish this	Deposit Account Name:
OR Case Search Map Search	account and how it is used. Examples include: "Primary Account", "Naples Office", or "Court Charges ONLY".	Primary Account
Range Information	Billing Contact	Contact Name:
Jser Guide	Contact Name is the full name of the individual to contact for issues concerning this account. This is usually the person responsible for maintaining the account balance.	Pat Smith
lusiness Portal	Contact Email is required. This is the primary form of communication for day	Contact E-Mail:
lome	to day activites.	PSmith@myemailserver.com
Accounts	Primary and Secondary Phone numbers should include an area code.	Phone Primary:
lectronic Recording	Billing Address is where you wish to receive formal mailing concerning this	239-555-1212
Recording History	account (refunds are only mailed to this address).	Phone Secondary:
lelp		Fax 239-555-9999
ogout		Billing Address:
		Street:
a regula	email address that is checked on ar basis by more than one person	123 MAIN STREET STE 504 City: NAPLES
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a regula (in case You ma separat e.g. Joh hen roles char ur organizatio sscode to limit	verbal Passcode:  If you establish a verbal passcode on this account, account holders will be allowed to charge clerk's services on a walk-in basis. Each account holder will be required to provide photo identification and provide the verbal passcode to the account at the time of service. Failure to provide acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will record an acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the current passcode will result in the denial of acceptable identification and the original passcode in denial passcode in account funds. It is strongly recommended that you change your passcode regularly especially after a change of staff. It is your responsibility to manage the passcode and secure it from improper use. If you wish to prevent walk-in use of your account, leave the passcode blank.  Prefered Minimum Balance:  You will receive an email each time your account balance falls below this amount. The Clerk requires a \$50.00 minimum balance by maintained.  Disclaimer   Privacy Statement   FAOs   Contact Us a law, email addresses are public records. If you do not this entity, Instead, contact this office by phone or in well as the contact this office by phone or in well as the pass of the pass o	City:  NAPLES  State Abbreviation: FL  Zip Code: 34104-0504  Country:  Verbal Passcode: Rumpelstiltskin  Preferred Minimum Balance: \$ 500  X Save X Cancel

## 2

#### **ACCOUNTS: View History**

View History provides a detailed view of all transactions that affected the balance in your account for a specific month and year.



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#### ACCOUNTS: Manage Funds (Requires "Funds" permission)

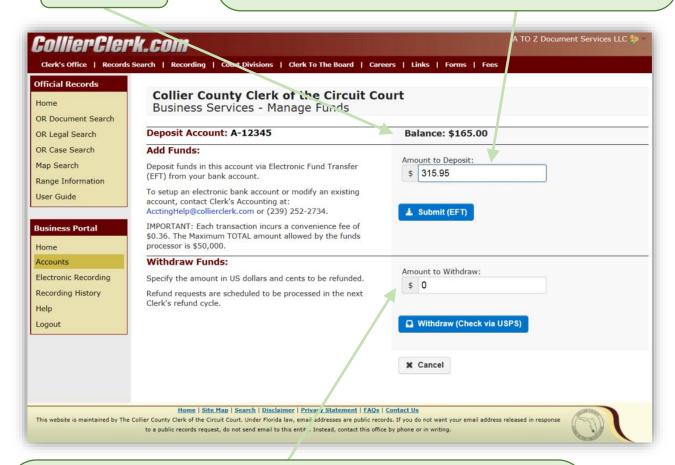
This screen and the confirmation screens that follow allow authorized users to deposit electronic funds and request refunds. Only accounts with an ACH/EFT Authorization Form on file with the Clerk's office may perform electronic deposits. All accounts may request refunds.

#### **Amount to Deposit:**

Enter the amount in US dollars and cents (an additional convenience fee will be added on the next screen). Deposits are immediately reflected in your account balance.

Current account balance

Once submitted, deposits cannot be cancelled.



