

AGENDA

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL
Arizona State Courts Building
1501 W. Washington St., Suite 119
Phoenix, AZ 85007

March 29, 2012

10:00 a.m. Welcome/Opening Remarks Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch

Tab No.

(1) Approval of Minutes Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch

Action Items:

10:05 a.m. (2) Judicial Branch Legislative Update Mr. Jerry Landau
.....Ms. Amy Love

10:30 a.m. Other Legislation Impacting the Courts
- HB 2398: judicial actions; children; names; redaction
Issue: Sensitive Information in Minute Entries on the Web
- Rule 123 and 125

Study / Update Sessions: *Possible Adoption of Various Reports/Forms*

11:15 a.m. Budget Update Mr. Kevin Kluge

11:25 a.m. (3) Adult Probation Results with Evidence..... Ms. Kathy Waters
Based Sentencing

11:45 a.m. Law Day ActivityMr. Dave Byers

11:50 a.m. (4) Social Media/Technology Committee Mr. Mark Meltzer

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. (5) Judicial Education Report Re: Mr. Jeff Schrade
Court Leadership Development

12:45 p.m. (6) Model Time Standards Mr. Mike Baumstark

12:55 p.m. Opinions Website Demo Mr. Steve Scales

1:30 p.m.

Call to the Public/Adjourn

*Please call Lorraine Smith
Staff to the Arizona Judicial Council
with any questions concerning this Agenda
(602)452-3301*

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

**Date Action
Requested:**

March 29, 2012

**Type of Action
Requested:**

Formal Action/Request

Information Only

Other

Subject:

Approval of Minutes

FROM:

Lorraine Smith, Staff to the Arizona Judicial Council

DISCUSSION:

The minutes from the December 15, 2011 meeting of the Arizona Judicial Council are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Approve the minutes as written.

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL
Judicial Education Center
541 E. Van Buren, Suite B-4
Phoenix, AZ 85004

December 15, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present:

Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch
Judge Louraine Arkfeld (*retired*)
Jim Bruner
Jose A. Cardenas, Esq.
Karen D. Ferrara
Athia Hardt
Mike Hellon
Judge Douglas Holt
Judge Joseph Howard
Yvonne R. Hunter
Emily Johnston

Michael Jeanes
Joe Kanefield
William J. Mangold, M.D., J.D.
Judge Norman Davis
Judge Robert Carter Olson
Janet K. Regner
Judge Sally Simmons
Judge James Soto
George Weisz
Judge David Widmaier
Judge Lawrence Winthrop

Council Members Absent:

David Byers
Judge Rachel Torres Carrillo

Judge Antonio Riojas, Jr.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff Present:

Theresa Barrett
Mike Baumstark
Stewart Bruner
Jennifer Greene
Melinda Hardman
Janet Johnson
Paul Julien
Jerry Landau
Caroline Lauth-Owens
Jennifer Liewer

Amy Love
Alicia Moffatt
Kay Radwanski
Jodi Rogers
Lorraine Smith
Nancy Swetnam
Cindy Trimble
Kathy Waters
David Withey

Presenters and Guests Present:

Justice Scott Bales
John Burns
Vice Chief Justice Andrew Hurwitz

Chris Moeser
Judge Ron Reinstein
JR Rittenhouse

Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., at the Judicial Education Center, 541 E. Van Buren, Suite B-4, Phoenix, Arizona. The Chair welcomed those in attendance.

The Chair recognized Judge James Soto for his service on the Council. She noted this would be Judge Soto's last Council meeting, as he will no longer be serving as Chair of the Committee on Superior Court. The Chair thanked Judge Soto and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair called for any omissions or corrections to the minutes from the October 28, 2011, meeting of the Arizona Judicial Council; there were none.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the October 28, 2011, meeting of the Arizona Judicial Council, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-58.

Legislative Update

Mr. Jerry Landau, Director of Governmental Affairs for the AOC, briefed the Council members on legislative proposals and asked for their vote to support, oppose, remain neutral, or identify another option.

Clerk's Proposal #1: Civil arbitration bonds

Mr. Landau noted this proposal, along with Clerk's Proposal #2, cannot be managed by rule or code. A motion was moved and seconded to support this proposal and continue to work on issues. An amendment was suggested for subsection J that upon motion by the appellant, the language "made prior to the disposition of the funds" is added. The motion maker agreed to this amendment.

MOTION: To support the Clerk's Proposal #1: Civil arbitration bonds with the amendment for subsection J that upon motion by the appellant, the language "made prior to the disposition of the funds" is added and continue to work on any outstanding issues. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-59.

Clerk's Proposal #2: Entry on records, wrongful arrest

MOTION: To support the Clerk's Proposal #2: Entry on records; wrongful arrest, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-60.

Arizona Bail Bondsman Association Proposal: Prisoners; conditional early release bond

Discussion took place regarding what problem are we trying to solve, what is the court's interest, has anyone talked with victims about the effect of this proposal on them, and why are judges opposed? Judge Simmons noted this proposal would only benefit those who could afford to pay for it.

Mr. John Burns, Arizona Bail Bondsman Association, provided public comment. Mr. Burns noted this proposal gives an incentive to prisoners to complete programs while incarcerated and become rehabilitated. He added the proposal would give the courts more discretion. Mr. Burns explained that this is a performance bond and could save Arizona \$200-\$250M per year.

Judge Howard asked about the burden on superior court judges' workloads. Judge Soto noted that once a prisoner is sent to the Department of Corrections (DOC), the judge loses control, and this would result in added cost and workload to the DOC. Concern was raised regarding who will supervise prisoners who are conditionally released.

Judge Howard suggested leaving this issue to the Legislature. Dr. Bill Mangold asked if the 30-day limit is a reasonable limit. Mr. Burns stated he is willing to remove the timeframes.

A motion was moved and seconded to take no position on this proposal. Mr. Weisz asked that Mr. Landau and staff continue to stay involved to find out if there will be any impact to the judiciary. The motion maker agreed to include this amendment in the motion.

MOTION: To take no position on the Bail Bondsman Proposal: Prisoners; conditional early release bond, as presented, and ask Legislative staff to continue to track this proposal to identify any impact to the judiciary and answer questions. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-61.

Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Proposal #1: Discipline hearings

Judge Widmaier noted the vast amount of local ordinances are not criminal. Ms. Emily Johnston stated Pima County is set up to handle this type of thing, and she would support it.

MOTION: To take no position on the Fraternal Order of Police Proposal: Discipline hearings, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-62.

Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council Proposal #1: Definition of criminal offense

MOTION: To support the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council Proposal: Definition of criminal offense, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-63.

Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council Proposal #2: Term of grand jury

MOTION: To support the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council Proposal: Term of grand jury, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-64.

Committee on Civil Rules of Procedure for Limited Jurisdiction Courts

Mr. Paul Julien, Chair of the Committee, briefed the Council members on the work of the Committee. He noted the Committee reduced the number of rules from 108 to 48, reduced the number of pages from 167 to 38, and restyled and simplified the rules.

Mr. Julien added the proposed rules were vetted through the committee process. He provided a timetable, noted the rules would have a dual comment period, and added the rule petition, if approved for filing, would be considered at the Court's Rules Agenda in September 2012.

Ms. Hunter stated the need to ask for feedback from those who will be directly impacted by these rules, i.e., community legal services, paralegal organizations, Kiwanis Clubs, etc. Mr. Julien noted the Committee did not reach out beyond the legal community, but he would be happy to do so if that's what the Council wants.

Judge Davis moved to support the Committee in filing the petition as presented, as well as soliciting comments from as broad a base as possible.

Judge Widmaier stated the need for the rules to be looked at from a pro se litigant perspective. He noted people will need to go back to the original set of rules, requiring people to look at two sets of rules side by side to make them work. Judge Widmaier stated he found the new rules very difficult and identified 48 rules that were not included in the new rules. Mr. Julien reported the Committee made a conscious decision to not include the rules that would not be seen by the Justices of the Peace.

The Chair noted there would be two rounds of comments for this rule petition, and issues can be surfaced at that time.

MOTION: To approve the filing of a rule petition seeking adoption of the Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-65.

Rule Petition for Revisions to Rule 123, Rules of the Supreme Court and Rule 2.3, Rules of Criminal Procedure

Ms. Melinda Hardman, Policy Analyst for the Court Services Division of the AOC, presented the proposed revisions to Rule 123.

Mr. David Withey, Chief Legal Counsel for the AOC, presented information on Rule 123 which sets a narrow allowance/interpretation for employee discipline records in the current rule. He referenced the handout entitled "Rule 123 discipline records amendment – statutory and proposed rule language."

Mr. Chris Moser, Phoenix Newspapers, provided public comment. Mr. Moser expressed appreciation for being able to review the petition and make comment. He stated the proposed amendment will help balance issues and concerns, and he will work with staff to craft the necessary language.

The Chair noted the Council is only being asked to allow staff to file the petition, and the comment period will work out the issues.

Judge Simmons moved that the rule petition be filed with original language. The motion was seconded.

Judge Howard suggested the words "chief judges of the court of appeals" be inserted in Section G(3) of the draft rule petition. The motion maker agreed to this amendment.

MOTION: To approve the filing of a rule petition for revisions to Rule 123, Rules of the Supreme Court and Rule 2.3, Rules of Criminal Procedure, as presented, with the amendment to include the chief judges of the court of appeals in section G(3). Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-66.

Victim Identification Protection Rule Petition

Judge Ron Reinstein, retired judge and Chair of the Commission on Victims in the Courts, presented the draft rule petition and asked for approval of the concept, with the need for additional work.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the filing of the rule petition in concept.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of initials. Mr. Weisz noted that in small, rural areas, it will be obvious who the individuals are even when using just initials.

MOTION: To approve the filing of the victim identification protection rule petition in concept, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-67.

Proposed Rule Change to the Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure

Ms. Kay Radwanski, Court Specialist for the Court Services Division of the AOC and staff to the Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts, presented the proposed rule change and provided a handout on draft language (Appendix A).

The Chair noted the Presiding Judges raised concerns regarding the end date for when the order becomes public.

Judge Davis stated we have already been down this road before, and the Family Law Rules of Procedure already addressed this issue in the past. He noted that at that time, the courts experienced technical limitations in terms of being able to automate or identify when service occurs. Judge Davis stated this is a manpower issue and added that tagging to service date is very difficult. He explained that the compromise was to go to 45 days, which still created issues. Judge Davis reported that counties were then allowed to move forward with the rule if they decided to do so. He noted the Superior Court in Maricopa County did move forward, but rescinded the rule at the request of the domestic violence committee, as well as other groups to include law enforcement, media, adoption bar, etc.

Judge Arkfeld stated her only concern is with the ability to know proof of service. She noted she does not see this as a difficulty for the limited jurisdiction courts. Judge Arkfeld added that her experience with victims is that they would prefer the order to remain confidential until served. Judge Widmaier agreed, and noted he likes the idea of it being kept private, but raised concern with logistics.

Discussion took place regarding automation. Mr. Jeanes noted the computer can be coded with programming, but this could still result in training issues and human error. Judge Arkfeld stated it would be worth going forward with programming.

MOTION: To approve the filing of a rule petition to the Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure in concept, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed (one opposed). AJC 2011-68.

Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (ACJA)

Mr. Stewart Bruner, Manager of Strategic Planning for the Information Technology Division of the AOC, provided a brief overview of Code Section 1-501: Court Automation Standards.

MOTION: To approve ACJA § 1-501: Court Automation Standards, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-69.

Mr. Bruner provided a brief overview of Code Section 1-504: Electronic Reproduction and Imaging of Court Records.

MOTION: To approve ACJA § 1-504: Electronic Reproduction and Imaging of Court Records, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-70.

Mr. Bruner provided a brief overview of Code Section 1-506: Filing and Management of Electronic Court Documents.

Mr. Jeanes provided clarification, as presented at the recent Commission on Technology (COT) meeting, on Section D(8) regarding documents being e-filed exclusively through the statewide system of AZTurboCourt. Mr. Jeanes noted that Maricopa County is currently accepting e-filings for certain case types through their local system.” He stated that he requested an exemption from the COT approving that Maricopa County can use their own system and also receiving an order from the Chief Justice with a timetable for transition.

Vice Chief Justice Hurwitz stated the easy way to handle this is to proceed with the rule and exempt Maricopa County through an order or letter that included a timetable. Judge Davis suggested adding the language “unless otherwise approved by the COT” and asking the COT to approve the exception. Judge Howard asked that the same exception be granted for the Court of Appeals, Division II.

Chief Justice Berch stated the Court will work out how to handle any exceptions to the rule prior to its adoption.

MOTION: To approve ACJA § 1-506: Filing and Management of Electronic Court Documents, as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-71.

Ms. Jennifer Greene, AOC Assistant Counsel, Legal Services for the AOC, presented Code Section § 1-507: Protection of Electronic Records in Paperless Court Operations. The Chair summarized the concerns raised by the Presiding Judges at their meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 in terms of the courts being the keeper of court records, and the judge being held responsible if the record is destroyed and is then needed. Judge Davis suggested the need for a check and balance.

Ms. Greene explained and clarified the Presiding Judges’ concerns noting that the proposal provides for destroying paper records for which an electronic equivalent has been created. She stated the concerns being discussed are a records-retention issue and are not covered by this code section. Mr. Jeanes noted the need to take a

new look at the records retention schedule and make changes if needed to address these concerns, i.e., case-related documents.

Judge Davis stated the need to add language to Section F(6)(7) “or another document repository approved by the COT or the AJC.”

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the code section and proposed amendment provided in the proposal cover sheet, as well as the recommended change to Section F(6)(7) to add the language “or another document repository approved by the COT or the AJC.”

MOTION: To approve ACJA § 1-507: Protection of Electronic Records in Paperless Court Operations with the recommended change to Section F(6)(7) and the proposed amendment provided in the proposal cover sheet. Motion was seconded and passed. AJC 2011-72

Update on the Probate Committee Recommendations

Mr. Mike Baumstark, Deputy Director of the AOC, updated the Council members on the status of the Probate Committee’s recommendations approved at the Council’s October meeting.

Mr. Baumstark reported the Court considered the rule petition at their Rules Agenda meeting on Tuesday, December 13 and substantially approved the Rule Petition. He added the Staff Attorney’s Office is preparing the Order.

Mr. Baumstark noted that staff will be working on training components, seniors and probate website updates, a public information effort, forms, the role of the fiduciary, and fee guidelines and will be reporting back to the Council in 2012. He reported the counties are also moving forward with experimenting with risk assessment in their counties by pilot projects.

Judicial Branch Strategic Agenda *Justice 2020*

Mr. Baumstark updated the Council members on the Justice 2020 initiatives that have been completed during the past year and provided a preview of the many initiatives planned for the coming years.

Call to the Public/Adjourn

The Chair made a call to the public; there was none.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

Date Action Requested:	Type of Action Requested:	Subject:
March 29, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Legislative Branch Update

FROM:

Jerry Landau, Government Affairs Director
Amy Love, Legislative Liaison

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Landau and Ms. Love will update members on the 2012 Legislative Session.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Update and action on legislation.

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
MARCH 2012

AJC BILLS

HB2130: Disease testing; public safety employees (Rep. Pierce)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2130p.pdf>

Expands the conditions under which a public safety employee or volunteer or the employing agency, officer or entity may petition the court for an order authorizing disease testing of another person to include a situation in which there is probable cause to believe that the person bit, scratched, spat, or transferred blood or other bodily fluid on or through the skin or membranes of a public safety employee or volunteer who was performing an official duty.

Title affected: 13

HB2284: DUI; jury trial (Rep. D. Smith)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2284p.pdf>

Removes the requirement that the state allege a prior conviction for the defendant to be able to request a trial by jury for a first offense non-extreme DUI.

Retroactive to January 1, 2012.

Contains an emergency clause.

Titles affected: 13, 28

HB2382: criminal offenses; sentencing (Rep. Farnsworth)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2382p.pdf>

The annual criminal code corrections bill. Provisions include:

- §12-123. Jurisdiction and powers, conforming change to correctly state the maximum fine for a Class 1 Misdemeanor
- §13-703. Repetitive offense sentencing, rounding the Class 2 and 3 mitigated sentence and the Class 2 aggravated sentence that were inadvertently not done earlier; correcting an error to ensure aggravated and mitigated sentences apply to all provisions of the section
- §13-709.02, 13-709.06, Special sentencing provisions renumber for organizational purposes
- §13-710. Repetitive second degree murder sentencing, in the murder second degree statute, conforms language to other provisions in the criminal code by using the term “dangerous offense” instead of spelling out the definition. “Dangerous offense” is defined in §13-105.

