



# Debunking the Top 12 Misconceptions About Digital Court Reporting



As litigation increases and the number of court reporters continues to decline, alternative methods of capturing the record are becoming increasingly prominent. Digital transformation is making strides in the way attorneys capture and preserve testimonies and is emerging as a viable solution to mitigate the shortage. In fact, digital recording now accounts for 20% of the market, translating into a 500 million dollar industry, mainly in courts - and this number keeps growing.

**However, the emergence and rise of digital reporting as an alternative and improved method of capturing the record has led to a number of misconceptions about the practice of digital court reporting, as compared to stenography. Here are the top 11, debunked.**

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### Myth #1: No one is doing digital court reporting

The trend is steadily increasing, with approximately 20% of the market already doing digital, and the majority of that transformation being in courts (about 85% of courts have already undergone a digital transformation). In depositions, there is a shift towards digital due to the shortage of court reporters and resulting lack of coverage availability. **According to the National Center for State Courts**, "It is critical that any alternate method of making the record embody the fundamentals for its creation, production, and preservation: effectiveness, reliability, accuracy, and timeliness. Digital recording meets this goal."

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### Myth#2: Not many states allow digital reporting

While the default method of capturing the record is stenography in some states, almost all states in the US allow digital reporting. Many states, including California and Texas, enable a simple addition to the notice and/or stipulation to enable the use of alternative capture methods. New Jersey, for example, was already using digital recording in approximately 90% of its court sessions in 2013, according to a September 2013 paper by the National Center for State Courts.

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### Myth #3: All stenographers can provide real-time reporting, while digital can't

Real-time reporting requires a highly skilled and experienced professional that can type with over 95% accuracy, meaning very few stenographers can actually do it. It also requires specialized equipment to provide a live feed to attorneys. Digital methods are evolving to soon reach the point of closing the gap to provide that same experience that only a handful of stenographers can provide.

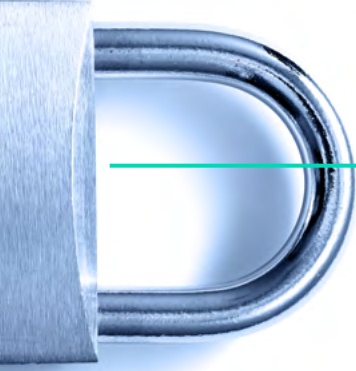
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### Myth #4: Digital reporting has a slower turnaround time

Court proceedings that are recorded digitally have the same turnaround time as proceedings that are recorded by a stenographer and can even be faster depending on the process. For example, in depositions, the industry standard for turnaround time is 10 business days using a stenographer, which is the same as in digital. In fact, **the use of digital reporting, particularly a process that involves AI is quicker by 30%, taking seven days rather than 10.**





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### **Myth#5: Digital reporting has too many inaudible sections**

More sensitive and better quality microphones that are specifically meant for digital reporting have been developed, enabling more precise audio capture and thus few inaudible portions.

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### **Myth#6: Digital reporting is not secure**

A digital provider complies with all the same regulations as a stenographer including HIPPA, SOC2, GDPR, and end-to-end encryption of files.

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### **Myth# 7: Digital reporting is less accurate than stenography**

Advanced technology, including the use of AI and machine learning algorithms, has enabled the development of sophisticated tools that ensure a high level of reporting accuracy.

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### **Myth #8: Digital reporting can't support read-backs**

Digital reporters can provide an equivalent audio playback in the original voice.

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### **Myth #9: There is no officiant present in the room with digital reporting**

A professional digital reporting firm will send a reporter who is a notary and is thus a trained and certified officiant.

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### **Myth #10: Digital capture methods are more expensive**

Digital court reporting is more cost-effective, as highly skilled court reporters can be utilized on more complex tasks and do not have to focus on basic processes such as transcribing.

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**Myth# 11: Stenographers and court reporters are always available for a job**

Although highly trained and professional, stenographers and court reporters are, at the end of the day, human beings and are therefore subject to human factors such as illness and tardiness. An AI solution never has a bad day and is always on call to serve clients reliably.

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**Myth# 12: Digital transcription is like Alexa and Siri**

Getting top quality recordings that lead to accurate transcriptions can be made difficult by background noise and inaudible speech. However, AI-based transcription involves Acoustic, Linguistic and Contextual Events models. Combining these models with smart algorithms train the Automated Speech Recognition engine with the most relevant knowledge to ensure the highest accuracy, and this is far from similar to Siri or Alexa.

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**It's clear that digitally reporting court proceedings offer many advantages that can be a valid antidote to the shortage of reporters and can rescue the resulting sluggish court system. As more and more courts across the United States continue to adopt digital methods, processes will be expedited and, as a result, justice will be able to be dispensed quicker, more accurately, and for a lower cost.**

**"The payoff for transitioning to digital court recording is so positive that state and local court systems are justified to invest time and resources to establish strong governance and oversight programs, effective courtroom practices, an effective transcript management system, and minimum standards for digital-recording systems, software, and equipment."**

**- James MacMillan and Lee Suskin,  
National Center for State Courts**



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