

CM/ECF Filing Errors

(U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Indiana)

The Issue: CM/ECF infrequently but erroneously reuses a transaction ID for two unrelated case transactions. When this happens it may prevent the proper docketing of a filing notwithstanding a CM/ECF message to the filer that appears to indicate the filing has been accepted. This is a national issue that has been reported by several bankruptcy courts. There is no immediate resolution or work-around.

Below is an ECF image showing how this type of transaction appears. Users will see this message on first submission of the transaction, warning that an error has occurred.

The screenshot shows a warning message in a light blue box. At the top, a red box highlights the case number '21-22222'. The text reads: 'Debtor dismissed 06/16/2023, Joint debtor dismissed 06/16/2023'. Below this, there are three columns of metadata: 'Type: bk', 'Chapter: 13 v', 'Office: 1 (Fort Wayne)'; 'Assets: y', 'Debtor disposition: Dismissed for Other Reason', 'Joint debtor disposition: Dismissed for Other Reason'; and 'Judge: NVA', 'Case Flag: NODIS, DISMISSED'. A warning message follows: 'Warning: The transaction you submitted has already been accepted and posted by this system. If your original submission contained an error, you must contact the court for further instructions on how to void it. If this submission was inadvertently submitted (clicking on the Next link on the previous page twice), you may find details about your original submission by viewing your transaction log. Additional information follows:'. Below the warning is a table with the following data:

Transaction Id	41244640
Date/Time of Submission	2023-09-14 16:20:31
Login	Grant, Kelly
Case Number	23-11111

When this CM/ECF error occurs, case numbers on the screen are inconsistent. In this example, Case No. 21-22222 is the actual case while Case No. 23-11111 is unrelated to what the user is trying to submit. In addition, the text box may list an event different than being submitted by the user.

The Result: The transaction may have not docketed despite the message that the transaction has already been submitted and accepted by the ECF system.

The Remedy: Users must check the docket sheet to confirm whether the intended transaction was docketed. If the user's intended transaction appears on the docket, no action is necessary. If the transaction does not appear on the docket, the user must resubmit the transaction.

If you encounter such a filing error or have questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at:

South Bend: 574-968-2100
Fort Wayne: 260-420-5100
Hammond: 219-852-3480
Lafayette: 765-420-6300