Titles affected: 12, 13

HB2433: bail bond agent lists; solicitation (Rep. Gowan)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2433h.pdf>

Increases the time in which the bail bond agent lists must be updated from annually to monthly. Requires the names and numbers on the list to be rotated monthly and to be transmitted by the Clerk of Court to city and county jails. Requires the acceptance of a secured appearance bond if the employee has proper bail bond identification. Authorizes bail to be accepted by money order, cashier check or cash in \$50 increments or less.

Forbids any private company from soliciting bail bond business inside or within 200 feet of the entrance of a court or jail. A violation is classified as a Class 3 Misdemeanor. Defines “solicit”.

Mandates a surety be relieved from liability on the specific bond so long as the defendant is surrendered by the surety or bail bond agent on or before the appearance date. Permits the court to grant up

to a twenty one day extension or the surety or bail bond agent to return the defendant to the custody of the sheriff and still be relieved of liability. If the defendant is returned within the twenty one day extension the court may order a forfeiture of up to 10% of the bond or \$1000, whichever is greater. (Summary Amended 3.14.12)
Titles affected: 13, 20

HB2643: police officer; duty related injury (Rep. Kavanagh)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2643p.pdf>

Requires a supplemental benefits plan be established for a public safety employee who is injured while on duty; the plan must be designed so that with the addition of other benefits being paid the employee will receive approximately the identical base salary less the amount of taxes the employee was paying. The employee must be receiving workers' compensation to be eligible for the supplemental benefits plan. The employer is required to continue to pay the employer portion of the health care benefits. The employer must also pay both the employee and employer contributions to PSPRS or CORP

The employee is responsible for the employee's portion of the health care benefit costs being at the date of the injury, any elected health care plan deductions any other health related optional deductions or optional life insurance deductions. Prohibits the employee that has been accepted into the plan from accruing any additional sick or annual leave and prohibits any sick or annual leave from being decreased while the employee is participating in the plan. Does not preclude any employee who is accepted into the plan from disciplinary action, including termination of employment. The plan shall be offered for an initial six month period with the possibility of a six month extension, on an individual basis, for a maximum of one year.

Defines "public safety employee" as (1) an individual who is a member of PSPRS or CORP and (2) a probation officer, surveillance officer or juvenile detention officer.

Delayed repeal of October 1, 2014.

Title affected: 38

HB2729: state regulation of firearms (Rep. Gowan)

http://azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2729&Session_Id=107

In pertinent part:

Repeals the provision of "Misconduct involving weapons a person's refusal to remove and place into custody a deadly weapon upon a reasonable request by the host of a public event or the operator of a public establishment

Limits the ability of the Court to enact a firearm regulation policies beyond the scope of state law on public property, unless three prerequisites are met. First, the property must be a secure facility which is defined as property where the general public access is restricted by either the presence of a state or federal certified law enforcement officer or the presence of armed officers and weapon-screening technology (x-ray, metal detector, etc). Second, the property must post signs notifying entrants of the regulations. Third, the property must have secure firearm lockers that are controlled by the establishment operator or agent and are immediately accessible. Exempts private entities and multipurpose facilities that are not being used by a government entity for a government purpose and exempts emergency vehicles when transporting a person from these prerequisites.

Creates a civil action for declarative and injunctive relief and for actual and consequential damages if any policy, rule, ordinance, etc. is in violation of the restrictions of firearm-related regulation. Imposes a civil penalty of up to \$5000 if any entity knowingly violates these limits.

Requires any violation of a valid ordinance regulating firearms on public property be classified as a Class 1 Misdemeanor.

Title affected: 13

SB1080: Grand jury; length of term (Sen. Allen)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1080s.pdf>

Permits the presiding judge to appoint a grand jury for a term of up to 180 days (previously 120 days) in counties with a population of less than 200,000 persons.

Title affected: 21

SB1127: child custody factors (Sen. Allen)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1127s.pdf>

Requires a court to determine whether it has the authority to conduct a proceeding concerning legal decision-making or parenting time to the exclusion of any other state, Indian tribe or foreign nation by complying with the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act. Changes references of “custody” to “legal decision-making” and references of “visitation” to “parenting time.”

Defines “in loco parentis,” “joint legal decision-making,” “legal decision-making,” “legal parent,” “parenting time,” “sole legal decision-making,” and “visitation.”

Requires each parent to submit a proposed parenting plan in the case where the parents cannot agree on a plan for legal decision-making or parenting time. The court is required to adopt a parenting plan that is consistent with the child’s best interests, provides for both parents to share legal decision-making and that maximizes each parents’ respective parenting time. Prohibits the court from preferring one plan over the other because of the parent’s or child’s sex. Requires the court to consider whether one parent intentionally misled the court to cause an unnecessary delay, to increase the cost of litigation, or to persuade the court to give a custody or a parenting time preference to that parent. Outlines what must be included in the proposed parenting plans. If the parents are unable to agree on any element to be included in a parenting plan then it is the court’s responsibility to determine that element. Allows the court to determine other factors that are necessary to promote and protect the emotional and physical health of the child.

Requires the court to determine legal decision-making and parenting time in accordance with the best interests of the child. Outlines the factors relevant to the child’s physical and emotional well-being that the court must consider. In a contested legal decision-making or parenting time case, the court shall make specific findings on record about all relevant factors and the reasons for which the decision is in the best interests of the child. Allows the court to order either sole or joint legal decision-making. Lists the factors that the court must consider when determining the level of decision-making.

Establishes a new section on third party rights. Lists examples of when the court must sanction a litigant for costs and reasonable attorney fees. Allows the court to take other actions against a litigant.

Title affected: 25

SB1142: jurors; Arizona lengthy trial fund (Sen. Driggs)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1142p.pdf>

Mandates that earnings replacement be paid to jurors from the Arizona Lengthy Trial Fund starting on the first day of trial (formerly the fourth). Does not modify the minimum five day trial requirement.

Title affected: 21

SB1152: homeless court; establishment; jurisdiction (Sen. Driggs)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1152s.pdf>

Grants the presiding judge of the superior court authority to create a consolidated homeless court for the referral of cases from a municipal or justice court. The presiding judge of the superior court approves eligibility criteria and establishes processes and procedures. Justice of the peace and municipal court cases that meet the criteria may be referred to the homeless court upon approval of the assigned judge, however,

jurisdiction remains in the lower court. The presiding judge of the superior court designates the location of the court. A superior court judge, commissioner, justice of the peace, municipal court judge or judge pro-tem may hear the case. In criminal cases, requires the court to notify the prosecutor of a case referred to the homeless court. (Summary amended 3.14.12)

Title affected: 22

SB1186: law enforcement officers; omnibus (Sen. L. Gray)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1186s.pdf>

In pertinent part:

Adds to the conditions under which a public safety employee, volunteer, or agency can petition the court for the disease testing of another person, if the person is arrested, charged, or in custody and the volunteer or employee alleges by affidavit that the person interfered with the employee or volunteer's official duties by biting, scratching, spitting, or otherwise transferring bodily fluids through the skin or membranes of the employee or volunteer. Previously, the disease testing could only be ordered if the person had been charged with a crime or was deceased.

After a request for a change of hearing officer, requires a city or town with a population of less than 65,000 or a county of less than 250,000 to use an alternate hearing officer from another city, town, or county in a disciplinary hearing only when one from its own jurisdiction is unavailable.

Allows a law enforcement officer to bring an action in superior court for a hearing de novo if the officer has been terminated by a chief of a law enforcement agency or by the chief executive officer of a city or town reversing the decision or recommendation of a civil service board or merit board where the finding states that there is no just cause for the officer's termination. This provision does not apply to a probation officer.

Titles affected: 12, 13, 32, 38

SB1246: child support; supreme court; factors (Sen. Gray)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1246p.pdf>

Requires the factors used in forming guidelines for determining child support and the criteria for deviation be considered together and weighed in conjunction with each other. Replaces "the standard of living the child would have enjoyed had the marriage not been dissolved" with "the standard of living the child would have enjoyed if the child had lived in an intact home with both parents." Prohibits the Superior Court from considering the factors when making child support orders, independent of the child support guidelines. Provides an exception from this prohibition for custody determinations made for a child who is over the age of majority. (Summary amended 2.29.12)

Title affected: 25

SB1310: small claims division; jurisdiction; limits (Sen. Antenori)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1310s.pdf>

Increases the jurisdiction of the small claims division of Justice Court to concurrent original jurisdiction with the justice court in civil actions \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Title affected: 22

SB1311: civil actions; justice courts; jurisdiction (Sen. Antenori)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1311p.pdf>

Increases the civil jurisdiction of justice of the peace courts from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Adds a legislative intent clause stating that the increased caseloads will be fully funded according to the existing judicial productivity credit formula as provided by law. A county may fund any increase by using any savings that is associated with the corresponding decrease in superior court caseloads or by any other means of funding that is available.

Delayed effective date of July 1, 2013.

Conditional on a constitutional amendment (SCR 1032).

Title affected: 22

SB1406: probate omnibus (Sen. Driggs)

Expands the authority of the superior court to order alternative dispute resolution or arbitration of any dispute that arises following the filing of a petition for guardianship or conservatorship (current law permits this only after appointment of a fiduciary). Removes the statutory requirement that the conservator's annual accounting be filed with the court on the anniversary of the date the person qualified as conservator. Clarification on when the accounting must be filed in order to ensure the first accounting includes the initial 90 day inventory period will be done via the Probate Rules. Permits the court to order fingerprints and background checks of proposed guardians and conservators and sets forth the necessary process.

Title affected: 14

SB1448: misconduct involving weapons; public property (Sen. S. Smith)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1448p.pdf>

In order to constitute an offense of "Misconduct involving weapons" pursuant to §13-3102 (A)(10), entering a public establishment or attending a public event and carrying a deadly weapon adds the requirement that the public event or establishment be controlled or restricted by the presence of an armed officer. (Summary amended 3.1.12)

Title affected: 13

SB1490: adoption petitions (Sen. Murphy)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1490p.pdf>

Requires the court to grant an adoption petition if a child who is the subject of that petition has been in out-of-home care for at least 15 months and has been living with the prospective adoptive parents for at least six months, even if the child's parent has filed an appeal of the termination of the parent-child relationship, unless that parent can demonstrate to the court's satisfaction that there is a substantial likelihood of prevailing on appeal. (Summary amended 3.12.12)

Contains an emergency clause.

Title affected: 8

SB1491: parental rights; termination; determinations (Sen. Murphy)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1491p.pdf>

Clarifies that the expedited termination of parental rights process is applicable to those children who have been in an out of home placement for six months or longer and were under the age of five (currently set at age three) *at the time the dependency petition was filed*. Current law is ambiguous in several sections as to when the clock starts for this specific population. Clarifies the authority of the court to maintain sibling groups as much as possible so long as it is in the best interest of the child.

Contains an emergency clause.

Title affected: 8

SCR1032: justice courts; civil action; jurisdiction (Sen. Antenori)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/scr1032p.pdf>

Proposes an amendment to the Arizona Constitution to increase the civil jurisdiction of justice of the peace court from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Constitutional Provision affected: Article VI, Section 32

HB2398: judicial actions; children; names; redaction (Rep. Forese)

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2398p.pdf>

Requires the court to assign a letter in place of each child's name in any order or minute entry relating to paternity, annulment, legal separation, dissolution of marriage, in loco parentis or visitation. Only a parent or a parent's attorney may view the sheet that is used to establish the letter that is assigned to each child, without showing good cause. Allows a person who has access to the information on the sheet to disclose the information only if it is necessary to enforce the court's orders or provide care for the child. Exempts an order of assignment, an order of protection, an injunction against harassment, a document that is designated as sealed according to Arizona rules of family law procedure and a document that must include the name of the child according to law from following the requirements of this section. (Summary amended 2.2.12)

Title affected: 12

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fiftieth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2012

HOUSE BILL 2398

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 12, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 12-132; RELATING TO THE SUPERIOR COURT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Title 12, chapter 1, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 12-132, to read:
4 12-132. Substitution of names of children
5 A. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION E OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL
6 ASSIGN A LETTER IN PLACE OF EACH CHILD'S NAME IN ANY ORDER OR MINUTE ENTRY
7 RELATING TO PATERNITY, ANNULMENT, LEGAL SEPARATION, DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,
8 IN LOCO PARENTIS OR VISITATION.
9 B. A PARTY OR A PARTY'S ATTORNEY MAY VIEW THE CONFIDENTIAL DATA SHEET
10 THAT THE COURT USES TO ESTABLISH THE LETTER THAT IS ASSIGNED TO EACH CHILD
11 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.
12 C. A PERSON WHO DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION B OF THIS
13 SECTION MAY ACCESS THE INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHILD'S IDENTIFICATION ONLY
14 ON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE.
15 D. A PERSON WHO HAS ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON A CONFIDENTIAL DATA SHEET
16 MAY DISCLOSE THAT INFORMATION ONLY TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO ENFORCE THE
17 COURT'S ORDERS OR TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THE CHILD.
18 E. THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION:
19 1. AN ORDER CREATING, MODIFYING, TERMINATING OR ENFORCING AN ORDER OF
20 ASSIGNMENT.
21 2. AN ORDER CREATING, MODIFYING, TERMINATING OR ENFORCING AN ORDER OF
22 PROTECTION.
23 3. AN ORDER CREATING, MODIFYING, TERMINATING OR ENFORCING AN
24 INJUNCTION AGAINST HARASSMENT.
25 4. A DOCUMENT THAT THE COURT DESIGNATES AS A SEALED DOCUMENT PURSUANT
26 TO THE ARIZONA RULES OF FAMILY LAW PROCEDURE.
27 5. A DOCUMENT THAT MUST INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE CHILD PURSUANT TO
28 APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.
29 F. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT
30 PERSONS EMPLOYED BY THE COURT FROM PERFORMING THE DUTIES REQUIRED WITHIN THE
31 NORMAL COURSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

Welcome to the online source for the Arizona Court Rules

17A A.R.S. Sup.Ct.Rules, Rule 123

Rule 123. Public Access to the Judicial Records of the State of Arizona

17A A.R.S. Sup.Ct.Rules, Rule 123

Arizona Revised Statutes Annotated [Currentness](#)

Rules of the Supreme Court of Arizona

☞ XII. Miscellaneous Provisions

➔ **Rule 123. Public Access to the Judicial Records of the State of Arizona**

(a) Authority and Scope of Rule. Pursuant to the administrative powers vested in the supreme court by [Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution](#), and the court's inherent power to administer and supervise court operations, this rule adopted to govern public access to the records of all courts and administrative offices of the judicial department of the State of Arizona.

(b) Definitions.

- (1) *Bulk Data*. As used in this rule "Bulk Data" means all, or a significant subset, of the non-confidential case data maintained in a court case management system, either with or without modification or customized compilation.
- (2) *Closed or Confidential (Records)*. "Closed" or "Confidential," when used in this rule in reference to records, means that members of the public may not inspect, obtain copies of, or otherwise have access to such records unless authorized by law.
- (3) *Commercial Purpose*. As used in this rule "Commercial Purpose" means the use of a public record for the purpose of sale or resale or for the purpose of producing a document containing all or part of the copy, printout or photograph for sale or the obtaining of names and addresses from such public records for the purpose of solicitation or the sale of such names and addresses to another for the purpose of solicitation or for any purpose in which the purchaser can reasonably anticipate the receipt of monetary gain from direct or indirect use of such public records. "Commercial Purpose" does not mean the use of a public record as evidence or as research for evidence in an action in a judicial or quasi-judicial body of this state or a political subdivision of this state.
- (4) *Court*. "Court" means the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, Superior Court, Justice Courts, Municipal Courts and all judges of those courts.
- (5) *Court Administrator or Clerk of the Court*. "Court Administrator" or "Clerk of the Court" means a person employed, appointed or elected for the purpose of administering the operations of any court or court system.
- (6) *Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)*. "Criminal History Record Information" means only those records of arrests, convictions, sentences, dismissals and other dispositions of charges against individuals that have been provided to the court by the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Arizona Crime Information Center (ACIC), or any other criminal justice agency for use in juvenile and adult criminal justice cases, employment, licensing or other authorized investigations.
- (7) *Custodian*. "Custodian" is the person responsible for the safekeeping of any records held by any court, administrative office, clerk of court's office or that person's designee who also shall be responsible for processing public requests for access to records.
- (8) *Custodian of Bulk Data*. In a superior court or appellate court, "Custodian of Bulk Data" means, depending on local practice, either the clerk of court or the presiding judge. In a justice of the peace or municipal court, the custodian is the sitting justice of the peace and the presiding judge of the municipal court, respectively.
- (9) *Dissemination Contract and Disclaimer*. "Dissemination Contract and Disclaimer" means a contract between a custodian of court records and a person or entity requesting bulk data.
- (10) *Information*. "Information" is any recognizable alpha/numerical data which constitute a record or any part thereof.
- (11) *Judge*. "Judge" means any justice, judge, judicial officer, referee, commissioner, court-appointed arbitrator or other

person exercising adjudicatory powers in the judicial branch.