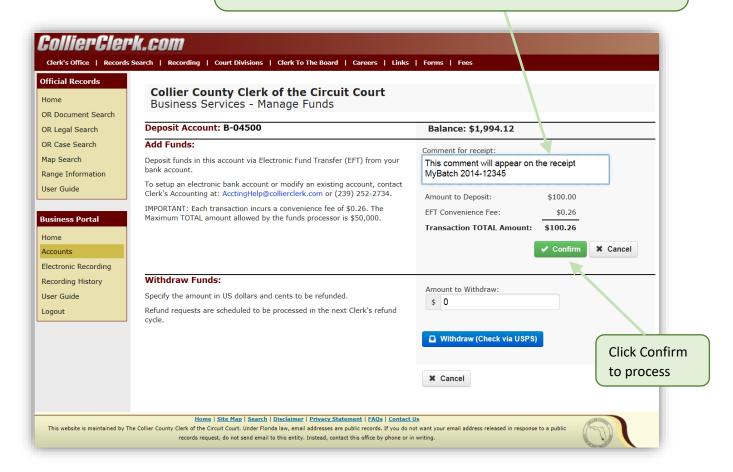
#### **Amount to Withdraw:**

Enter the amount in US dollars and cents that you want refunded from your deposit account (there is no convenience fee). Withdrawal requests are processed as part of the Clerk's standard accounts payable cycle and are not immediately reflected in your account balance. All checks are mailed USPS to the current billing address associated with your account. If you submit a withdrawal request in error, contact the Clerk's Accounting Department immediately to void the request.

#### **Add Funds Confirmation:**

After you click "Submit" to deposit funds in your account, the following confirmation screen will display.

Receipt Comment: You may enter a comment that will appear on your receipt. *Hint: This is a good way to track your deposits against your e-Recording batches.* (Batch names appear on your recording receipts.)





and



#### **USER LOGINS: Add & Edit**

(Requires "Support" permission to add new users or to edit other user's logins)

Each deposit account is assigned a Primary user login with both Support and Funds permissions. Primary users are responsible to create, manage, and provide basic support services to other company staff as needed. Primary users may contact the Clerk's office for support assistance.

