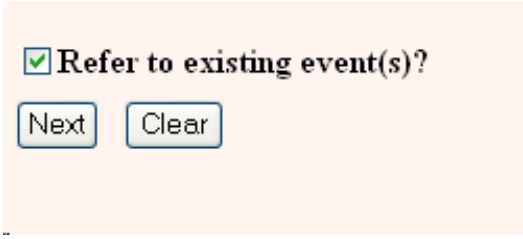
# Importance of Relating Filings

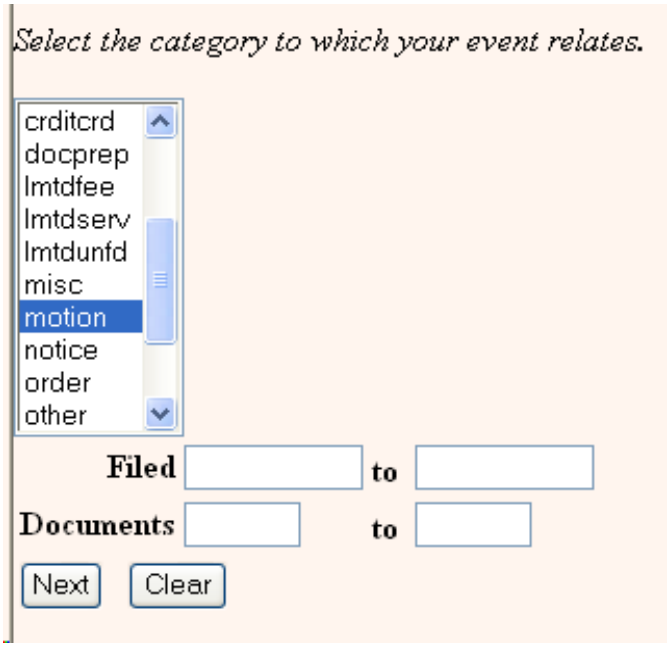
When filing a document in ECF, you are often given the opportunity to relate that filing to a previous filing in the case. In most cases, you are asked whether you want to relate the filing, but if you do not, even though you should have, you may proceed with the filing. You are encouraged to complete the related filing process whenever your filing relates to a filing already on the docket. C ertain entries require you to complete the related process or you will not be able to file the document. For example, when filing a Notice of Hearing you will be required to relate that notice to the underlying motion or other filing that is the subject of the hearing and if you do not, you will not be able to complete the filing. The docket number of the motion or other filing that is the subject of the hearing is required so that the matter will be properly calendared in the judge's calendar. When uploading a proposed order granting or otherwise ruling on a motion or application, the order is to be related to the motion or application.

## Relating Filing Process

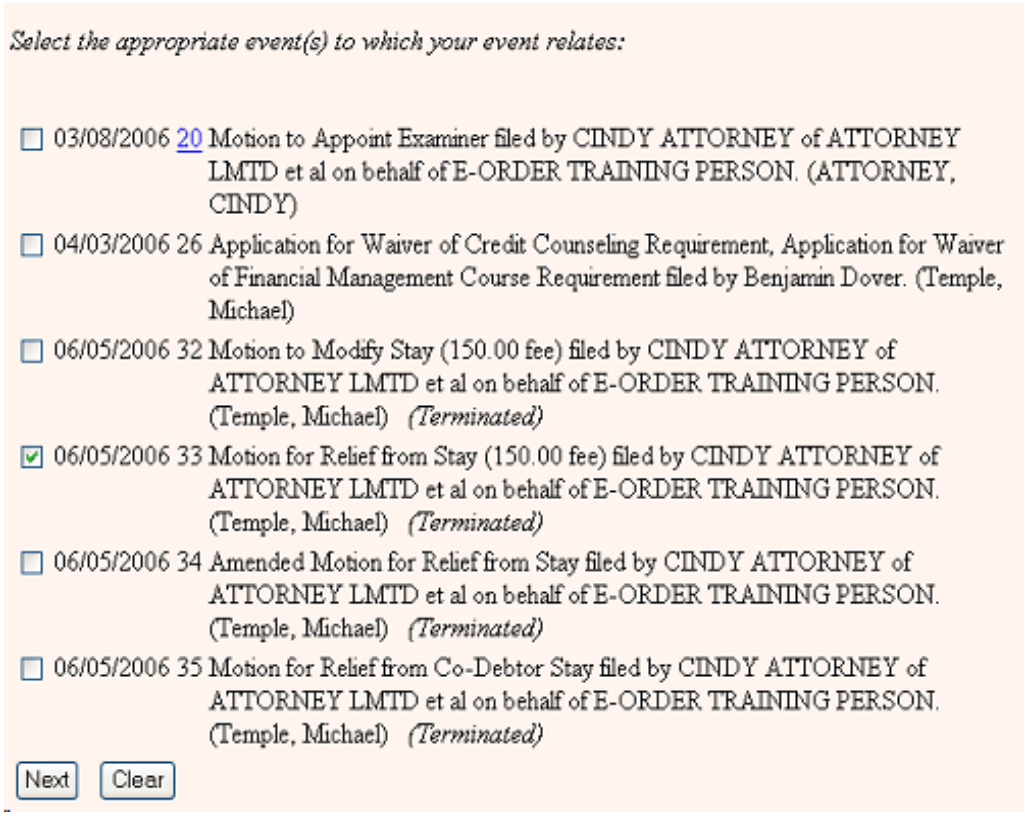
When filing a document, if you are presented with the following prompt, you do want to check the box and complete the related filing process whenever the document you are filing relates to an underlying motion or other document that initiated the matter.