(12) *Law*. "Law" means statute, rule, administrative order, court order or case law.

(13) *Presiding Judge*. "Presiding Judge" means the presiding judge of the superior court for each county, or the chief judge for each division of the court of appeals or the chief justice of the supreme court. For municipal and justice courts "Presiding Judge" means the presiding judge of the superior court.

(14) *Public*. "Public" means all users of court records, including Arizona judicial officers and employees, employees of government agencies and private organizations.

(15) *Public Purpose Organization*. "Public Purpose Organization" means a private organization that serves a public purpose, such as criminal justice, child welfare, licensing, mental health treatment, or that engages in research for scholarly, journalistic, or governmental purpose.

(16) *Record*. "Record" means all existing documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings or other materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or in connection with the transaction of any official business by the court, and preserved or appropriate for preservation by the court as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decision, procedures, operations or other governmental activities.

(A) *Administrative Record*. "Administrative record" means any record pertaining to the administration of the courts, court systems or any non-adjudicatory records.

(B) *Case Record*. "Case Record" means:

(1) any record that is collected, received, or maintained by a court or clerk of court in connection with a judicial proceeding;

(2) any order, judgment, or minute entry that is related to a judicial proceeding; and

(3) any index, calendar, docket, or register of actions associated with a case or in connection with a judicial proceeding.

(17) *Remote Electronic Access*. "Remote Electronic Access" means access by electronic means that permits the viewer to search, inspect, or copy a record without the need to physically visit a court facility.

(18) *Sensitive Data*. "Sensitive Data" means social security number, bank account number, credit card number, and any other financial account number.

(c) General Provisions.

(1) *Open Records Policy*. Historically, this state has always favored open government and an informed citizenry. In the tradition, the records in all courts and administrative offices of the Judicial Department of the State of Arizona are presumed to be open to any member of the public for inspection or to obtain copies at all times during regular office hours at the office having custody of the records. However, in view of the possible countervailing interests of confidentiality, privacy or the best interests of the state public access to some court records may be restricted or expanded in accordance with the provision of this rule, or other provisions of law.

(2) *Creation, Production and Management of Records*.

(A) Court personnel, who generate or receive paper or electronic records known or marked as containing confidential information, shall identify and segregate the confidential information from the record whenever practicable.

(B) The custodian shall utilize reasonable records management practices and procedures to assure that all closed records are properly identified as "confidential" and maintained segregated or apart from records open to the public. Whenever possible, records containing both public and confidential information shall be identified as "containing both public and confidential information."

(C) Upon request, the custodian shall reproduce any record containing public information that would otherwise be closed, by redacting all confidential information from the record unless release of the entire record is prohibited by law. Records that are reproduced after redaction shall contain a disclosure that they were redacted, unless such disclosure would defeat the purpose of the redaction. Identification of redacted records shall include a description of the nature and length of the matters contained therein, unless the description, if given, constitutes a disclosure of confidential information. Upon request, the custodian shall identify the legal authority for the redaction.

(3) *Confidential and Personal Financial Records*. Documents containing social security, credit card, debit card, or financial account numbers or credit reports of an individual, when collected by the court for administrative purposes, are closed unless made public in a court proceeding or upon court order.

(4) *New Records*. The court is not required to index, compile, re-compile, re-format, program or otherwise reorganize

existing information to create new records not maintained in the ordinary course of business. Removing, deleting or redacting confidential information from a record, or reproducing a record in non-original format, is not deemed to be creating a new record as defined herein.

(5) *Judicial Officers and Employees.* Arizona judicial officers, clerks, administrators, professionals or other staff employed by or working under the supervision of the court shall have such access as needed to carry out their assigned duties and as directed by their supervisor.

(6) *Employees of Government Agencies and Private Organizations.* Employees of federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies and political subdivisions, and private organizations, the objective of which is to serve a public purpose, such as criminal justice, child welfare, licensing, mental health treatment, or research for scholarly, journalistic, or governmental purposes, may be granted such access to court records as required to serve that purpose according to this rule or as provided by any supplemental supreme court policies or court order.

(7) *Access To Bulk Data.* Persons who execute a dissemination contract and disclaimer containing provisions specified by the supreme court may have such access as permitted by paragraph (j) of this rule.

(d) Access to Case Records.

All case records are open to the public except as may be closed by law, or as provided in this rule. Upon closing any record the court shall state the reason for the action, including a reference to any statute, case, rule or administrative order relied upon.

(1) Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings Records.

(A) Records of all juvenile delinquency and incorrigibility proceedings are open to the public to the extent provided for in the Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court or by law.

(B) Records of all juvenile adoption, dependency, severance and other related proceedings are closed to the public as provided by law unless opened by court order.

(C) All information and records obtained in the course of evaluation, examination or treatment of juveniles who have been referred to a treatment program funded by the juvenile probation fund (pursuant to [ARS § 8-321](#)) or the family counseling fund ([ARS § 8-261 et seq.](#)) are confidential and shall not be released unless authorized by rule or court order. These records include, but are not limited to, clinical records, medical reports, laboratory statements and reports, or any report relating to diagnostic findings and treatment of juveniles, or any information by which the juvenile or his family may be identified, wherever such records are maintained by the court.

(2) Adult Criminal Records.

(A) Criminal History Records, diagnostic evaluations, psychiatric and psychological reports, medical reports, alcohol screening and treatment reports, social studies, probation supervision histories and any other records maintained as the work product of pretrial services staff, probation officers and other staff for use by the court are closed and shall be withheld from public inspection, including such records associated with the interstate compact pursuant to [ARS § 31-461](#). However, the bail determination report, any related pretrial service records, the presentence report, and any related probation office records are open to the public when: (i) ordered by the court, (ii) filed with the clerk of court or attached to any filed document and not segregated and identified as being closed or confidential, or (iii) considered or used for any purpose in open court proceedings unless restricted by law or sealed by the court.

(B) In adult criminal cases the pretrial services unit, probation department, limited jurisdiction court, or other primary user shall separate and identify as "confidential" all records defined herein as "criminal history record information," and those records identified in paragraph (d)(2)(A). Such records shall be closed and placed in an envelope marked "confidential", or otherwise stored as a confidential record, and shall only be disclosed as authorized by [ARS § 41-1750 et seq.](#) or by court order.

(C) All other information in the adult criminal case files maintained by the clerk of the court is open to the public, unless prohibited by law or sealed by court order.

(3) *Judicial Work Product and Drafts.* Notes, memoranda or drafts thereof prepared by a judge or other court personnel at the direction of a judge and used in the process of preparing a final decision or order are closed.

(4) *Unofficial Verbatim Recordings of Proceedings.* Electronic verbatim recordings made by a courtroom clerk or at the direction of the clerk and used in preparing minute entries are closed.

(e) Access to Administrative Records.

All administrative records are open to the public except as provided herein:

(1) *Employee Records.* Records maintained concerning individuals who are employees or who perform volunteer services are

closed except for the following information:

- (A) Full name of individual;
- (B) Date of employment;
- (C) Current and previous job titles and descriptions, and effective dates of employment;
- (D) Name, location and phone number of court and/or office to which the individual has been assigned;
- (E) Current and previous salaries and dates of each change;
- (F) Name of current or last known supervisor; and
- (G) Information authorized to be released by the individual to the public unless prohibited by law.

(2) *Applicant Records.* Unless otherwise provided by law, records concerning applicants for employment or volunteer services are open to the public, after the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, and all other personally identifying information have been redacted, except that the names of applicants who are final candidates shall be disclosed.

(3) *Judicial Case Assignments.* Records regarding the identity of any appellate judge or justice assigned to prepare a written decision or opinion until the same is filed are closed.

(4) *Security Records.* All security plans, codes and other records that provide for the security of information, individuals, or property in the possession or custody of the courts against theft, tampering, improper use, illegal releases, trespass, or physical abuse or violence, are closed.

(5) *Procurement Records.* Procurement and bid records are open to the public except as provided herein:

(A) *Sealed Bids.* Sealed bid records are closed to the public prior to opening the bids at the time specified in the bid request.

(B) *Invitation for Bid.* Bid records submitted under Rule 18 of the Judicial Branch Procurement Code or equivalent rules shall remain closed to the public after opening until a contract is signed, except that the amount of each bid and the name of each bidder shall be recorded and available for public inspection.

(C) *Competitive Sealed Proposals and Requests for Qualifications.* Records containing competitive sealed proposals and requests for qualification submissions under Rules 26 or 35 of the Judicial Branch Procurement Code or equivalent rules, shall remain closed to the public after opening until a contract is signed, except that the name of each bidder shall be publicly read and recorded.

(D) *Trade Secrets.* Bid records designated by the bidder as containing trade secrets or other proprietary data shall remain closed to the public only when the judicial branch unit concurs in the designation.

(6) *Preliminary and Draft Reports Concerning Court Operations; Pre-decisional Documents.* Final administrative documents and reports concerning the operation of the court system are open for public inspection and copying by the custodian on court premises. Preliminary drafts of such reports, and pre-decisional documents relating to court operations, shall be open once such draft reports and such pre-decisional documents are circulated to any court policy advisory committee or the public for comment.

(7) *Patron Records.* Records maintained in any court law library, clerk's office or court that link a patron's name with materials requested or borrowed by the patron, or that link a patron's name with a specific subject about which the patron has requested information or materials are closed. This provision shall not preclude a library, clerk's office or court from requiring that the request specify any commercial use intended for the records as provided in paragraph (f) of this rule.

(8) *Remote Electronic Access User Records.* Data or information that would disclose that a user of a remote electronic access system has accessed a particular court record is closed. Record access information shall be accessible by the public only on a showing of good cause pursuant to the process set forth in paragraph (f) of this rule.

(9) *Attorney and Judicial Work Product.*

(A) The legal work product and other records of any attorney or law clerk employed by or representing the judicial branch, that are produced in the regular course of business or representation of the judicial branch are closed unless disclosed by the court.

(B) All notes, memoranda or drafts thereof prepared by a judge or other court personnel at the direction of a judge and used in the course of deliberations on rule or administrative matters are closed.

(10) *Juror Records.* The home and work telephone numbers and addresses of jurors, and all other information obtained by special screening questionnaires or in voir dire proceedings that personally identifies jurors summoned for service, except the names of jurors on the master jury list, are confidential, unless disclosed in open court or otherwise opened by order of the court.

(11) *Proprietary and Licensed Material.* Computer programs or other records that are subject to proprietary rights or licensing agreements shall only be disclosed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the applicable agreements and licenses, or by court order. No records shall be closed to the public solely because access is provided by programs or applications subject to licensing agreements, or because they are subject to proprietary rights.

(12) *Copyrighted Documents and Materials.* Documents and materials produced and copyrighted by the court are open to public inspection but may not be re-published without proper authorization from the court.

(13) *Judicial Branch Training Materials and Records.* Evaluation materials and records generated by participants in judicial education programs such as test scores, educational assessments, practical exercise worksheets, and similar materials are closed.

(14) *Certification Records.* Proprietary materials required to be submitted to the Supreme Court by applicants for certification or licensing are closed. Applicants for certification or licensure shall be responsible for clearly identifying any material they consider to be proprietary at the time the material is submitted.

(f) Access to Records in Paper Medium.

(1) *Filing a Request.* A request to inspect or obtain copies of records that are open to the public shall be made orally or in a written format acceptable to the custodian. The request shall specify any commercial use intended for the records. All requests for copies must include sufficient information to reasonably identify what is being sought. The applicant shall not be required to have detailed knowledge of the court's filing system or procedures.

(2) *Timely Response.* Upon receiving a request to inspect or obtain copies of records, the custodian shall promptly respond orally or in writing concerning the availability of the records, and provide the records in a reasonable time based upon the following factors:

- (A) Immediate availability of the requested records;
- (B) Specificity of the request and need for clarification;
- (C) Amount of equipment, materials, staff time and other resources required to satisfy the request; or
- (D) Whether the requested records are located at the court or in off site storage.

(3) *Cost; Non-Commercial and Commercial Purposes.*

(A) Applicants who request records for non-commercial purposes shall not be charged any fee for the cost of searching for a record or redacting confidential information from a record, except as provided by statute, nor shall they be required to disclose the intended purpose or use of the records. If no fee is prescribed by statute, the custodian shall collect a per page fee based upon the reasonable cost of reproduction.

(B) An applicant requesting copies, printouts or photographs of records for a commercial purpose shall provide a verified or acknowledged statement to the custodian setting forth the commercial purpose and specific use intended for the records. If the custodian has reason to believe an applicant has failed to adequately disclose the commercial purpose or use of the requested records, the custodian may require additional information regarding the intended use of the records. The custodian shall collect a fee for the cost of:

- (i) obtaining the original or copies of the records and all redaction costs; and
- (ii) the time, equipment and staff used in producing such reproduction.

Notwithstanding the above provision, the Clerks of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals shall distribute copies of opinions to authorized publishers free of charge for publication pursuant to law and [Ariz.Const. Art. 6, § 8](#).

(C) The custodian may make billing or payment arrangements with the applicant before satisfying the request, and is authorized to receive and hold deposits for estimated costs until costs are finally determined.

(4) *Delay or Denial; Explanation.*

(A) The custodian is required to comply with any request for records, except requests that are determined:

- (i) to create an undue financial burden on court operations because of the amount of equipment, materials, staff time and other resources required to satisfy the request;

(ii) to substantially interfere with the constitutionally or statutorily mandated functions of the court or the office of the custodian;

(iii) to be filed for the purpose of harassing or substantially interfering with the routine operations of the court; or

(iv) to be submitted within one month following the date of a prior request, that is substantially identical to one received from the same source or applicant and previously denied, unless applicable rules, law or circumstances restricting access have changed.

(B)(i) If a request cannot be granted within a reasonable time or at all, the custodian shall inform the applicant in writing of the nature of any problem delaying or preventing access, and if applicable, the specific federal or state statute, law, court or administrative rule or order that is the basis of the delay or denial. If access to any record is denied for any reason, the custodian shall explore in good faith with the applicant alternatives to allow access to the requested records, including redaction of confidential information.

(ii) If unsuccessful, the custodian shall meet with the judge having immediate, supervisory responsibility for the daily operations of the respective court, to determine if an alternative means of access to the records may be provided for the applicant. Thereafter, as soon as practicable, the judge shall inform the applicant if the denial is affirmed. Reviews of the foregoing denial and all other denials shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (f)(5) below.

(5) *Review of Denials to Access Records.*

(A) Any applicant who is denied access to or copies of any record, bulk data, or compiled data pursuant to this rule, shall be entitled to an administrative review of that decision by the presiding judge. The request for review must be filed in writing with the custodian who denied the request within 10 business days of a denial made under paragraph (f)(4) above. The custodian shall forward the request for review, a statement of the reason for denial, and all relevant documentation to the presiding judge or a designee within 5 business days of receipt of the request for review. The presiding judge or designee shall issue a decision as soon as practicable considering the nature of the request and the needs of the applicant, but not more than 10 business days from the date the written request for review was received.

(B) Any party aggrieved by the decision of the presiding judge or designee may seek review by filing a special action pursuant to the Rules of Procedure for Special Actions. If the decision challenged by the special action was issued by a judge of the superior court or court of appeals, the special action shall be filed in the court of appeals. If the decision was issued by a supreme court justice, the special action shall be filed in the supreme court.

(g) Remote Electronic Access to Case Records.

(1) A court may provide remote electronic access to case records as follows:

(A) *Parties, Attorneys, and Arbitrators.* Parties, attorneys, and arbitrators may be provided remote electronic access, upon registering, to case records which are not sealed in all case types in which the person is an attorney of record, arbitrator, or named party, including an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or public or private organization. An attorney of record on the staff of a public or private law firm may extend access to any other attorney or person working for or on behalf of that public or private law firm, upon the other attorney's or person's registration.

(B) *Governmental Entities and Public Purpose Organizations.* Any federal, state, tribal, or local governmental entity or public purpose organization may be provided remote electronic access to any case records necessary to carry out a particular governmental or public purpose responsibility. The terms of such access shall be set forth in a memorandum of understanding between the entity or organization and the custodian that includes provisions for safeguarding the confidentiality of any closed records.

(C) *General Public, Registered Users.*

(i) Members of the public who hold an Arizona driver license or nonoperating identification license may be provided remote electronic access, upon registering and paying any established fee, to all of the following categories of case records unless sealed or otherwise made confidential by rule or law:

(a) Civil case records in any action brought to enforce, redress, or protect a private or civil right but not:

- Juvenile dependency and delinquency or other matters brought under ARS Title 8;
- Family law, paternity, or other matters arising out of ARS Title 25;
- Orders of protection, injunctions against harassment and all proceedings, judgments or decrees related to the establishment, modification or enforcement of such orders, including contempt; or
- Probate proceedings brought under ARS Titles 14 and 36.