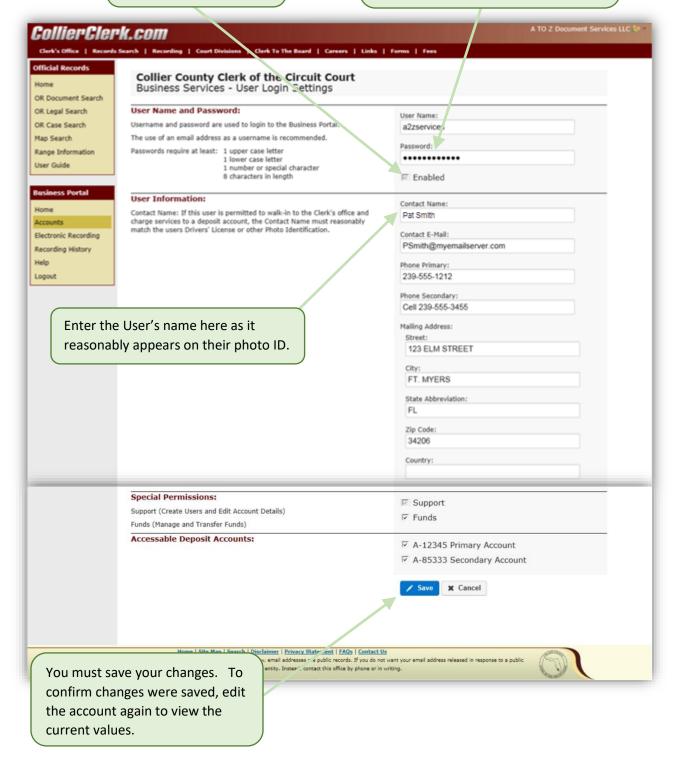
#### **User Logins:**

- It is strongly recommended to create a separate user login for each staff member who will be accessing your account(s) on-line, or charging services at the Clerk's service counters. Counter customers who request services to be charged to a deposit account must have an enabled login.
  - Hint: if you require someone to charge services at the counter but do not wish them to have online access: Create and enable a User Login, provide them with the Verbal Passcode to your account, but DO NOT give them the password for their login.
- It is important to maintain current information for each user. Logins are not automatically disabled. It is recommended that you disable a user's login immediately when they leave your employ.
- It is recommended that you change the "Verbal Passcode" when a user leaves your employ, periodically, or when you feel the password may have been compromised.
- Passwords do not automatically expire after a set number of days; however, you may change your passwords periodically to enhance your security.
- Logins may be disabled but may not be deleted as they have historical information attached.
- Disabled logins still appear in the list of user logins but are located at the bottom of the list. They may be re-enabled.

#### **Special Permissions: Support & Funds**

- Users with "Support" access may add/edit deposit account information as well as all user logins. They may grant/revoke both "Support" and "Funds" access for themselves or other users.
- There must be at least 1 user with "Support" permission for each deposit account(s). Funds access is not required.
- Users with "Funds" access may access the Manage Funds screen to make deposits and request withdrawals.
  - Hint: If your company has multiple deposit accounts and you need a staff member to have different levels of access for each account, create multiple logins with different access permissions and assign the logins to the same person. The staff member will have to log in separately but it will allow you to control the access based on the account.

Check the box to enable this login. Uncheck the box to disable the login. Set or Reset the User Password here. Password rules are shown at left. (All users should reset their own password after a reset.)



#### **ELECTRONIC RECORDING**

#### PREPARATION & REQUIREMENTS

Electronic documents may be submitted to the Clerk for recording in the Official Records. This process begins with good preparation. Each submitter is responsible for their own documents. Failure to prepare documents correctly may result in images being stamped as "poor quality" or in batches being rejected.

#### **Document Images:**

- Images must be scanned and saved prior to attaching them to your batch.
- All images must be scanned at their original size (example: 8 ½" x 11" letter size, or 8 ½" x 14" legal size). Do not scan legal documents as "letter size".
- Images must be scanned as: Black and White, 300 dpi compressed TIF files (compression = G42D indicated as "CITT T6"). Note: In some instances 300 dpi, black/white PDFs may be accepted depending on the file properties; however, PDFs are not officially supported.
- It is important to ensure that each image is clear, legible, and complete.
  - Check that images are straight and that no portion of an electronic image is "cut-off" or cropped when compared to the original paper document.
  - o Confirm that all signatures, notary stamps, etc. are clear and legible.
- Remember, the electronic document you submit becomes the official record. It needs to be the best available image. If you are unsure, re-scan the document/page until you are satisfied with the electronic image(s).

#### **Internet Browser:**

It is recommended to use <u>Microsoft Internet Explorer version 10.x</u> or <u>Google Chrome</u> as your Internet browser. These browsers have been tested with the business portal and provide maximum functionality. Other browsers may restrict certain functions – example: other browsers may prohibit you from uploading more than one image/page at a time.

#### **ELECTRONIC RECORDING: Active Batches Tab**

The Electronic Recording Summary screen (Active Batches tab) provides pending e-recording information "at a glance" summarized by deposit account.

#### Overview:

- Documents are submitted in batches. A batch may consist of one or more individual documents.
- Documents are normally recorded in the order they are submitted within a batch. Please ensure that your documents are ordered correctly.
- All recording fees are deducted from the associated deposit account. It is important to ensure you have sufficient funds in your account BEFORE you submit a batch for e-recording.
- Batches may be rejected. In these instances, the batch is highlighted in RED and displays the reason for the rejection. You may edit the contents of the batch to make necessary corrections and resubmit or you may delete the batch without recording it.
- Batches/documents that were successfully recorded do not appear on the "Active Batches" tab. They appear on the "History" tab.

