

**CASE PROCESSING STANDARDS ANALYSIS
SUMMARY CIVIL CASES –
SMALL CLAIMS**

National Center for State Courts Model Time Standards for Summary Civil Cases:

- 75% within 60 days
- 90% within 90 days
- 98% within 180 Days

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

Arizona Civil - Small Claims Cases Only

The Arizona Case Processing Standards Steering Committee recommends that Arizona adopt a different standard:

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

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

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
Petition Filed:	(Measurement Starts Here) Small Claims Petition filed
Service of Process: A.R.S. ¹ § 22-514	Small Claims: Defendant to file an answer within 20 days
Discovery and Continuances: A.R.S. § 22-515 A.R.S. § 22-516	Small Claims Continuances: In small claims cases continuances granted only for most serious reasons. Discovery: Parties are not bound by formal rules of procedure, pleading or evidence. Discovery proceedings shall not be used in the small claims procedures.
Trial: A.R.S. § 22-515(A) A.R.S. § 22-520(A) A.R.S. § 22-520(D)	Small Claims: Hearing date: Upon the filing of an answer by the defendant, a hearing date shall be set for a date within 60 days . Judgment rendered 10 days from close of trial. Judgment is due and payable after the judgment is rendered by the justice of the peace. (Measurement Stops Here)

¹ Arizona Revised Statutes

JUSTICE COURT SMALL CLAIMS TIMELINE

Arizona Case Processing Time Standards
75% with in 90 days – 90% within 120 days – 98% within 180 days

