

# NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Update on Shooting at Superior Court in Holbrook, Navajo County**

PHOENIX – Two women lost their lives yesterday as they exited the Superior Court of Navajo County in Holbrook. A third individual sustained leg injuries. The incident occurred shortly after 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 28. The shooting appears to have been provoked by a contested custody hearing after which a man left the building, went to his car to retrieve a gun, and shot the women as they were leaving the county building.

Local authorities say the confrontation and shooting was personally motivated and not an attempt at a mass shooting. Early information indicates that the male suspect did not prevail in the custody matter.

Local law enforcement, court personnel, and first responders quickly arrived to render aid to the victims. The shooting occurred when county employees and court personnel were still working or beginning to depart for home. Multiple people heard or saw what happened, or the aftermath of the shooting. The Presiding Judge and Court Administrator are making services available to those who need assistance.

“It is a sad day. This awful event has rocked – and maybe changed – this tight-knit community,” Presiding Judge Michala Ruechel said. “I know our people are resilient. We will continue to work every day to ensure that our courts are a safe place to resolve disputes.”

Members of the Navajo County homicide task force are investigating.

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