#### **Status Column:**

The Status column indicates the flow of the batch through the e-recording process.

- Blank = not yet submitted
- Pending Recording = submitted but not yet accepted

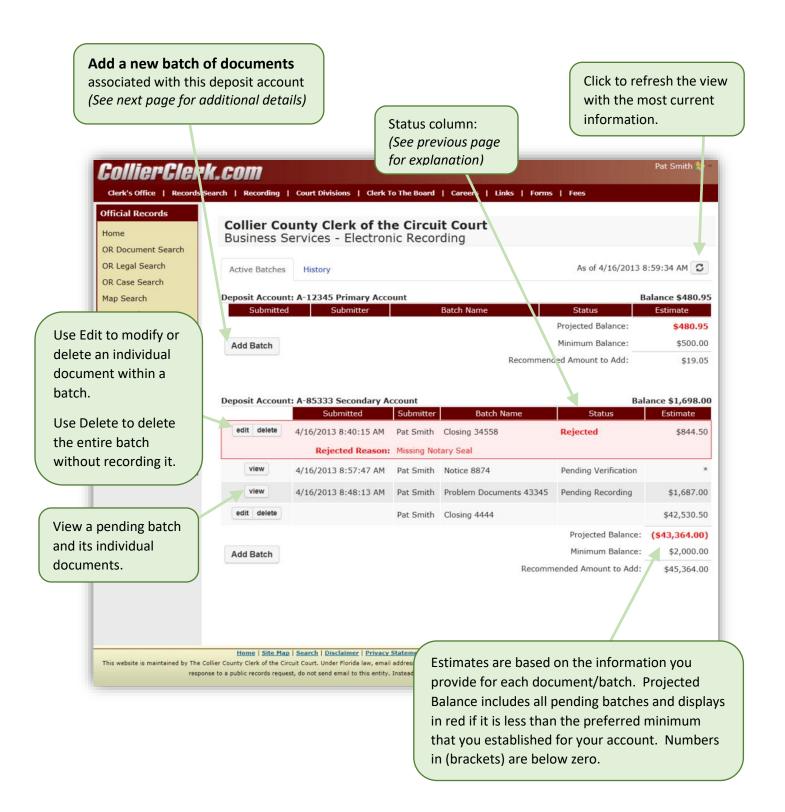
Note: Batches that have been submitted and are pending recording or verification can no longer be edited or deleted by the submitter. They may be viewed.

Pending Verification = accepted, pending final review

Note: The recording process is not complete and documents are not released to the public record until they pass final review/verification.

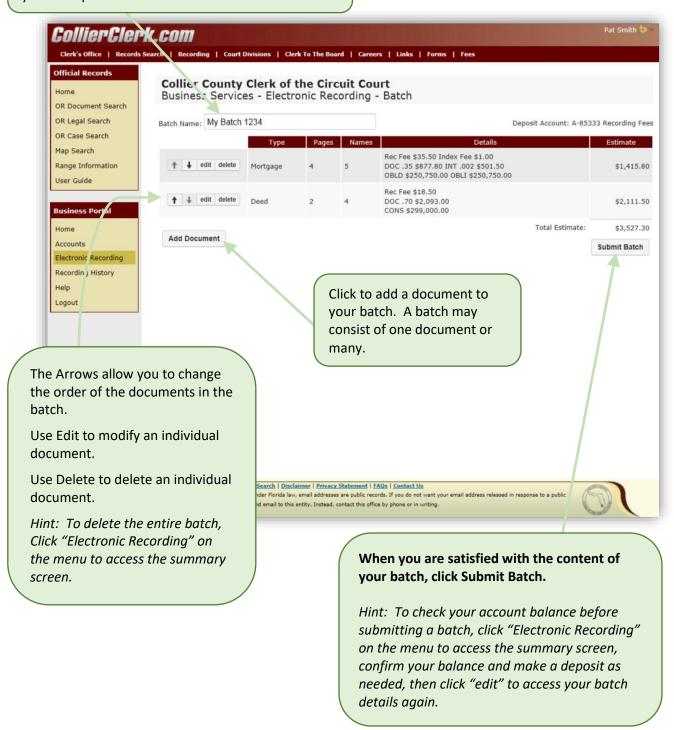
Rejected = Batch has been rejected without being recorded and requires you to take further action.