(b) Civil traffic case records in any action brought as such under ARS Titles 28 or 41 or a matter expressly designated as a civil traffic violation by a traffic ordinance of a city or town, and any boating violation punishable by a civil sanction under ARS Title 5, chapter 3, articles 1 through 11, or a non-traffic ordinance expressly designated a civil violation or a boating ordinance by a city or town.

(c) Criminal case records in any action instituted by the government to punish offenses classified as a misdemeanor or felony brought pursuant to ARS Titles 4, 13, 28, or local ordinance and case records in any action instituted to punish petty offenses classified by [ARS § 13-601](#).

(d) Case records in any action instituted by a county to enforce an ordinance that provides for criminal and civil penalties pursuant to [ARS §§ 11-251](#) and [11-808](#).

(ii) The following documents shall not be accessible by remote electronic access to users registered under paragraph (g)(1)(C) due to the inability to protect sensitive data that is likely to be contained within these documents:

(a) booking-related documents;

(b) warrants, including search warrants, confidential wiretaps, pen registers, handwriting exemplars, trap and trace, and bench warrants;

(c) charging documents, including criminal and civil traffic charging documents;

(d) pre-sentence reports;

(e) defendant's financial statement;

(f) disposition report;

(g) transcripts; and

(h) all documents in criminal cases in which a juvenile is alleged to be the victim of any offense listed in ARS Title 13, chapters 14 or 35.1. The prosecuting agency, upon filing a charging document described in this paragraph, shall advise the clerk that the case is subject to this provision.

Upon motion by a party, by any person, or upon the court's own motion, and for good cause shown, the court in which such action is pending may issue an order to allow remote electronic access to members of the public, as provided in paragraph (g)(1)(C), to any case in which a juvenile is alleged to be the victim under paragraph (g)(1)(C)(ii)(h). The order may include any appropriate provision required to protect the juvenile from embarrassment or oppression. The burden of showing good cause for an order shall remain with the person seeking remote electronic access to the case record. Irrespective of an order limiting electronic access under this paragraph, the clerk shall provide non-registered users remote electronic access as set forth in paragraph (D)(ii) herein when the court generally provides such non-registered user access in other cases.

(D) *General Public, Non-Registered Users*. Unless otherwise provided by rule or law, members of the public may be provided remote electronic access, without registering, to:

(i) the following data elements in closed cases, including juvenile delinquency, mental health, probate, and criminal cases in which a juvenile is alleged to be the victim, as identified in paragraph (g)(1)(C)(ii)(h) above:

- party names,
- case number,
- judicial assignment, and
- attorney names

(ii) individual case information extracted from a case management system in all civil, criminal, and civil traffic cases identified in paragraphs (g)(1)(C)(i)(a) through (d), and family law cases, including a list of documents filed, events, dates, calendars, party names, month and year of birth, residential city, state and zip code, case number, judicial assignment, attorneys, charges filed or claims made, interim rulings, and case outcomes, including sentence, fines, payment history, minute entries, and notices.

(iii) court of appeals and supreme court opinions and decisions in all case types, except that any appendix in criminal cases in which a juvenile is alleged to be the victim, as identified in paragraph (g)(1)(C)(ii)(h) above, shall not be provided by remote electronic access.

(2) Registration and fees. The registration process and fees for remote electronic access to case records shall be established by the Supreme Court upon the recommendation of the Arizona Judicial Council, and shall be an amount as reasonable as

possible to develop, implement, maintain, and enhance the remote electronic access to case records system. All information provided by a potential user for registration purposes shall be closed. Remote access provided pursuant to paragraph (g)(1)(B) shall not require registration or payment of any fees.

(3) Courts and clerks of court shall not display case records online except as provided herein, as provided by [ARS § 12-283\(I\)](#), or as ordered by the court in a particular case. Any remote electronic access shall be conditioned upon the user's agreement to access the information only as instructed by the court, not to attempt any unauthorized access, and to consent to monitoring by the court of all use of the system. The court will also notify users that it will not be liable for inaccurate or untimely information, or for misinterpretation or misuse of the data. Such agreement and notices shall be provided to the users in any manner the court deems appropriate. The court may deny access to users for failure to comply with such requirements. The court or clerk of court that establishes remote electronic access to case records may also establish limitations on remote electronic access based on the needs of the court, limitations on technology and equipment, staff resources and funding.

(4) Courts and clerks of court must clearly and prominently display current charge dispositions for any case that the court or clerk of court makes publicly available online.

(5) Removing case records from online access.

(A) Courts or clerks of court may remove case management system data and case records from online display once the applicable records retention schedule period is met.

(B) For cases scheduled to be retained more than 25 years, courts or clerks of court may remove case management system data and case records from online display after 25 years, provided the data and records are then retained through an electronically preserved method. In place of the records, the court or clerk of court shall display a notice online which directs the viewer to contact the court or clerk for access to the case record.

(6) The clerk of the court, court, court agency, or their employees shall be immune from suit for any conduct relating to the electronic posting of case documents in accordance with this rule.

(7) Data or information that would disclose that a user of a remote electronic access system has accessed a particular court record is closed. Record access information shall be accessible by the public only on a showing of good cause pursuant to the process set forth in paragraph (f) of this rule.

(8) This paragraph (g) shall not limit the public's right of access to records at a court designated facility, whether in paper or electronic format.

(h) Access to Audiotape, Videotape, Microfilm, Computer or Electronic Based Records.

(1) *Scope.* This section applies to all requests to access or obtain copies of any audiotape, videotape, microfilm, computer or electronic based records maintained by the court, except for requests initiated by judges, court administrators, or clerks of the court for use in the administration or internal business of the court.

(2) *Authority; Procedures.*

(A) Except by court order, only the custodian or designee is authorized by this rule to provide access to or copies of computer or electronic based records.

(B) All the requirements set forth in paragraph (f), except subparagraph (3) thereof, are incorporated herein by reference and shall apply to requests for records submitted pursuant to this section.

(3) *Cost to Obtain Copies.*

(A) The custodian shall first meet with the applicant to understand the scope of the request so it can be defined as precisely as possible. The cost to obtain copies of information held electronically, which requires no programming or translation, shall be limited to the cost of materials. If a request requires programming or translation, the applicant shall bear the actual cost incurred by the court to comply with the request for copies of records. If no fee is prescribed by law, the custodian shall collect a fee covering the cost of producing the requested records, including staff time, computer time, programming costs, equipment, materials and supplies.

(B) Unless otherwise prescribed by law relating to the collection and deposit of fees by the custodian, the custodian may retain the fees collected pursuant to paragraph (h)(3)(A) to compensate for the expenses related to reproduction of electronic records.

(4) *Databases, Operating Systems and Network Programs.*

(A) Databases and electronic records containing case and administrative records are open to the public. However, databases and electronic records containing confidential information that may not be entirely redacted, may be closed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (f)(4).

(B) Documentation and other records that describe the technical location, design, function, operation, or access control features of any court computer network, automated data processing or telecommunications systems, are closed to the public.

(C) Consistent with the court's obligation to provide public access to its records, and subject to resource limitations, the design and operation of all future automated record management systems shall incorporate processing features and procedures that maximize the availability of court records maintained in electronic medium. Automated systems development policy shall require the identification and segregation of confidential data elements from data base sections that are accessible to the public. Whenever feasible, any major enhancement or upgrade to existing systems shall include modifications that segregate confidential information from publicly accessed data bases.

(5) Correcting Data Errors; Administrative Review.

(A) Data entry inaccuracies in court calendars, case indexes, or case dockets in a court's case management system may be corrected at any time by the custodian of the record on the custodian's own initiative or on request of an individual as provided in paragraph (h)(5). Clerical errors in judgments, orders, or other parts of the record may be corrected as provided by the applicable rules of procedure.

(B) An individual seeking to correct a data error or omission in an electronic case record shall be entitled to apply for relief with the court in which the original record was filed. The individual shall submit the request to correct the error to the clerk of the court, if any, or to the justice of the peace or municipal court judge. If the custodian to whom the request was submitted determines that the data entry is inaccurate, the custodian shall correct the error as soon as practicable.

(C) If the request is denied by the clerk of an appellate court, the individual may apply for administrative review of the denial by the designated appellate judge or justice. If the request is denied by the clerk of a superior court or by a justice of the peace or municipal court judge, the individual may apply for administrative review of the denial by the presiding superior court judge. The request for administrative review must be filed in writing with the custodian who denied the request within 10 business days of issuance of a denial. The custodian shall forward the request for review, a statement of the reason for denial and all relevant documentation to the presiding or designated judge or justice within 5 business days of the request for review. The presiding or designated judge or justice shall issue a decision as soon as practicable considering the nature of the request and the needs of the applicant, but not later than 10 business days from the date the written request for review was received by the custodian. If the decision of the presiding or designated judge or justice is that the data entry is inaccurate, the custodian shall correct the error as soon as practicable.

(D) Any party aggrieved by the decision of the judge or justice may seek review by filing a special action pursuant to the Rules of Procedure for Special Actions. If the decision challenged by the special action was issued by a judge of the superior court or court of appeals, the special action shall be filed in the court of appeals. If the decision was issued by a supreme court justice, the special action shall be filed in the supreme court.

(i) Inspection and Photocopying.

(1) *Access to Original Records.* During regular business hours a person shall be allowed to inspect or obtain copies of original versions of records that are open to the public in the office where such records are normally kept. If access to original records would result in disclosure of information which is not permitted, redacted copies of the closed records may be produced. If access to the original records would jeopardize the integrity of the records, or is otherwise impracticable, a copy of the complete records in other appropriate formats may be produced for inspection. Unless expressly authorized by the custodian or court order, records shall not be removed from the office where they are normally kept.

(2) *Access to Certain Evidence.* Documents and physical objects admitted into evidence shall be available for public inspection under such condition as the responsible custodian may deem appropriate to protect the security of the evidence.

(j) Bulk or Compiled Data Dissemination in Bulk.

(1) Requests for bulk or compiled court data.

(A) A custodian may release bulk data to an individual, a private company, or a public organization under this policy. Before releasing bulk data, a custodian shall require the recipient to execute a dissemination contract and disclaimer containing provisions specified by the supreme court.

(B) A custodian may contract with a private company or public organization to provide specialized reports to those requesting them.

(2) *Denying requests for bulk data.* The custodian may deny a request for bulk data in compliance with paragraphs (c), (f)(4), and (h)(4)(A).

(3) *Personal identifiers available in bulk court data.* The custodian of bulk data may release data that contains the following personal identifying information about a petitioner, plaintiff, respondent, or defendant other than a petitioner seeking an order of protection:

- (A) name,
- (B) address,
- (C) date of birth, and
- (D) last four digits of the social security or driver license number.

(4) Dissemination of bulk or compiled data is not permitted except as provided in this rule or as permitted by court order.

CREDIT(S)

Added Oct. 9, 1997, effective Dec. 1, 1997. Amended Sept. 24, 1999, effective Dec. 1, 1999; Sept. 18, 2006, effective Jan. 1, 2007; Sept. 3, 2009, effective Jan. 1, 2010; Nov. 10, 2009, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

<Formerly Part XI. Redesignated as Part XII January 15, 2003, effective July 1, 2003.>

COURT COMMENTS [1997]

Paragraph (c)(2). This provision mandates the producer and custodian of records to identifiably segregate from the public case records, all administrative documents containing confidential information to avoid inadvertent disclosures. After confidential documents have been removed or information has been redacted from a record, a description of the excised data shall be placed therein, unless the description itself constitutes a violation of confidentiality.

Paragraph (d)(1)(A). Following passage of the Stop Juvenile Crime Initiative (Proposition 102) in November 1996, the legislature made substantial revisions to juvenile delinquency proceedings that included opening juvenile court records to the public. See [ARS § 8-208](#), amended effective July 21, 1997.

Paragraph (d)(2)(A). The intent of this subsection is to eliminate uncertainty among users regarding who has the primary responsibility to identify and segregate the criminal history record information (CHRI) under section (9) of Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 94-16 (Victims' Rights Implementation Procedures), or other mandates. The probation department or other units that initially obtain or produce the CHRI have the primary responsibility to identify and segregate the CHRI from the open portions of the records. The clerk's office has continuing responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of the CHRI that has been marked confidential by the primary user.

Paragraph (e)(2). This section does not apply to the records of applicants for judicial appointments or membership on appellate and trial court commissions. Disclosure of information relating to applicants for judicial and commission appointments are subject to the Uniform Rules of Procedure for Commissions on Appellate and Trial Court Appointments.

Paragraph (e)(6). This section does not require that draft reports or pre-decisional documents on court operations be maintained or preserved as a public record except as required by applicable records retention policies.

Paragraph (e)(7). This section is intended to assure the confidentiality of the record of materials borrowed by any patron; however, the patron's name and address are public records.

Paragraph (e)(11). This section acknowledges the court's authority under federal copyright law, to control the copying or re-publication of public records that may be copyrighted by the court. Materials that may be copyrighted include all original writings (except judicial opinions), drawings, audio and video recordings, computer programs and applications, or other original publications, produced by a court employee within the scope of employment.

Paragraph (f)(4)(A). Public access to the records of court proceedings is an essential element of a democratic system. Court personnel have a duty to assist the public in obtaining information on their judicial system. That duty is no less a part of court operations than are the other primary duties of the judiciary. This paragraph (f)(4)(A) is intended to deal with situations in which a request jeopardizes the operations of the court, and not to justify refusal of public record requests because compliance will require effort on the part of court personnel.

[1999] COURT COMMENT TO PARAGRAPH (C)(4)

The public is entitled to inspect and obtain copies of court records that are maintained on computer systems or in other non-paper medium as provided in this rule. Because of convenience and cost efficiency, the court is committed to maximizing the availability of records to the public through electronic systems. The production or reproduction of records in a non-standard form or format is encouraged as a service to the public. However, producing or reproducing any record in a form or format not used in the court's ordinary business operations is at the discretion

of the custodian.

[1999] COURT COMMENT TO SECTION (F)(3)

This section incorporates the common law exemption for newspapers from the fees charged applicants who seek records for commercial purposes. In [Star Publishing v. Parks, 178 Ariz. 604, 875 P.2d 837 \(1993\)](#), the Court of Appeals, Div. II, determined that newspapers were not engaged in "the direct economic exploitation of public records," and therefore were not subject to the commercial use fees charged by the state under [ARS § 39-121.03](#). For the same reason, those that are regularly engaged in gathering, reporting, writing, editing, publishing or broadcasting news to the public are not considered commercial users of court records.

[2009] COURT COMMENT TO PARAGRAPH (H)(5)

This provision is intended to allow individuals to seek correction of data entry errors appearing in case management system data likely to be displayed online or disseminated in bulk or compiled fashion. The process for correcting errors appearing in judgments, orders, and other parts of the record is governed by current rules, including Rule 60, Rules of Civil Procedure, [Rule 24.4, Rules of Criminal Procedure](#), and Rule 85, Rules of Family Law Procedure.

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

The June 6, 2005 amendment of this rule by Order No. R-03-0012, which was to become effective December 1, 2005, was vacated by Order dated September 27, 2005.

17A A. R. S. Sup. Ct. Rules, Rule 123, AZ ST S CT Rule 123

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17A A.R.S. Sup.Ct.Rules, Rule 125

Rule 125. Defining Minute Entry, Order, Ruling, and Notice; Party Responsibility

17A A.R.S. Sup.Ct.Rules, Rule 125

Arizona Revised Statutes Annotated [Currentness](#)

Rules of the Supreme Court of Arizona

▣ XII. Miscellaneous Provisions

➔ **Rule 125. Defining Minute Entry, Order, Ruling, and Notice; Party Responsibility**

(a) Minute entry. A minute entry is the memorialization, electronic or otherwise, either by form or narrative of events occurring during a court proceeding or of matters required to be performed by statute or rule. It is not intended to be a verbatim record of the court proceeding. A court proceeding includes those matters heard in chambers when one or more parties are present or represented by counsel. In addition to the date and starting and ending times of a proceeding and the identity of the certified court reporter, alternative recording method and operator, or the absence thereof, a minute entry shall include all official acts occurring during the proceeding, which may consist of any or all of the following as applicable:

- (1) nature of the hearing;
- (2) appearances of counsel and parties;
- (3) identification and admission of exhibits;
- (4) administration of oaths and to whom administered;
- (5) names of witnesses who are called to testify;
- (6) parties' motions;
- (7) findings of fact and conclusions of law by the court as required by law or rule;
- (8) court rulings, orders, decisions and notices to the parties made in the course of the proceeding;
- (9) verdicts; and/or
- (10) any other matter directed by the court.

Nothing in this rule shall be read to require minute entries in any proceeding or to inhibit innovations or programs that would eliminate minute entries.

