

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

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

- 75% within 180 days
- 90% within 365 days
- 98% within 540 days

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

**Arizona Civil - Justice Court Cases**

The following standards have been adopted for Justice Court Civil cases:

- 75% within 180 days**
- 90% within 270 days**
- 98% within 365 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).

**Excluded Time:** The following may result in a stay of proceedings and the time elapsed will be excluded from the measurement: pre-adjudication special action/appeals, bankruptcy, and stays granted pursuant to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
<b>Initial Complaint Filed:</b>	<b>(Measurement Starts Here)</b>
<b>Service of Process:</b> Rule 113(i), JCRCP <sup>1</sup>	<b><u>No Service-Dismissal:</u></b> The court may dismiss the action if the summons and complaint have not been served upon the defendant within <b>120 days</b> of the filing of the complaint.
<b>Response:</b> Rule 128(e), JCRCP  Rule 140, JCRCP	<b><u>Response and Reply:</u></b> a defendant who is served with a summons and complaint within the State of Arizona must file a written answer or response with the court within <b>20 days</b> after the date of service. A defendant who is served with a summons and complaint outside the State of Arizona must file a written answer or response with the court within <b>30 days</b> after the date of service.  <b><u>Default Judgment:</u></b> A default judgment may be entered against a party who was served with a complaint, counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party complaint, and who failed to file an answer or otherwise respond within the time allowed by the Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure. A party seeking a default judgment must first file an application requesting that the court enter a default against the party who failed to answer. The opposing party has <b>10 days</b> to answer the

<sup>1</sup> Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
	<p>application, otherwise, the court may enter a default judgment.  <b>(Measurement Stops Here)</b>  <b>OR</b></p>
<p><b>Discovery and Disclosure:</b>  Rule 123(b), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 121(a), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 121(b), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 124(b), Rule 125(c), and Rule 126(b), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 126(c), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 122(f)(5), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 119(a), JCRCP</p> <p>Rule 129(b), JCRCP</p>	<p><b>Depositions:</b> A party may take a deposition of another party <b>30 days</b> after the party being deposed was served under Rule 113. A party may take a deposition of a witness <b>60 days</b> after an opposing party has appeared in the lawsuit pursuant to Rule 114(e).</p> <p><b>Disclosure Statements:</b> Within <b>40 days</b> after the defendant has filed an answer, or at a time set by the court, each party must provide to the other parties a written disclosure statement.</p> <p>The duty to make the disclosures required by Rule 121, JCRCP, is a duty that continues until the lawsuit is over.</p> <p><b>Interrogatories, Request for Production of Documents, and Request for Admissions:</b>  Responses to discovery are due <b>40 days</b> after service, except that a defendant has <b>60 days</b> after the date of service, unless otherwise ordered by the court, if the discovery request was served with a summons and complaint.</p> <p>A second notice that provides an additional <b>15 day</b> grace period for a response on a request for admissions is required if the party has not responded.</p> <p><b>Non-Parties at Fault:</b> A party alleging that a person or entity not currently or formerly named as a party was wholly or partially at fault in causing any personal injury or property damage for which damages are sought in the lawsuit must identify the non-party within <b>60 days</b> from the filing of the answer.</p> <p><b>Amendment to Pleadings:</b> A party may amend a pleading one time within <b>21 days</b> after service of a responsive pleading. If no response is required, a party may amend a pleading within <b>21 days</b> after the pleading was filed.</p> <p><b>Summary Judgment:</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. A party's response to the motion must be filed within <b>30 days</b> after the motion has been served. The moving party may file a reply to the response within <b>15 days</b> after the response is served, but a reply is not required.  <b>(Measurement Stops Here)</b>  <b>OR</b></p>
<p><b>Optional Mediation</b>  Rule 130, JCRCP</p>	<p><b>Optional Mediation:</b> Each precinct individually or in cooperation</p>

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
Rule 130(f), JCRC	<p>with the presiding judge or justice of the peace for the county may establish a mediation program.</p> <p><b><u>Settlement at Mediation Conference:</u></b> If the court was notified by the mediator that a 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 <b>30 day</b> 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> Rule 133(a), JCRC</p> <p>Rule 144(e), JCRC</p>	<p><b><u>Setting a Lawsuit for Trial:</u></b> The court may set a date for trial once an answer has been filed, or a party may request the court set a trial date after the parties have had an adequate opportunity 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 date a lawsuit is filed, or if a party has not filed a written motion to extend the time for entry of judgment to a particular date, the court will mail a notice to the plaintiff and to any defendant who has appeared in the lawsuit informing them that unless this requirement is met within <b>2 months</b> from the 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>