#### **ELECTRONIC RECORDING: Active Batches Tab (continued)**



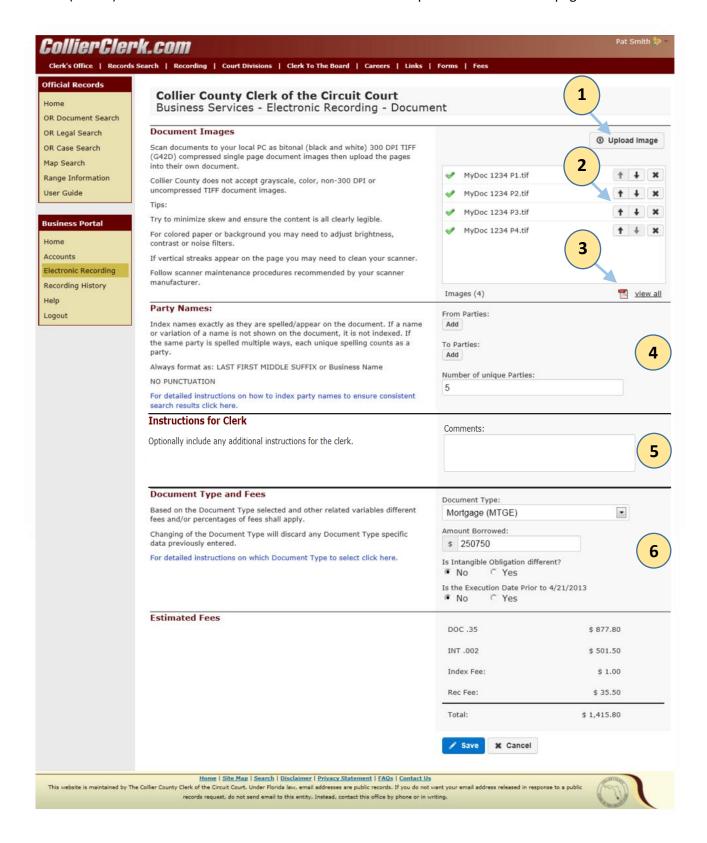
#### **ELECTRONIC RECORDING: Add/Edit Batch**

Specify a Batch Name. Create a name that will help you to track your batches. The batch will appear on your receipt when the documents are recorded.



#### **ELECTRONIC RECORDING: Add/Edit Document:**

The Add (or edit) document screen is shown below with detailed explanations on the next page.



#### **ELECTRONIC RECORDING: Add/Edit Document (continued):**

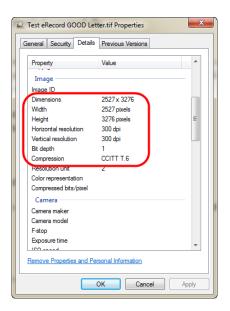


**UPLOAD IMAGE:** Click to upload your previously scanned images. A green check mark will appear next to each page as confirmation that it has been uploaded successfully.

Hint: If you receive a red check mark, confirm that your TIF image is scanned correctly:

Open File Explorer, right click on your TIF image and select Properties. From the Properties window, click the Details tab and scroll down to the "Image" section. Confirm that Height is greater than Width, both Horizontal and Vertical resolution are 300dpi, and Compression is CCITT T.6. If not, you need to rescan your document and save the resulting image with the correct properties.