(b) Court Order or Ruling. A court order or ruling is a record of any out-of-court decision by a judicial officer on a procedural or substantive issue.

(c) Notice. A notice is the memorialization of the scheduling of an event before the court or of an administrative action of the court.

(d) Copies. Parties shall provide the court with sufficient copies of orders or notices to serve all parties.

(e) Intent. This rule is not intended to allocate responsibility for preparing, processing or distributing rulings, orders or notices. Work assignments within each courthouse should be determined locally based on local resources and practice.

CREDIT(S)

Added June 8, 2004, effective Dec. 1, 2004. Amended Sept. 18, 2006, effective Jan. 1, 2007.

<Formerly Part XI. Redesignated as Part XII January 15, 2003, effective July 1, 2003.>

COMMENT [2004]

It is important that minute entries provide a concise record of court proceedings, identifying the nature of and participants in each proceeding, and actions taken during the proceeding including official acts of the court. The itemization appearing in section (a)(1)-(10) is not intended to be an exhaustive list. However, it is not intended that minute entries be used to describe proceedings in the level of detail characteristic of an official transcript.

17A A. R. S. Sup. Ct. Rules, Rule 125, AZ ST S CT Rule 125

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ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

Date Action Requested:

March 29, 2012

Type of Action Requested:

Formal Action/Request
 Information Only
 Other

Subject:

Adult Probation Results with Evidence-Based Sentencing

FROM:

Kathy Waters, Director of the Adult Probation Services Division for the AOC.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Waters will update the Council on Adult Probation Results with Evidence Based Sentencing, to include the Safer Communities Act.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Information only

ARIZONA ADULT PROBATION

**Probation Works in Arizona
Fiscal Year 2011**



July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
ADULT PROBATION SERVICES DIVISION
Administrative Services Unit | Suite 344 | 602.452.3460**



This Report Published By

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADULT PROBATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Kathy Waters, Division Director
JL Doyle, Administrative Services Manager
Maria Aguilar-Amaya, Researcher/Data Analyst

In Conjunction With

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DIRECTORS OFFICE**

1601 West Jefferson * Phoenix, AZ 85022
602-542-5225

For additional information about the Arizona Adult Probation Population, or for clarification of any information contained in this report, please contact the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Adult Probation Services Division at (602) 452-3460.

This report is available on the APSD Internet website at:
<http://www.azcourts.gov/apsd/SafeCommunitiesAct.aspx>

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ADULT PROBATION POPULATION

During FY 2011, the average¹ number of people on probation was 86,273. For purposes of funding and caseload ratios of 65:1 that are reported to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the AOC categorizes a subset of those on probation as “direct supervision” cases. During FY 2011, the average number of direct supervision cases was 38,795. Probationers who are not included in the direct supervision count include individuals categorized as being on administrative supervision or indirect supervision, incarcerated (jail or prison), supervised by another state, absconders, deported, etc.

For purposes of this report, a supervised probationer is defined as a probationer who is directly supervised. Table 1 shows the average number of people on probation by county in FY 2011 and Table 2 shows the average number of people on supervised probation (direct supervision) in FY 2011.

Table 1: AVG. Probation Population

County	Number of People
Apache	759
Cochise	1,287
Coconino	1,680
Gila	1,017
Graham	926
Greenlee	211
La Paz	487
Maricopa	57,687
Mohave	2,409
Navajo	1,741
Pima	7,891
Pinal	3,419
Santa Cruz	648
Yavapai	4,051
Yuma	2,060
Statewide	86,273

Table 2: AVG. Direct Supervision Population

County	Number of People
Apache	399
Cochise	773
Coconino	824
Gila	500
Graham	491
Greenlee	127
La Paz	121
Maricopa	22,507
Mohave	1,207
Navajo	936
Pima	5,531
Pinal	1,810
Santa Cruz	275
Yavapai	2,022
Yuma	1,274
Statewide	38,795

¹ The “average number of people” figures are based on the end of the month probation population from the Adult Probation Enterprise Tracking System.

PROBATION REVOCATIONS

If a probationer is found in violation of the condition(s) of probation, the probation grant can be revoked. In Arizona there are three types of revocation classification: revoked with no incarceration; revoked to jail; and revoked to prison. By the end of FY 2011 there were a total of 4,573 dispositions that resulted in probation grants being revoked. Table 3 shows the number of dispositions in each county that resulted in a revocation during FY 2011. Statewide, the number and type of dispositions that resulted in revocations were:

- 4,120 dispositions resulted in a revocation to the Department of Corrections (see Appendix A for a detailed breakdown of the costs for private bed placements for the Department of Corrections);
- 414 dispositions resulted in a revocation to jail; and
- 39 dispositions resulted in a revocation with no incarceration.

Table 3: Dispositions Resulting in a Revocation

	Dispositions Resulting in a Revocation to ADOC	Dispositions Resulting in a Revocation to Jail	Dispositions Resulting in Revocation w/no Incarceration	Total Number of Dispositions Resulting in a Revocation
Apache	32	2	1	35
Cochise	142	4	1	147
Coconino	102	4	0	106
Gila	61	6	0	67
Graham	45	6	0	51
Greenlee	9	2	0	11
La Paz	20	2	0	22
Maricopa	2,195	275	19	2,489
Mohave	231	0	0	231
Navajo	59	13	0	72
Pima	548	50	1	599
Pinal	273	30	0	303
Santa Cruz	32	6	17	55
Yavapai	200	13	0	213
Yuma	171	1	0	172
Statewide	4,120	414	39	4,573

Year to Year: Overall Decrease In Revocations

From FY 2010 to FY 2011 Arizona experienced a 16.2% decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation. There was a decrease of 16.1% in the rate of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to the department of corrections; a 6.1% decrease in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation to jail; and a 62.5% decrease in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation with no incarceration. Tables 4

through 7.1 outline the increase and decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to the department of corrections, jail, or no incarceration according to individual counties and statewide.

Table 4: Number of Revocations-Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	FY 09 to FY 10 (#)	FY 10 to FY 11 (#)	Base Line to FY 11 (#)
Apache	73	36	20	35	-37	-16	15	-38
Cochise	135	119	102	147	-16	-17	45	12
Coconino	253	189	153	106	-64	-36	-47	-147
Gila	112	119	71	67	7	-48	-4	-45
Graham	47	57	71	51	10	14	-20	4
Greenlee	12	16	11	11	4	-5	0	-1
La Paz	24	21	26	22	-3	5	-4	-2
Maricopa	4,714	4,405	3,420	2,489	-309	-985	-931	-2,225
Mohave	314	229	207	231	-85	-22	24	-83
Navajo	156	104	65	72	-52	-39	7	-84
Pima	968	662	637	599	-306	-25	-38	-369
Pinal	310	252	230	303	-58	-22	73	-7
Santa Cruz	58	83	49	55	25	-34	6	-3
Yavapai	326	299	223	213	-27	-76	-10	-113
Yuma	218	142	174	172	-76	32	-2	-46
Statewide	7,720	6,733	5,459	4,573	-987	-1,274	-886	-3,147

Table 4.1: Percent of Revocations-Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	FY 09 to FY 10 (%)	FY 10 to FY 11 (%)	Base Line to FY 11 (%)
Apache	73	36	20	35	-50.7	-44.4	42.9	-52.1
Cochise	135	119	102	147	-11.9	-14.3	30.6	8.9
Coconino	253	189	153	106	-25.3	-19.0	-44.6	-58.1
Gila	112	119	71	67	6.3	-40.3	-6.0	-40.2
Graham	47	57	71	51	21.3	24.6	-39.2	8.5
Greenlee	12	16	11	11	33.3	-31.3	0.0	-8.3
La Paz	24	21	26	22	-12.5	23.8	-18.2	-8.3
Maricopa	4,714	4,405	3,420	2,489	-6.6	-22.4	-37.4	-47.2
Mohave	314	229	207	231	-27.1	-9.6	10.4	-26.4
Navajo	156	104	65	72	-33.3	-37.5	9.7	-53.8
Pima	968	662	637	599	-31.6	-3.8	-6.3	-38.1
Pinal	310	252	230	303	-18.7	-8.7	24.1	-2.3
Santa Cruz	58	83	49	55	43.1	-41.0	10.9	-5.2
Yavapai	326	299	223	213	-8.3	-25.4	-4.7	-34.7
Yuma	218	142	174	172	-34.9	22.5	-1.2	-21.1
Statewide	7,720	6,733	5,459	4,573	-12.8	-18.9	-19.4	-40.8

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation. There was a decrease of 12.8% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; an 18.9% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 19.4% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation. Figures 1 and 1.1 show the trend in the continual decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation on a statewide level.

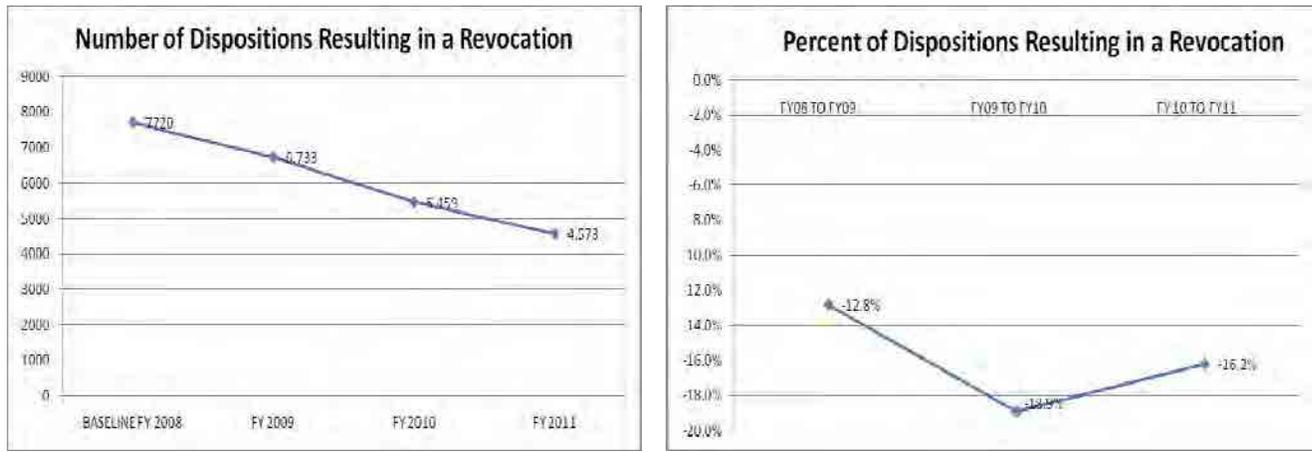


Figure 1: Number of Revocations

Figure 1.1: Percent of Revocations

Table 5: Number of Revocations to ADOC-Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	FY 09 to FY 10 (#)	FY 10 to FY 11 (#)	Base Line to FY 11 (#)
Apache	37	27	20	32	-10	-7	12	-5
Cochise	121	85	75	142	-36	-10	67	21
Coconino	221	127	119	102	-94	-8	-178	-119
Gila	82	70	52	61	-12	-18	9	-21
Graham	36	37	50	45	1	13	-5	9
Greenlee	10	15	9	9	5	-6	0	-1
La Paz	21	21	24	20	0	3	-4	-1
Maricopa	4,393	4,001	3,127	2,195	-392	-874	-932	-2,198
Mohave	304	215	207	231	-89	-8	24	-73
Navajo	123	88	55	59	-35	-33	4	-64
Pima	733	592	564	548	-141	-28	-16	-185
Pinal	217	191	197	273	-26	6	76	56
Santa Cruz	25	55	35	32	30	-20	-3	7
Yavapai	290	283	218	200	-7	-65	-18	-90
Yuma	188	135	161	171	-53	26	10	-17
Statewide	6,801	5,942	4,913	4,120	-859	-1,029	-793	-2,681

Table 5.1: Percent of Revocations to ADOC-Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	FY 09 to FY 10 (%)	FY 10 to FY 11 (%)	Base Line to FY 11 (%)
Apache	37	27	20	32	-27.0	-28.6	37.5	-13.5
Cochise	121	85	75	142	-29.8	-11.8	47.2	17.4
Coconino	221	127	119	102	-42.5	-6.0	-16.7	-53.8
Gila	82	70	52	61	-14.6	-25.7	14.8	-25.6
Graham	36	37	50	45	2.8	35.1	-11.1	25.0
Greenlee	10	15	9	9	50.0	-40.0	0.0	-10.0
La Paz	21	21	24	20	0.0	14.3	-20.0	-4.8
Maricopa	4,393	4,001	3,127	2,195	-8.9	-21.8	-42.5	-50.0
Mohave	304	215	207	231	-29.3	-3.7	10.4	-24.0
Navajo	123	88	55	59	-28.5	-37.5	6.8	-52.0
Pima	733	592	564	548	-19.2	-4.7	-2.9	-25.2
Pinal	217	191	197	273	-12.0	3.1	27.8	25.8
Santa Cruz	25	55	35	32	120.0	-36.4	-9.4	28.0
Yavapai	290	283	218	200	-2.4	-23.0	-9.0	-31.0
Yuma	188	135	161	171	-28.2	19.3	5.8	-9.0
Statewide	6,801	5,942	4,913	4,120	-12.6	-17.3	-19.2	-39.4

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to the Department of Corrections. There was a decrease of 12.6% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 17.3% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 19.2% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation. Figures 2 and 2.1 show the trend in the continual decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to the Department of Corrections on a statewide level.

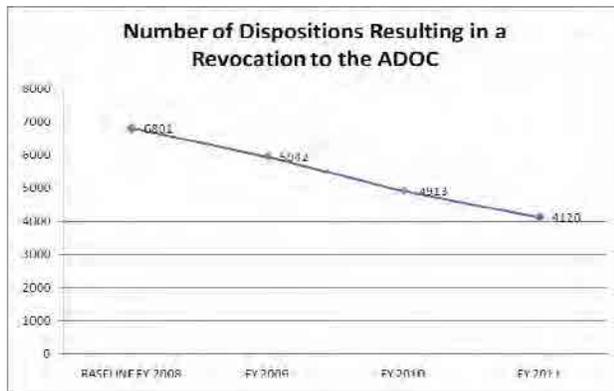


Figure 2: Number of Revocation to ADOC

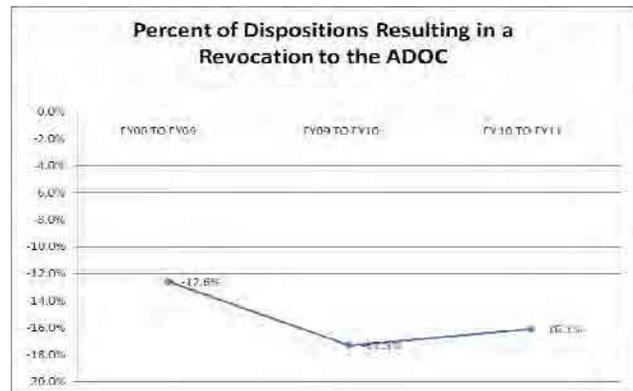


Figure 2.1: Percent of Revocations to ADOC

Table 6: Number of Revocations to Jail-Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	FY 09 to FY 10 (#)	FY 10 to FY 11 (#)	Base Line to FY 11 (#)
Apache	8	5	0	2	-3	-5	2	-6
Cochise	11	23	18	4	12	-5	-14	-7
Coconino	18	35	10	4	17	-25	-6	-14
Gila	26	40	18	6	14	-22	-12	-20
Graham	9	18	18	6	9	0	-12	-3
Greenlee	2	1	2	2	-1	1	0	0
La Paz	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
Maricopa	300	322	243	275	22	-79	32	-25
Mohave	0	12	0	0	12	-12	0	0
Navajo	19	12	8	13	-7	-4	5	-6
Pima	173	59	73	50	-114	14	-23	-123
Pinal	70	51	30	30	-19	-21	0	-40
Santa Cruz	21	19	8	6	-2	-11	-2	-15
Yavapai	35	13	3	13	-22	-10	10	-22
Yuma	27	6	10	1	-21	4	-9	-26
Statewide	719	616	441	414	-103	-175	-27	-305

Table 6.1: Percent of Revocations to Jail-Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	FY 09 to FY 10 (%)	FY 10 to FY 11 (%)	Base Line to FY 11 (%)
Apache	8	5	0	2	-37.5	-100.0	200.0	-75.0
Cochise	11	23	18	4	109.1	-21.7	-77.8	-63.6
Coconino	18	35	10	4	94.4	-71.4	-60.0	-77.8
Gila	26	40	18	6	53.8	-55.0	-66.7	-76.9
Graham	9	18	18	6	100.0	0.0	-66.7	-33.3
Greenlee	2	1	2	2	-50.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
La Paz	0	0	0	2	0	0	200.0	200.0
Maricopa	300	322	243	275	7.3	-24.5	13.2	-8.3
Mohave	0	12	0	0	0	-100.0	0.0	0.0
Navajo	19	12	8	13	-36.8	-33.3	62.5	-31.6
Pima	173	59	73	50	-65.9	23.7	-31.5	-71.1
Pinal	70	51	30	30	-27.1	-41.2	0.0	-57.1
Santa Cruz	21	19	8	6	-9.5	-57.9	-25.0	-71.4
Yavapai	35	13	3	13	-62.9	-76.9	333.3	-62.9
Yuma	27	6	10	1	-77.8	66.7	-90.0	-96.3
Statewide	719	616	441	414	-14.3	-28.4	-6.1	-42.4

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to jail. There was a decrease of 14.3% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 28.4% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 6.1% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation. Figures 2 and 2.1 show the trend in the continual decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to jail on a statewide level.