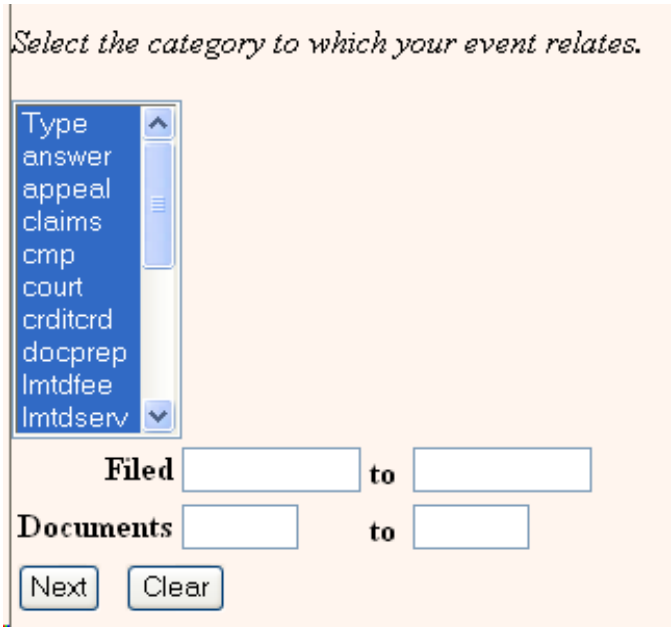

For certain filings you will be required to complete the related filing process so you will not be given the above option to check the box. Instead, the screen below will automatically be displayed.




In this example, a Notice of the Motion for Relief from Stay is being filed and will be related to the motion, so the motion category has been selected. This results in a list of the motions filed in the case being displayed. The motion that is related to the notice is checked.




If you are not sure of the category of the related filing, instead of selecting a category, you can select all of them (right click and drag) and then all filings on the docket will be displayed from which you can check the related motion and/or other filing.



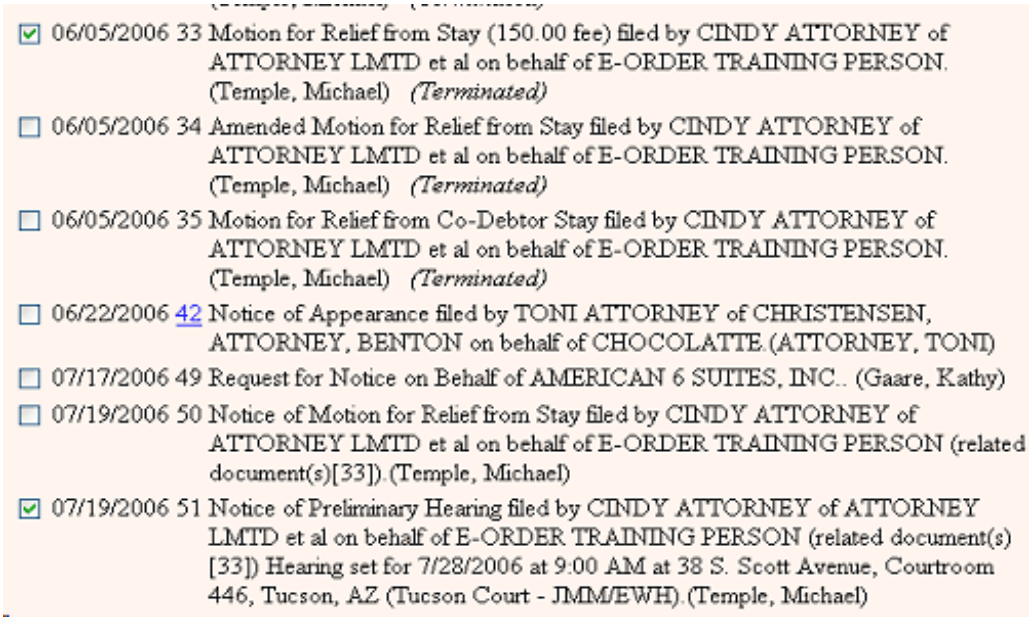

The document number of the related motion is then automatically included in the text of the docket entry.

Docket Text: Final Text

Notice of Motion for Relief from Stay filed by CINDY ATTORNEY of ATTORNEY LMTD et al on behalf of E-ORDER TRAINING PERSON (related document(s)[33]).(Temple, Michael)

In the above example, it is important that the Motion for Relief from Stay be filed before the Notice is filed. The notice cannot be properly related to the motion if the notice is filed first. If a hearing is set on the motion, for the hearing to be properly calendared it must refer to the motion.

It is also important that when filing a document that directly relates to a document which itself is related to the underlying motion, that your filing be related to both documents. In this example, the debtor objected to relief from the stay and the creditor's attorney obtained a date and time for the preliminary hearing and filed a notice of that hearing. The attorney is now filing a certificate of service of the preliminary hearing notice, that certificate of service is directly related to the hearing notice as that is the document that was served, but it also is related to the underlying Motion for Relief from Stay. So that all filings pertaining to the motion are related to it, the certificate of service needs to be related to both the hearing notice and the motion for relief from stay. If the certificate of service is only related to the hearing notice, then it will not be included in any report of the motion and related filings.




Also note that the Notice of Preliminary Hearing at docket 51 was properly related to the Motion for Relief from Stay at docket 33.