Example: TIF image with acceptable image properties



Hint:

If you scanned your document as single page images you may select and upload multiple images at the same time:

To upload consecutive images:

Selecting the first image file, press and hold the Shift key, click the last file. This will select all the files in-between.

To upload non-consecutive images:

Select the first file, then press and hold the Ctrl key. While holding down the Ctrl key, click to select each of the other files.

2

**PAGE POSITION & DELETE:** Click the arrows to move an individual page up or down within the document. Click the 'X' to delete an individual page.

3

**VIEW ALL:** Verify your work by viewing the document (all pages) as it will be submitted. It is recommended that you view each document and confirm the order of pages before you save it.

4

**PARTY NAMES:** The number of party names on a document affects the cost of recording. It is important to either: 1) enter the total number of party names, or 2) add each party name in the appropriate **From** or **To** category.

5

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLERK:** Enter any special instructions for the clerk. Example: "Please mail certified copy back after recording." (This field is optional)

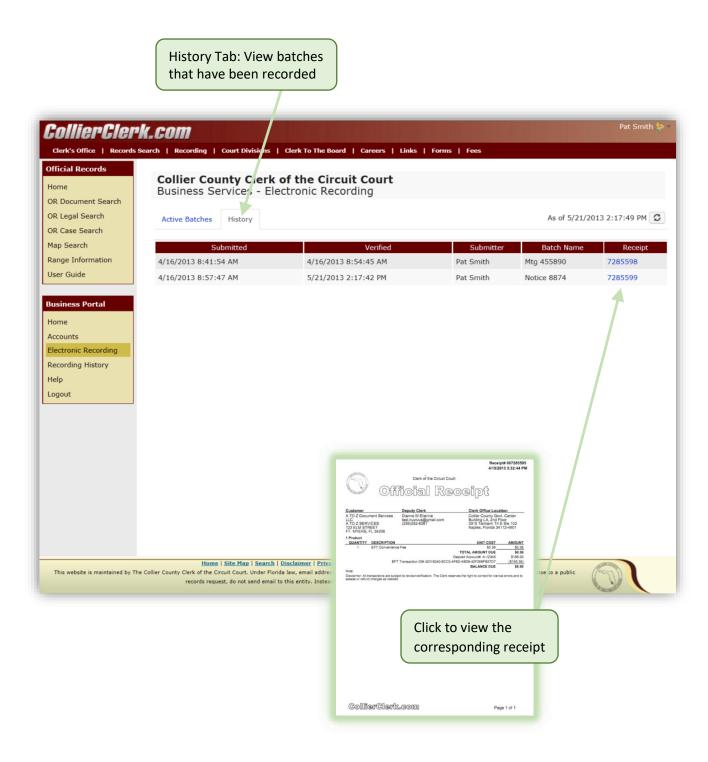
6

**DOCUMENT TYPE and FEES:** Click the dropdown and select the appropriate document type. Based on your selection, you will be prompted to provide additional information that is necessary to generate a cost estimate.

Hint: Press the Tab key after entering numeric information to ensure the cost estimate at the bottom of the screen is updated.

#### **ELECTRONIC RECORDING: History Tab**

This list represents the history of your completed batches. Receipts are generated by batch and a link to each receipt is provided. Document images are not available here but may be found in RECORDING HISTORY.



