

**CASE PROCESSING STANDARDS ANALYSIS  
CIVIL - JUSTICE COURT CASES**

**National Center for State Courts Model Time Standards for General Civil Cases:**

- 75% within 180 days/6 months
- 90% within 365 days/12 months
- 98% within 540 days/18 months

**Measurement:** Filing of initial complaint through disposition (e.g., dismissal, judgment)

**Arizona Civil - Justice Court Cases**

The Arizona Case Processing Standards Steering Committee recommends that Arizona adopt a faster standard than the national standards:

- 75% within 120 days**
- 90% within 180 days**
- 98% within 270 days**

- ✓ Justice Court civil cases under \$10,000.00 will be included
- ✓ Superior Court civil cases will be excluded and have a different standard

**Measurement:** Filing of initial complaint through disposition (e.g., dismissal, judgment)  
The following stay of proceedings will be excluded from the measurement: special action/appeals, bankruptcy and Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
<b>Initial Complaint Filed:</b>	<b>(Measurement Starts Here)</b>
<b>Motions Filed Prior to Answer:</b> Rule 128(e), JCRCP  Rule 140(d), JCRCP	<p><b><u>Response and Reply:</u></b> Party opposing a motion shall have <b>10 days</b> after service to file a response. Moving party has <b>5 days</b> to file a reply.</p> <p><b><u>Default Judgment:</u></b> Default entered by the clerk effective <b>10 days</b> after filing of application for entry of default</p>
<b>Discovery and Disclosure:</b> Rule 123(b), JCRCP  Rule 121(a), JCRCP  Rule 121(b), JCRCP  Rule 124(b), Rule 125(c), and Rule 126(b), JCRCP  Rule 126(c), JCRCP	<p><b><u>Depositions:</u></b> Depositions can be taken <b>30 days</b> after the party being deposed was served. A witness can be deposed <b>60 days</b> after an opposing party has appeared in a lawsuit.</p> <p><b><u>Disclosure Statements:</u></b> Must serve disclosure statements within <b>40 days</b> after defendant has filed an answer or at a time set by the court.</p> <p>Continuing duty to disclose until the lawsuit is over.</p> <p><b><u>Interrogatories, Request for Production of Documents and Request for Admissions:</u></b> Responses to discovery must be served within <b>40 days</b> of service except that a defendant has <b>60 days</b> if discovery request is served with complaint. A second notice that provides an additional <b>15 day</b> grace period for a</p>

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
<p>Rule 122(f)(5), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 119(a), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 129(b), JCRCP</p>	<p>response on a request for admissions is required.</p> <p><b><u>Non-Parties at Fault:</u></b> Must identify non-parties at fault within <b>60 days</b> from the filing of the answer.</p> <p><b><u>Amendment to Pleadings:</u></b> A party may amend a pleading one time before a response has been provided. If no response is required, a party may amend a pleading within <b>20 days</b> after the pleading was filed.</p> <p><b><u>Summary Judgment:</u></b> A party may file a motion for summary judgment no sooner than the date that the answer is filed or is due and no later than <b>90 days</b> before the date set for trial.</p> <p>Response to motion for summary judgment is due within <b>30 days</b> after service of motion. Reply is due within <b>15 days</b> of service of the response.</p>
<p><b>Optional Mediation</b></p> <p>Rule 130, JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 130(f), JCRCP</p>	<p><b><u>Optional Mediation:</u></b> Justice courts may establish a mediation program.</p> <p><b><u>Settlement at Mediation Conference:</u></b> If court notified by mediator that lawsuit was settled, the court may dismiss the lawsuit, with notice to the parties, <b>30 days</b> after the date of the mediation conference. If during that 30 day period, a party notifies the court that the terms of the settlement agreement have not been fulfilled, the court may set the lawsuit for a pretrial conference or a trial.</p>
<p><b>Trial:</b></p> <p>Rule 133(a), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 144(e), JCRCP</p>	<p><b><u>Setting a Lawsuit for Trial:</u></b> Court may set a trial date once an answer is filed, or a party may request that the court set a trial date after the parties have had an adequate time to serve disclosure statements. Unless the parties agree or the court has good reasons, a trial may not be set to begin less than <b>120 days</b> after an answer was filed.</p> <p><b><u>Inactive Calendar:</u></b> If a final judgment has not been entered within <b>10 months</b> from the filing date, or if a party has not filed a written motion to extend the time for entry of judgment, the court will mail a notice to the plaintiff and any defendant who has appeared in the lawsuit. The notice will inform the parties that unless this requirement is met within 2 months from date of mailing, the court will dismiss the lawsuit for failure to have judgment timely entered. If the requirement has not been met within <b>2 months</b> from the mailing of the court's notice, the court may dismiss the lawsuit without further notice to the parties.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Measurement Stops Here)</b></p>

## JUSTICE COURT CIVIL TIMELINE

NCSC Model Time Standards  
75% with in 180 days – 90% within 365 days – 98% within 540 days