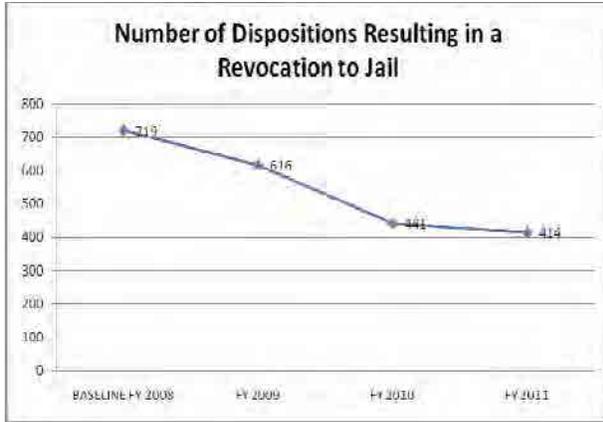


Figure 3: Number of Revocations to Jail

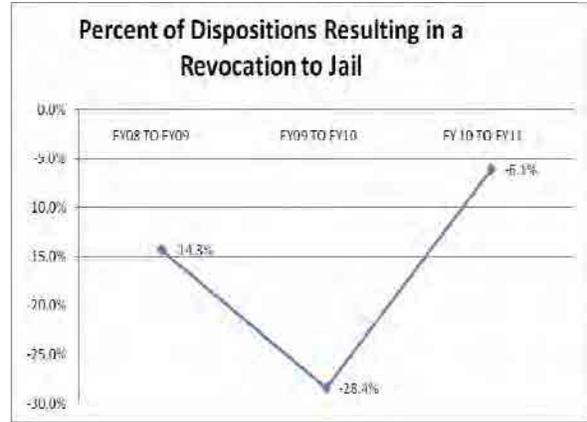


Figure 3.1: Percent of Revocations to Jail

Table 7: Number of Revocations w/no Incarceration-Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	FY 09 to FY 10 (#)	FY 10 to FY 11 (#)	Base Line FY 11 (#)
Apache	28	4	0	1	-24	-4	1	-27
Cochise	3	11	9	1	8	-2	-8	-2
Coconino	14	27	24	0	13	-3	-24	-14
Gila	4	9	1	0	5	-8	-1	-4
Graham	2	2	3	0	0	1	-3	-2
Greenlee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Paz	3	0	2	0	-3	2	-2	-3
Maricopa	21	82	49	19	61	-33	-30	-2
Mohave	10	2	0	0	-8	-2	0	-10
Navajo	14	4	2	0	-10	-2	-2	-14
Pima	62	11	0	1	-51	-11	1	-61
Pinal	23	10	3	0	-13	-7	-3	-23
Santa Cruz	12	9	6	17	-3	-3	11	5
Yavapai	1	3	2	0	2	-1	-2	-1
Yuma	3	1	3	0	-2	2	-3	-3
Statewide	200	175	104	39	-25	-71	-65	-161

Table 7.1: Percent of Revocations w/no Incarceration-Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	FY 09 to FY 10 (%)	FY 10 to FY 11 (%)	Base Line to FY 11 (%)
Apache	28	4	0	1	-85.7	-100.0	100.0	-96.4
Cochise	3	11	9	1	266.7	-18.2	-88.9	-66.7
Coconino	14	27	24	0	92.9	-11.1	-100.0	-100.0
Gila	4	9	1	0	125.0	-88.9	-100.0	-100.0
Graham	2	2	3	0	0.0	50.0	-100.0	-100.0
Greenlee	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
La Paz	3	0	2	0	-100.0	0.0	-100.0	-100.0
Maricopa	21	82	49	19	290.5	-40.2	-61.2	-9.5
Mohave	10	2	0	0	-80.0	-100.0	0.0	-100.0
Navajo	14	4	2	0	-71.4	-50.0	-100.0	-100.0
Pima	62	11	0	1	-82.3	-100.0	100.0	-98.4
Pinal	23	10	3	0	-56.5	-70.0	-100.0	-100.0
Santa Cruz	12	9	6	17	-25.0	-33.3	183.3	-41.7
Yavapai	1	3	2	0	200.0	-33.3	-100.0	-100.0
Yuma	3	1	3	0	-66.7	200.0	-100.0	-100.0
Statewide	200	175	104	39	-12.5	-40.6	-62.5	-80.5

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation with no incarceration. There was a decrease of 14.3% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 28.4% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 6.1% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation. Figures 2 and 2.1 show the trend in the continual decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation with no incarceration on a statewide level.

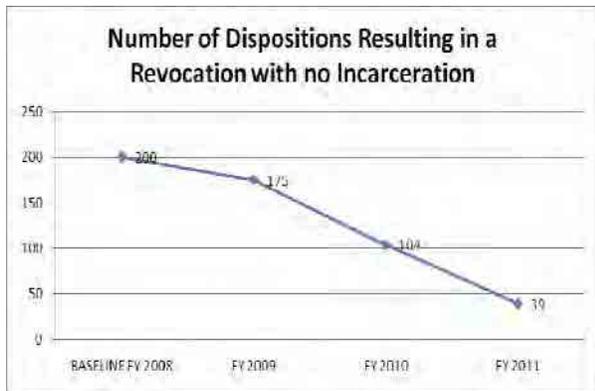


Figure 4: Number of Revoc. w/no Incar.

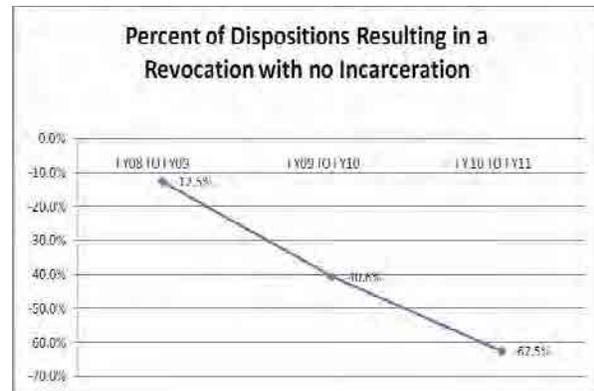


Figure 4.1: Percent of Revoc. w/no Incar.

Base Line to Fiscal Year: Overall Decrease In Revocations

From FY 2008 Base Line to FY 2011 Arizona experienced a 40.8% decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation. There

was a decrease of 39.4% in the rate of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to the department of corrections; a 42.4% decrease in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation to jail; and an 80.5% decrease in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation with no incarceration. Tables 8 through 11.5 outline the increase and decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to the department of corrections, jail, or no incarceration according to individual counties and statewide based on a comparison of an increase and decrease from the base line if FY 2008 to the actual fiscal year.

Table 8: Number of Revocations-Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	Base Line to FY 10 (#)	Baseline to FY 11 (#)
Apache	73	36	20	35	-37	-53	-38
Cochise	135	119	102	147	-16	-33	12
Coconino	253	189	153	106	-64	-100	-147
Gila	112	119	71	67	7	-41	-45
Graham	47	57	71	51	10	24	4
Greenlee	12	16	11	11	4	-1	-1
La Paz	24	21	26	22	-3	2	-2
Maricopa	4,714	4,405	3,420	2,489	-309	-1,294	-2,225
Mohave	314	229	207	231	-85	-107	-83
Navajo	156	104	65	72	-52	-91	-84
Pima	968	662	637	599	-306	-331	-369
Pinal	310	252	230	303	-58	-80	-7
Santa Cruz	58	83	49	55	25	-9	-3
Yavapai	326	299	223	213	-27	-103	-113
Yuma	218	142	174	172	-76	-44	-46
Statewide	7,720	6,733	5,459	4,573	-987	-2,261	-3,147

Table 8.1: Percent of Revocations-Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	Base Line to FY 10 (%)	Base Line to FY 11 (%)
Apache	73	36	20	35	-50.7	-72.6	-52.1
Cochise	135	119	102	147	-11.9	-24.4	8.9
Coconino	253	189	153	106	-25.3	-39.5	-58.1
Gila	112	119	71	67	6.3	-36.6	-40.2
Graham	47	57	71	51	21.3	51.1	8.5
Greenlee	12	16	11	11	33.3	-8.3	-8.3
La Paz	24	21	26	22	-12.5	8.3	-8.3
Maricopa	4,714	4,405	3,420	2,489	-6.6	-27.5	-47.2
Mohave	314	229	207	231	-27.1	-34.1	-26.4
Navajo	156	104	65	72	-33.3	-58.3	-53.8
Pima	968	662	637	599	-31.6	-34.2	-38.1
Pinal	310	252	230	303	-18.7	-25.8	-2.3
Santa Cruz	58	83	49	55	43.1	-15.5	-5.2
Yavapai	326	299	223	213	-8.3	-31.6	-34.7
Yuma	218	142	174	172	-34.9	-20.2	-21.1
Statewide	7,720	6,733	5,459	4,573	-12.8	-29.3	-40.8

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation. There was a decrease of 12.8% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 29.3% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 40.8% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation. Figure 5 shows the trend in the continual decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation on a statewide level.

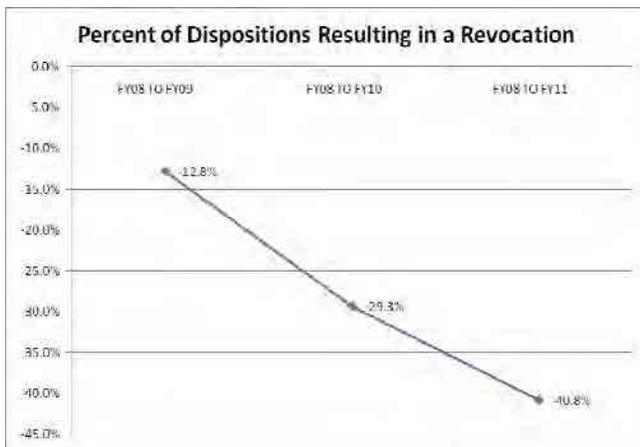


Figure 5: Percent of Revocations - Base Line to FY

Table 9: Number of Revocations to ADOC-Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	Base Line to FY 10 (#)	Baseline to FY 11 (#)
Apache	37	27	20	32	-10	-17	-5
Cochise	121	85	75	142	-36	-46	21
Coconino	221	127	119	102	-94	-102	-119
Gila	82	70	52	61	-12	-30	-21
Graham	36	37	50	45	1	14	9
Greenlee	10	15	9	9	5	-1	-1
La Paz	21	21	24	20	0	3	-1
Maricopa	4,393	4,001	3,127	2,195	-392	-1,266	-2,198
Mohave	304	215	207	231	-89	-97	-73
Navajo	123	88	55	59	-35	-68	-64
Pima	733	592	564	548	-141	-169	-185
Pinal	217	191	197	273	-26	-20	56
Santa Cruz	25	55	35	32	30	10	7
Yavapai	290	283	218	200	-7	-72	-90
Yuma	188	135	161	171	-53	-27	-17
Statewide	6,801	5,942	4,913	4,120	-859	-1,888	-2,681

Table 9.1: Percent of Revocations to ADOC-Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	Base Line to FY 10 (%)	Baseline to FY 11 (%)
Apache	37	27	20	32	-27.0	-45.9	-13.5
Cochise	121	85	75	142	-29.8	-38.0	17.4
Coconino	221	127	119	102	-42.5	-46.2	-53.8
Gila	82	70	52	61	-14.6	-36.6	-25.6
Graham	36	37	50	45	2.8	38.9	25.0
Greenlee	10	15	9	9	50.0	-10.0	-10.0
La Paz	21	21	24	20	0.0	14.3	-4.8
Maricopa	4,393	4,001	3,127	2,195	-8.9	-28.8	-50.0
Mohave	304	215	207	231	-29.3	-31.9	-24.0
Navajo	123	88	55	59	-28.5	-55.3	-52.0
Pima	733	592	564	548	-19.2	-23.1	-25.2
Pinal	217	191	197	273	-12.0	-9.0	25.8
Santa Cruz	25	55	35	32	120.0	40.0	28.0
Yavapai	290	283	218	200	-2.4	-24.8	-31.0
Yuma	188	135	161	171	-28.2	-14.4	-9.0
Statewide	6,801	5,942	4,913	4,120	-12.6	-27.8	-39.4

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to the Department of Corrections. There was a decrease of 12.6% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 27.8% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 39.4% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation to the Department of Corrections. Figure 6 shows the trend in the continual decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation on a statewide level.

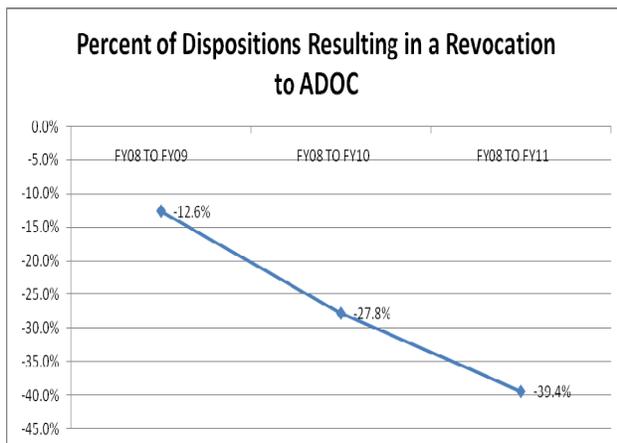


Figure 6: Percent of Revocations to ADOC

Table 10: Number of Revocations to Jail-Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	Base Line to FY 10 (#)	Baseline to FY 11 (#)
Apache	8	5	0	2	-3	-8	-6
Cochise	11	23	18	4	12	7	-7
Coconino	18	35	10	4	17	-8	-14
Gila	26	40	18	6	14	-8	-20
Graham	9	18	18	6	9	9	-3
Greenlee	2	1	2	2	-1	0	0
La Paz	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Maricopa	300	322	243	275	22	-57	-25
Mohave	0	12	0	0	12	0	0
Navajo	19	12	8	13	-7	-11	-6
Pima	173	59	73	50	-114	-100	-123
Pinal	70	51	30	30	-19	-40	-40
Santa Cruz	21	19	8	6	-2	-13	-15
Yavapai	35	13	3	13	-22	-32	-22
Yuma	27	6	10	1	-21	-17	-26
Statewide	719	616	441	414	-103	-278	-305

Table 10.5: Percent of Revocations to Jail-Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	Base Line to FY 10 (%)	Baseline to FY 11 (%)
Apache	8	5	0	2	-37.5	-100.0	-75.0
Cochise	11	23	18	4	109.1	63.6	-63.6
Coconino	18	35	10	4	94.4	-44.4	-77.8
Gila	26	40	18	6	53.8	-30.8	-76.9
Graham	9	18	18	6	100.0	100.0	-33.3
Greenlee	2	1	2	2	-50.0	0.0	0.0
La Paz	0	0	0	2	0.0	0.0	200.0
Maricopa	300	322	243	275	7.3	-19.0	-8.3
Mohave	0	12	0	0	120.0	0.0	0.0
Navajo	19	12	8	13	-36.8	-57.9	-31.6
Pima	173	59	73	50	-65.9	-57.8	-71.1
Pinal	70	51	30	30	-27.1	-57.1	-57.1
Santa Cruz	21	19	8	6	-9.5	-61.9	-71.4
Yavapai	35	13	3	13	-62.9	-91.34	-62.9
Yuma	27	6	10	1	-77.8	-63.0	-96.3
Statewide	719	616	441	414	-14.3	--38.7	-42.4

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation to jail. There was a decrease of 14.3% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 38.7% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 42.4% decrease from FY 2010 to FY

2011 in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation to jail. Figure 7 shows the trend in the continual decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation on a statewide level