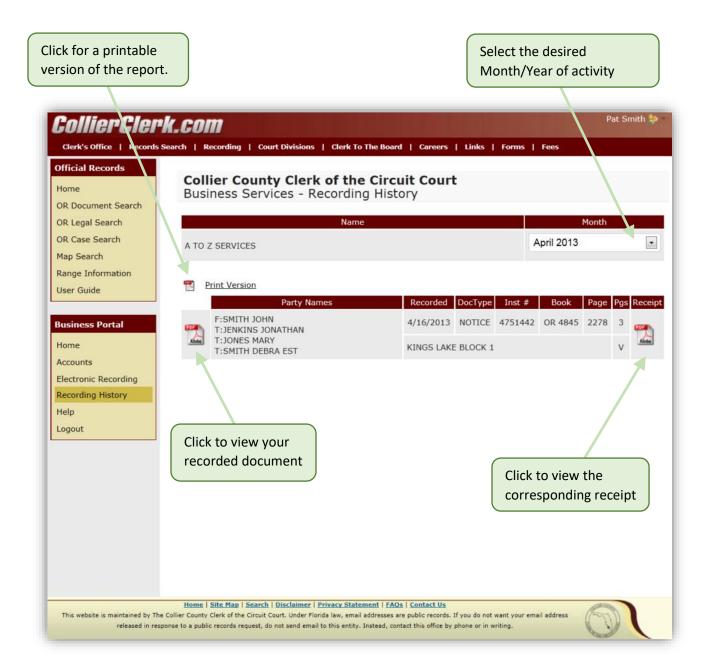
#### **QUICK E-Record Example:**

This example assumes that your account is set up for Electronic Funds Transfers (recommended for e-recording).

- 1. Scan documents as 300dpi, Black/White TIF images with CITT-T6 compression (single or multipage).
- 2. Login to the Clerk's Business Portal.
- 3. Click *Electronic Recording* from the menu on the left.
- 4. Click Add Batch.
- 5. Enter a batch name that will appear on the bottom of your recording receipt (typically your file/case reference number).
- 6. Click Add Document.
- 7. Upload your previously scanned images (for 1 document).
- 8. Click View All and confirm images "look good".
- 9. Enter Number of Parties, Document Type, etc. (tab between fields).
- 10. Click Save.
- 11. If you need to add more documents to this batch, Click *Add Document* & repeat from step 7 (documents in the same batch are recorded with consecutive instrument numbers).
- 12. If needed, click up/down arrows to adjust order of documents (documents are recorded in the order submitted).
- 13. Click Submit Batch.
- 14. IMMEDIATELY perform an electronic funds deposit to fund your account (a delay may cause a batch to be rejected for insufficient funds):
  - a. Click Accounts from the menu on the left
  - b. Click Add Funds
  - c. Click Manage Funds (right side)
  - d. In the Add Funds section: Enter the amount to electronically deposit (a convenience fee will be added). Click *Submit*.
  - e. In the Comment field: Enter the same batch name you used in step 5 (so it appears on your receipt). Click *Confirm*.
- 15. <u>IMPORTANT</u>: Login in to the Business Portal periodically to confirm that all batches were recorded or to correct problems with rejected batches and resubmit them. <u>It is your responsibility to monitor the status of your batches.</u>

#### **RECORDING HISTORY**

Recording History provides a detailed view of all recorded documents associated with your account for a specific month and year. Documents will appear here regardless if they were e-recorded or if they were submitted as paper documents as long as they were associated with account at the time of recording.



#### **HELP**

Help provides access to this User Guide. Additional technical assistance may be obtained from the Support Contacts shown at the top of the "Home" screen.



Each Deposit Account is assigned a "Primary User Login" with Support privileges. This user may contact the Clerk's office for additional assistance at the address below. All other users must contact their Primary User(s) for support.

Collier Clerk of Courts
Accounting Department
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 701
Naples, FL 34112-5746

Email: AcctingHelp@CollierClerk.com

Phone: (239) 252-2734

#### **LOGOUT**

Logout disconnects you from the business portal and helps to prevent unauthorized access to your account. It is strongly recommended that you logout as soon as you are finished using the portal and before you walk away from your computer.

Note: you may also close your Internet browser window(s) to logout; however, it is important to ensure that all browser windows are closed to ensure that you are completely disconnected.

Note: for security purposes, after approximately 15 minutes of inactivity, you will be automatically logged out and will be required to login again to continue using your account.