

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
AUTHORIZING AN ELECTRONIC) Administrative Order
SEARCH WARRANT PILOT) No. 2012 - 15
PROGRAM IN MARICOPA COUNTY)
)
)
_____)

The Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Maricopa County proposes to pilot the exchange of search warrants, affidavits, and returns by law enforcement officers and the court by means of a secured internet connection. The court anticipates the electronic exchange of search warrant documentation will significantly reduce costs of materials and manpower and the time required to issue a search warrant.

A.R.S. § 13-3914 authorizes courts to issue search warrants upon information communicated electronically to the court. A.R.S. § 13-3915 authorizes the court to transmit approved warrants by telefacsimile. Additional authorization is needed to implement electronic exchange procedures for all search warrant documentation.

Now, therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Sections 3 and 5, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED authorizing a pilot program in the Superior Court in Maricopa County for receiving warrant requests, affidavits, and returns, and issuing search warrants authorized by law electronically pursuant to policies and procedures to be established by the Presiding Judge in Maricopa County.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Presiding Judge shall establish a reliable and secure system for exchanging electronic documents and signatures between the court and law enforcement agencies in Maricopa County participating in the program.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the pilot program shall run for a period not to exceed two years, beginning on a date designated by the Presiding Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that prior to the conclusion of the program, the Presiding Judge shall provide a report to the Arizona Judicial Council, and the Supreme Court, describing the policies and procedures adopted and their effectiveness in reducing costs and improving warrant processing.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2012.

FOR THE COURT:

REBECCA WHITE BERCH
Chief Justice