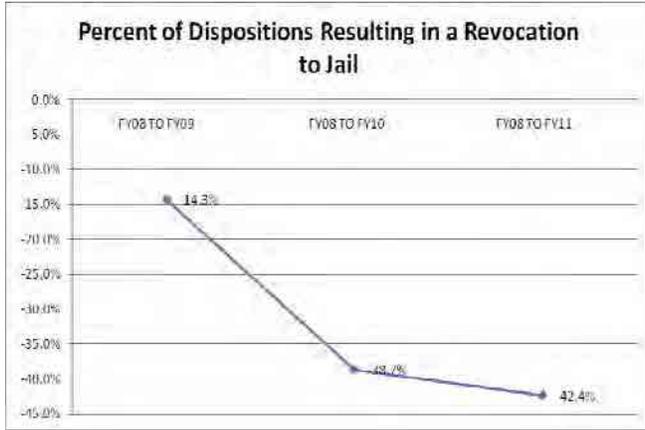


Figure 7: Percent of Revocations to Jail

Table 11: Number of Revocations w/no Incarceration-Base Line to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	Base Line to FY 10 (#)	Baseline to FY 11 (#)
Apache	28	4	0	1	-24	-28	-27
Cochise	3	11	9	1	8	6	-2
Coconino	14	27	24	0	13	10	-14
Gila	4	9	1	0	5	-3	-4
Graham	2	2	3	0	0	1	-2
Greenlee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Paz	3	0	2	0	-3	-1	-3
Maricopa	21	82	49	19	61	28	-2
Mohave	10	2	0	0	-8	-10	-10
Navajo	14	4	2	0	-10	-12	-14
Pima	62	11	0	1	-51	-62	-61
Pinal	23	10	3	0	-13	-20	-23
Santa Cruz	12	9	6	17	-3	-6	5
Yavapai	1	3	2	0	2	1	-1
Yuma	3	1	3	0	-2	0	-3
Statewide	200	175	104	39	-25	-96	-161

Table 11.5: Percent of Revocations w/no Incarceration-Base Line to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	Base Line to FY 10 (%)	Baseline to FY 11 (%)
Apache	28	4	0	1	-85.7	-100.0	-96.4
Cochise	3	11	9	1	266.7	200.0	-66.7
Coconino	14	27	24	0	92.9	71.4	-100.0
Gila	4	9	1	0	125.0	-75.0	-100.0
Graham	2	2	3	0	0.0	50.0	-100.0
Greenlee	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
La Paz	3	0	2	0	-100.0	-33.3	-100.0
Maricopa	21	82	49	19	290.5	133.3	-9.5
Mohave	10	2	0	0	-80.0	-100.0	-100.0
Navajo	14	4	2	0	-71.4	-85.7	-100.0
Pima	62	11	0	1	-82.3	-100.0	-98.4
Pinal	23	10	3	0	-56.5	-87.0	-100.0
Santa Cruz	12	9	6	17	-25.0	-50.0	-41.7
Yavapai	1	3	2	0	200.0	100.0	-100.0
Yuma	3	1	3	0	-66.7	0.0	-100.0
Statewide	200	175	104	39	-12.5	-48.0	-80.5

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of dispositions that resulted in a revocation with no incarceration. There was a decrease of 12.5% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 48.0% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 80.5% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the rate of dispositions resulting in a revocation with no incarceration. Figure 8 shows the trend in the continual decrease of dispositions that resulted in a revocation with no incarceration on a statewide level.

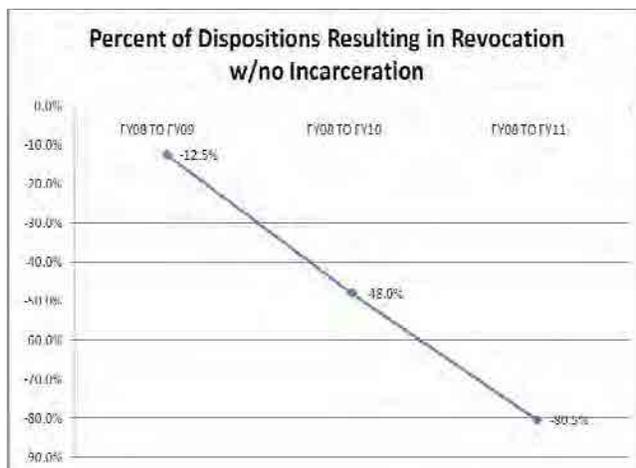


Figure 8: Percent of Revoc. w/no Incarceration

NEW FELONY CONVICTIONS

Year to Year Overall Decrease in New Felony Convictions

During FY 2011, 1,857 people on probation had a new felony conviction², this was a decrease of 17.8% from FY 2010 to FY 2011. Tables 12 and 12.1 show the number and percent of probationers who had a new felony conviction during FY 2011.

Table 12: Number of Probationers with a New Felony Conviction - Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	FY 09 to FY 10 (#)	FY 10 to FY 11 (#)	Base Line to FY 11 (#)
Apache	37	5	11	6	-32	6	-5	-31
Cochise	36	10	60	22	-26	50	-38	-14
Coconino	63	28	16	6	-35	-12	-10	-57
Gila	36	59	33	36	23	-26	3	0
Graham	23	44	29	32	21	-15	3	9
Greenlee	6	0	2	3	-6	2	1	-3
La Paz	4	4	7	8	0	3	1	4
Maricopa ³	2,222	2,388	1,510	1,382	166	-878	-128	-840
Mohave	58	14	25	33	-44	11	8	-25
Navajo	45	40	31	28	-5	-9	-3	-17
Pima	221	233	233	87	12	0	-146	-134
Pinal	182	90	57	69	-92	-33	12	-113
Santa Cruz	18	10	6	4	-8	-4	-2	-14
Yavapai	195	160	126	93	-35	-34	-33	-102
Yuma	28	29	42	48	1	13	6	20
Statewide	3,174	3,114	2,188	1,857	-60	-926	-331	-1,317

² The Administrative Office of the Courts reports on new felony convictions as the established baseline (A.R.S. §12-270 (A)(2)) is “The percentage of people on supervised probation from each county who are convicted of a new felony offense compared to the percentage of probationers who would have been convicted of a new felony offense at the baseline probation conviction rate.”

³ FY 2011 new felony conviction figures are as reported by the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department, Research and Planning Unit.

Table 12.1: Percent of Probationers with a New Felony Conviction – Year to Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	FY 09 to FY 10 (%)	FY 10 to FY 11 (%)	Base Line to FY 11 (%)
Apache	37	5	11	6	-86.5	120.0	-83.3	-83.8
Cochise	36	10	60	22	-72.2	500.0	-172.7	-38.9
Coconino	63	28	16	6	-55.6	-42.9	-166.7	-90.5
Gila	36	59	33	36	63.9	-44.1	8.3	0.0
Graham	23	44	29	32	91.3	-34.1	9.4	39.1
Greenlee	6	0	2	3	-100.0	200.0	33.3	-50.0
La Paz	4	4	7	8	0.0	75.0	12.5	100.0
Maricopa	2,222	2,388	1,510	1,382	7.5	-36.8	-9.3	-37.8
Mohave	58	14	25	33	-75.9	78.6	24.2	-43.1
Navajo	45	40	31	28	-11.1	-22.5	-10.7	-37.8
Pima	221	233	233	87	5.4	0.0	-167.8	60.6
Pinal	182	90	57	69	-50.5	-36.7	17.4	-62.1
Santa Cruz	18	10	6	4	-44.4	-40.0	-50.0	-77.8
Yavapai	195	160	126	93	-17.9	-21.3	-35.5	-52.3
Yuma	28	29	42	48	3.6	44.8	12.5	71.4
Statewide	3,174	3,114	2,188	1,857	-1.9	-29.7	-17.8	-41.5

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the number of new felony convictions. There was a decrease of 1.9% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 29.7% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 41.5% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in the rate of new felony convictions. Figures 9 and 9.1 show the trend in the continual decrease in the number of and percent of new felony convictions on a statewide level.

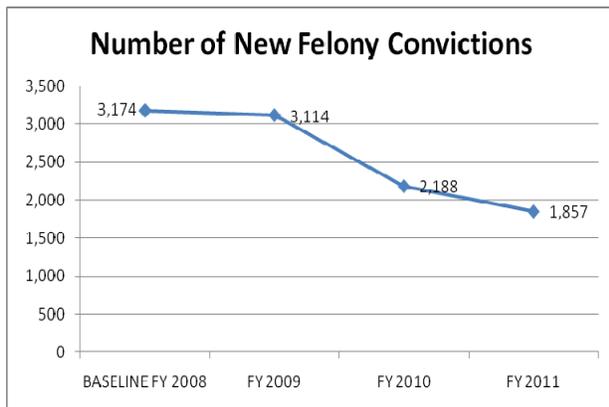


Figure 9: Number of New Felony Convictions

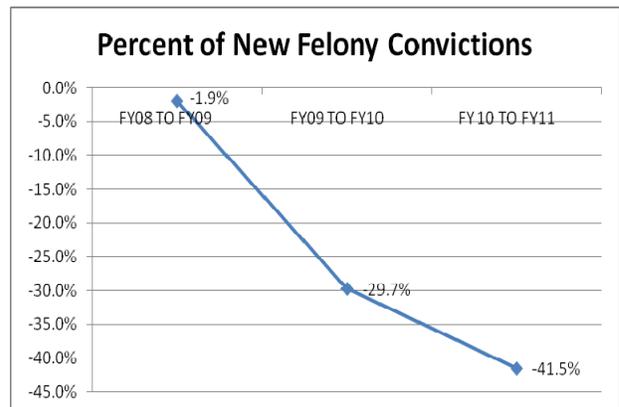


Figure 9.1: Percent of New Felony Convictions

Base Line to Fiscal Year: Overall Decrease in New Felony Convictions

From FY 2008 Base Line to FY 2011 Arizona experienced a 41.5% decrease in the number of new felony convictions. Tables 13 and 13.1 outline the increase and decrease of new felony convictions according to individual counties and statewide based on a comparison of an increase and decrease from the base line in FY 2008 to the actual fiscal year.

Table 13: Number of Probationers with a New Felony Conviction - Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (#)	Base Line to FY 10 (#)	Base Line to FY 11 (#)
Apache	37	5	11	6	-32	-26	-31
Cochise	36	10	60	22	-26	24	-14
Coconino	63	28	16	6	-35	-47	-57
Gila	36	59	33	36	23	-3	0
Graham	23	44	29	32	21	6	9
Greenlee	6	0	2	3	-6	-4	-3
La Paz	4	4	7	8	0	3	4
Maricopa	2,222	2,388	1,510	1,382	166	-712	-840
Mohave	58	14	25	33	-44	-33	-25
Navajo	45	40	31	28	-5	-14	-17
Pima	221	233	233	87	12	12	-134
Pinal	182	90	57	69	-92	-125	-113
Santa Cruz	18	10	6	4	-8	-12	-14
Yavapai	195	160	126	93	-35	-69	-102
Yuma	28	29	42	48	1	14	20
Statewide	3,174	3,114	2,188	1,857	-60	-986	-1,317

Table 13.1: Percent of Probationers with a New Felony Conviction - Base Line to Fiscal Year

	FY 08 Base Line	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Actual	Base Line to FY 09 (%)	Base Line to FY 10 (%)	Base Line to FY 11 (%)
Apache	37	5	11	6	-86.5	-70.3	-83.8
Cochise	36	10	60	22	-72.2	66.7	-38.9
Coconino	63	28	16	6	-55.6	-74.6	-90.5
Gila	36	59	33	36	63.9	-8.3	0.0
Graham	23	44	29	32	91.3	26.1	39.1
Greenlee	6	0	2	3	-100.0	-66.7	-50.0
La Paz	4	4	7	8	0.0	75	100.0
Maricopa	2,222	2,388	1,510	1,382	7.5	-32.0	-37.8
Mohave	58	14	25	33	-75.9	-56.9	-43.1
Navajo	45	40	31	28	-11.1	-31.1	-37.8
Pima	221	233	233	87	5.4	5.4	-60.6
Pinal	182	90	57	69	-50.5	-68.7	-62.1
Santa Cruz	18	10	6	4	-44.4	-66.7	-77.8
Yavapai	195	160	126	93	-17.9	-35.4	-52.3
Yuma	28	29	42	48	3.6	50.0	71.4
Statewide	3,174	3,114	2,188	1,857	-1.9	-31.1	-41.5

For the past three years Arizona has experienced a continual decrease in the percent of new felony convictions. There was a decrease of 1.9% from the base line in FY 2008 to FY 2009; a 31.1% decrease from FY 2009 to FY 2010; and a 41.5% decrease from FY 2010 to FY 2011 in new felony convictions. Figure 10 shows the trend in the continual decrease in percent of new felony convictions on a statewide level.

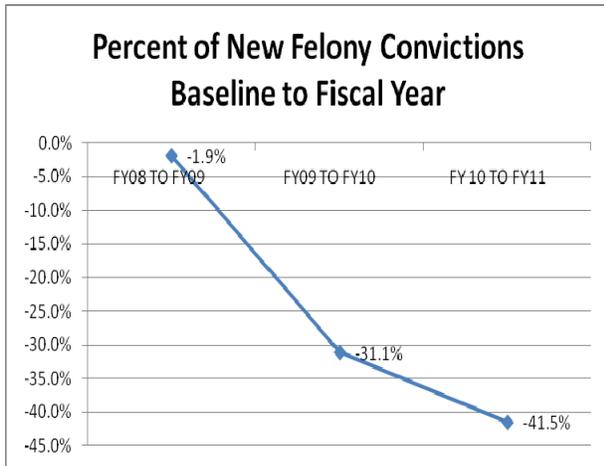


Figure 10: Percent of New Felony Convictions

APPENDIX A

Arizona Department of Corrections
1601 West Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona 85022

Most Recent Cost for Contracted Private Beds A.R.S. § 12-270(D)(4)

Most Recent Cost for Contracted Private Beds

As of June 30, 2011, the Department of Corrections had contracts to place inmates in private in-state Regular beds at the following rates per bed per day as follows:

GEO Group (Central Arizona Correctional Facility)	\$67.22	1,000 Beds
Management Training Corporation (Marana South)	49.03	500 Beds
GEO Group (Florence West RTC)	44.98	200 Beds
GEO Group (Florence West DWI)	55.79	400 Beds
Management Training Corporation (Kingman)	60.20	3,298Beds
GEO Group (Phoenix West DWI)	49.28	400 Beds

Using the above information and total beds available, the calculated average cost is \$58.17 per day for each regular private bed placement as of June 30, 2011. The Arizona Department of Corrections no longer contracts to place inmates in private out-of-state provisional beds.

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

Date Action Requested:

March 29, 2012

Type of Action Requested:

Formal Action/Request
 Information Only
 Other

Subject:

Committee on the Impact of Wireless, Mobile Technologies and Social Media on Court Proceedings

FROM:

Mr. Mark Meltzer, Court Services Division of the AOC

DISCUSSION: Administrative Order 2012-22, entered on March 7, 2012, established this ad hoc committee to study and to make recommendations concerning the impact of wireless mobile technology and social media on court proceedings. The committee will submit a report to the AJC later this year.

Mr. Meltzer serves as staff to this committee, and he will provide a preliminary overview.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Information only

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE) Administrative Order
COMMITTEE ON THE IMPACT OF) No. 2012 – 22
WIRELESS MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES)
AND SOCIAL MEDIA ON COURT)
PROCEEDINGS)

New and affordable wireless mobile technologies have caused an unprecedented growth in the number of hand-held “smart” devices, laptops, and tablets used in this country. These technologies are shaping how we communicate, shop, bank, work, and inform and educate ourselves.

These devices also provide immediate access to information. Using social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, information may be shared with business colleagues, clients, friends, and families. Mobile and wireless devices may be accessed nearly anywhere and anytime for email, phone and video calls, text messages, internet browsing, taking pictures and videos, research, blogging, and posting to social media sites.

The Judiciary uses technology to make courts more efficient, productive, and accessible. However, judges face unique challenges as they balance due process rights of parties and defendants with legitimate and sometimes necessary personal and professional uses of electronic devices in the courtroom and the courthouse. Guidance on balancing these sometimes competing interests through rules, policies, code sections, and jury instructions is needed.

New technologies present new security challenges as well. Arizona courts have rules governing cameras in the courtroom. Most rules allow media cameras in the courtroom with the judge’s permission. Today, many devices such as laptops, cell phones, and tablets can take photos and videos. In Arizona, Supreme Court Rule 122 forbids photographic or video coverage of jurors in a manner that permits recognition of individual jurors by the public. Additionally, Rule 122 permits a judge to “limit or prohibit electronic or still photographic coverage... [if] there is a likelihood of harm arising...” The safety of those who participate in the judicial process is essential to serving the citizens and doing justice in all cases. Rule 122 may need revision to provide additional guidance to judges and other court personnel on how to respond appropriately to legitimate concerns about the use of cameras or other recording devices in the courtroom or the courthouse. Social media also raises ethical questions for judges and court personnel. By its design, social media provides a forum for dialogue between and among those who are invited or, of their own volition, choose to participate in an electronic conversation.

Facebook “friends” or Twitter “followers” can be as few as several to as many as hundreds or tens of thousands depending on the person, the cause, or business. There are times when the personal and professional lives of judges and court personnel intersect, online, with the lives of litigants, witnesses, jurors, and lawyers in the community they serve. Rules and codes of ethical conduct address ordinary circumstances related to friendships, acquaintances, and such. But existing rules and code sections do not specifically address whether ethical constraints or obligations to disclose relationships apply to social media sites.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Committee on the Impact of Wireless, Mobile Technologies and Social Media on Court Proceedings (“Committee”) is established as follows:

1. **Purpose:** The Committee shall review current Supreme Court rules, the Arizona Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees, the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration, jury instructions, and any other authority it deems appropriate and prepare recommendations that

- (a) Propose Supreme Court rules, code sections, policy provisions, or jury instructions it believes necessary or appropriate to provide direction to court employees on the use of wireless mobile technology by lawyers, jurors, media, witnesses, and the public attending or participating in court proceedings;
- (b) Propose rules, code sections, or policy provisions that will provide direction to judges, court security officers, and personnel on possession and use of technology with the capability to take photos and electronically record videos by court participants and those attending court proceedings; and
- (c) Identify ethical questions that should be addressed by the Judicial Ethics Committee, the Judicial Conduct Commission, or any other appropriate committee of the Supreme Court.

The Committee also shall suggest judicial officer and court staff training to implement its recommendations.

2. **Membership:** The individuals listed in Appendix A are appointed as members of the Committee. The Committee shall continue as long as necessary to complete its work, including the filing of any rule petition not later than January 2013. The Chief Justice may appoint additional members and extend the expiration date of the Committee, if necessary.

3. **Meetings:** Committee meetings shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair. All meetings shall comply with the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-202: Public Meetings.

4. **Reports:** The Committee shall submit its report and recommendations to the Arizona Judicial Council not later than November 30, 2012.

5. **Staff:** The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Committee and shall assist the Committee in developing recommendations and in preparing any necessary reports and proposed Supreme Court rule or code changes.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2012.

REBECCA WHITE BERCH
Chief Justice

ATTACHMENT: Appendix A

APPENDIX A

**MEMBERSHIP LIST
COMMITTEE ON THE IMPACT OF WIRELESS, MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES AND
SOCIAL MEDIA ON COURT PROCEEDINGS**

Chair

Hon. Robert M. Brutinel
Arizona Supreme Court

Members

General Jurisdiction Judges

Representative from Maricopa

Hon. Janet Barton

Representative from Pima

Hon. Scott Rash

Representative from Non-Metro County

Hon. James Conlogue

Cochise County

Limited Jurisdiction Courts

Justice Court Judge

Hon. Dan Dodge

Highland Justice Court, Maricopa County

Municipal Court Judge

Hon. Eric Jeffery

Assistant Presiding Judge

Phoenix Municipal Court

Court Administrator

Marla Randall

Superior Court/Limited Jurisdiction Court

Administrator, Navajo County

Media Representative/Public Members

David Bodney

Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Robin J. Phillips

Web Managing Editor

Arizona State University

Reynolds Center for Business Journalism

***Clerk of the Superior Court and
Arizona Judicial Council Representative***

Hon. Michael Jeanes

Clerk of Superior Court in Maricopa County

State Bar Representative

Joe Kanefield

Jury Commissioner

Kathy Pollard

Jury Commissioner

Pima County

Commission on Judicial Conduct

George A. Riemer

Executive Director

Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee

Hon. Margaret Downie

Court of Appeals, Division 1, Chair

Maricopa County

Court Security Representative

Robert Lawless

Court Security Manager

Superior Court in Mohave County

Court Public Information Officer

Karen Arra

Court Public Information Officer

Superior Court in Maricopa County

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

Date Action Requested:	Type of Action Requested:	Subject:
March 29, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Judicial Education Report

FROM:

Jeff Schrade, Education Services Division Director

DISCUSSION:

The Court Leadership Institute of Arizona (CLIA) is a standing committee of the Committee on Judicial Education and Training (COJET) and is working on goal two of the Justice 2020 Strategic Agenda - maintaining a professional workforce and improving operational efficiencies.

As part of this work, the Arizona AOC partnered with the National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management and six other state courts to develop a localized leadership certification program.

This program is currently being delivered to court leaders at the management and executive level, and has already resulted in nearly 100 court leaders receiving the Certified Court Management distinction.

This update will review the current impact CLIA programs and share future plans for enhancing the development of court leaders.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

None



Court Leadership Institute of Arizona

Arizona Court Leadership Institute

ARIZONA COURT SUPERVISOR (ACS)

WHO > Frontline court and probation department supervisors, or new supervisors and managers in the court system. Must currently be a judicial branch employee.

WHAT > A series of both in-class and online courses covering:

- Purposes & Responsibilities of Courts *(self-paced online)*
- Transitioning to Role of Supervisor *(1/2 day classroom)*
- Leadership *(1/2 day classroom)*
- Human Resources Management *(1 day classroom)*
- Supervisor's Role in Case Management* *(1 day classroom)*
- Supervisor Essential Skills *(Self-paced and Instructor Led Online 12-20 hours)*
 - Coaching
 - Problem Solving & Decision Making
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Effective Communications and Meetings
- Essential Components *(Self-paced online and 1 day classroom)*
 - Public Education and Media
 - Visioning and Strategic Planning
 - Legal Information vs Legal Advice
 - Records Management
 - Security & Emergency Preparedness
 - Workflow Processes & Environment
- Probation Essential Components* *(1/2 day classroom)*
 - Supervising Field Officers
 - Probation Records
 - PREA

ARIZONA COURT MANAGER (ACM)

Second level managers, senior supervisors or participants completing ACS. Must be recommended by court or probation department.

A combination of **National Center for State Courts, (NCSC) Institute for Court Management (ICM) Courses** and in-class Arizona specific "AZ PLUS" courses."

ICM Courses* *(2 1/2 days each class)*

- Purposes & Responsibilities of Courts
- Caseflow Management
- Court Performance Standards
- Human Resources Management
- Budget and Financial Mgmt
- Technology Management

AZ PLUS—Manager

- Managing Diversity *(1/2 day)*
- Specialty Courts *(1/2 day)*
- Capstone: Governance, Inherent Powers, Leadership, Civil Case Process, Jury Mgmt, Records Mgmt, Probation Mgmt. *(3 days)*

ARIZONA COURT EXECUTIVE (ACE)

Senior level managers, court or probation executives or participants completing ACM. Must be recommended by court or probation department.

A combination of **National Center for State Courts, (NCSC) Institute for Court Management (ICM) Courses** and in-class Arizona specific "AZ PLUS" courses.

ICM Courses* *(2 1/2 days each class)*

- Essential Components
- Leadership
- Visioning & Strategic Planning
- Education, Training & Development
- Court Community Communications
- High Performance Courts—Concluding Seminar

AZ PLUS—Executive

- Case Management Analysis, Trends, Solutions
- Facilities, Security & Emergency Management
- HR Planning, Funding, Interdependencies
- Technology assessment, planning, funding and implementation

CERTIFICATES > ACS

* Probation supervisors take a probation specific version of the case management class and an additional 1/2 day probation essential components class for a probation supervisor endorsed certificate.

ACM & ICM CCM*

* Completion of these courses with a \$50 per course fee to NCSC will also result in the ICM Certified Court Management Certificate (CCM).

ACE & ICM CCE*

* Completion of these courses with a \$50 per course fee to NCSC will also result in the ICM Certified Court Executive Certificate (CCE).

**Arizona Court Manager Program Classes (ACM) and
Arizona Court Executive Program Classes (ACE)**

Class	Dates/Location
ICM – CCE Essential Components	January 18-20, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCM Purposes & Responsibilities of Courts	February 15-17, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCE Education & Training	March 7-9, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCM Caseflow Management	April 3-5, 2012 JEC
AZ PLUS ADR -Specialty Courts	April 5, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCE Visioning & Strategic Planning	May 30- June 1, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCM Technology Management	June 27-29, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCM Human Resources Management	August 15-17, 2012 JEC
AZ PLUS Diversity	August 17, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCE Court Community Court Communications	August 28 - 30, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCM Financial Management	September 26 -28, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCE High Performance Court – Concluding Seminar	October 17-19, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCM Court Performance Standards	November 6-8, 2012 JEC
ICM – CCE Leadership	December 12-14, 2012 JEC

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

Date Action Requested:	Type of Action Requested:	Subject:
March 29, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Model Time Standards for State Trial Courts

FROM:

Mike Baumstark, Deputy Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

DISCUSSION:

There is a substantial disconnect between public expectations for the timeliness of court decisions based on the current pace of business and the current pace of the American judicial system. Over the years, time standards for timely justice in American courts has been elaborated and refined, having been previously adopted by the Conference of State Court Administrators back in 1983 and then again in 1992 by the American Bar Association.

The attached document, *Model Time Standards for State Trial Courts*, was recently approved by the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), the American Bar Association (ABA), and the National Association for Court Management (NACM) following an extensive two-year review.

Chief Justice Berch will be establishing a committee in the coming months to review the Model Time Standards to determine the adaptability of those standards in Arizona.

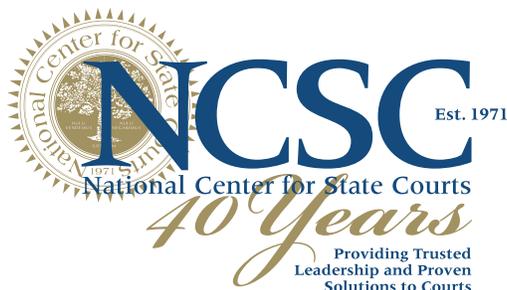
RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Information only



Model Time Standards

FOR STATE TRIAL COURTS





This document has been prepared with support from Grant No. SJI-09-N-127 from the State Justice Institute. The points of view and opinions offered in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official policies or position of the State Justice Institute or the National Center for State Courts.

ISBN: 978-0-89656-280-6

Model Time Standards

FOR STATE TRIAL COURTS

Reporters

Richard Van Duizend

David C. Steelman

Lee Suskin

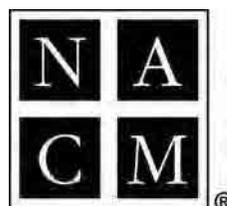
These Model Standards were approved in August 2011 by the:

Conference of State Court Administrators

Conference of Chief Justices

American Bar Association House of Delegates

The National Association for Court Management



STEERING COMMITTEE

Hon. Stephanie Domitrovich, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Erie County, Pennsylvania

Hon. William Dressel, President, National Judicial College

Hon. Christine M. Durham, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Utah

Donald D. Goodnow, Director, New Hampshire Administrative Office of the Courts

John M. Greacen, Greacen Associates LLC., Consultant to the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System

Pamela Q. Harris, Administrator, Circuit Court, Montgomery County, Maryland

Sally A. Holewa, State Court Administrator, North Dakota

Hon. Terry Ruckriegle, Chief Judge (ret.) 5th Judicial District Court of Colorado

Patricia Tobias, Administrative Director of the Idaho Courts

NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS PROJECT STAFF

Daniel J. Hall, Vice-President, Court Consulting Services

Richard Van Duizend, Project Director

Richard Schaffler, Director of Research Services

David C. Steelman, Principal Court Management Consultant

Lee Suskin, Of Counsel

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Project Director wishes to express his appreciation to the Steering Committee and to the organizations that designated them: Chief Justice Christine Durham, Conference of Chief Justices; Don Goodnow, Sally Holewa, and Patti Tobias, Conference of State Court Administrators; Judge Terry Ruckriegle, National Conference of State Trial Judges, American Bar Association; Judge Bill Dressel, National Judicial College; Pam Harris, National Association for Court Management; and John Greacen, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System. Without your wisdom, perspective, attention to detail, reasonableness, and consistent good humor, the promise of this project could not have been realized. Thanks also to the members of the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, the National Association for Court Management, the National College of Probate Judges, the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, and the National Conference of State Trial Judges, Judicial Division, American Bar Association, who reviewed the discussion draft and provided encouragement and valuable recommendations for clarifications and refinements. Finally, gratitude to my NCSC colleagues David Steelman, Lee Suskin, Dan Hall, and Richard Schaffler for their expertise, writing skill, and willingness to perform whatever tasks needed to be done.

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INTRODUCTION

Since their first formal articulation, time standards establishing expectations for timely justice in American courts have been elaborated and refined. After having adopted speedy trial standards for criminal cases in 1968, the American Bar Association adopted standards for other case types as well in 1976, amending them in 1984 and again in 1992. The Conference of State Court Administrators promulgated national time standards for cases in the state courts in 1983. Over three quarters of the states have now adopted their own case disposition targets.

This document is the result of a two-year review of the more than 40 years of experience with time-to-disposition standards. This review is appropriate. The first decade of the 21st Century has witnessed the coming of age of the Internet and dramatic changes in the way in which ordinary people conduct financial transactions (e.g., banking, stock purchases and sales, and on-line purchasing of airline tickets and many goods and services), and many other business activities (such as music and movie distribution). Information on most topics is now immediately available from virtually any location. Communications with other persons anywhere on the globe are almost instantaneous, and available in text, voice and video media. The public

is becoming accustomed to very fast turnaround and convenience in dealing with commercial and governmental entities.

Court processes, on the other hand, have changed only marginally. While many courts now make information available online and are gradually incorporating electronic transactions for filings, service, and payments, the case disposition process remains virtually the same as it has been since the introduction of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in 1938. Surveys of public opinion concerning the courts consistently find the chief complaint to be the slowness of case resolution. A study in New Mexico showed that litigants desire to have their civil and family cases decided within one or two months of filing. Thus, there is a substantial disconnect between public expectations for the timeliness of court decisions based on the current pace of business, and the current pace of the American judicial system.

The time to disposition standards set forth in this document, based on a review of the experience of state courts, are intended to establish a reasonable set of expectations for the courts, for lawyers, and for the public.¹ They reflect a review of the case disposition times

¹ Much of the formal research studies cited were conducted more than a decade ago and focused heavily on courts with medium to high caseloads. However, the experience since then such as the examinations of state and federal courts conducted by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System [IAALS, *Civil Case Processing in the Federal District Courts: A 21st Century Analysis* (2009) www.du.edu/legalinstitute/form-PACER-success.html; *Civil Case Processing in the Oregon Courts* (2010) www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/civilcase.pdf] and current statewide and trial court data provided by several jurisdictions strongly suggest the continued validity of the findings of those studies as well as the principles and practices they recommend. See e.g., www.utcourts.gov/courttools/; www.mass.gov/courts/cmab/metrics-report-2009.pdf; www.courts.mo.gov/file.jsp?id=43761; www.mncourts.gov/Documents/Public/Other/Annual_Report_2010_Performance_Measures_Public_Posting.pdf; www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/MediaRelationsAndCommunityOutreach/Publications/reports.asp. Nonetheless, there remains an obvious need for continuing research on caseload management across multiple case types in state courts of varying sizes to maintain the currency of our knowledge of this critically important subject and to identify the practices used in courts with the best performance in resolving cases in a timely manner.

currently being achieved in selected jurisdictions around the country as well as consideration of the various time standards adopted by states, local jurisdictions, and national organizations. The final section of the document suggests a process for use by a state judicial branch to implement standards in its jurisdiction. It also shows how the time standards can be used to assist a court, and the courts of a state, to improve the timeliness of case disposition and improve the court's service to the litigants.

These are "Model Time Standards." They are intended to unify the current sets of disparate national time standards to the greatest degree possible. The model standards are designed for use by the judicial branch of each state as a basis for establishing its own time standards covering general and limited jurisdiction courts, regardless of the source of funding for those courts. For the courts, the state standards set forth achievable goals. For lawyers, state standards establish a time framework within which to conduct their fact-gathering, preparation, and advocacy activities. For members of the public, state standards are intended to define what can be expected of their courts.

As indicated in Implementation Standard 1, state time standards should be promulgated by court leaders in communication and consultation with all key justice partners. State time standards should take into account state procedures, statutory time periods, jurisdictional conditions, demographic and geographic factors, and resources. The judicial branch time standards, including appropriate

standards for key intermediate points in the process, should establish the timeliness goals against which the delivery of judicial services by courts within the state should be measured. However, they should not be considered as a rule governing individual cases or creating rights for individual litigants.

With few exceptions, these standards run from *the date of filing to the date of disposition by entry of judgment*. The running of time is suspended under any of these standards by such occurrences as:

- The filing of an interlocutory appeal.
- Federal bankruptcy proceedings during pendency of a civil matter.
- Failure to appear and issuance of a bench warrant for a criminal defendant.
- Treatment to restore the competency of a criminal defendant found not to be competent to stand trial.²

The standards offered here reflect a recognition that there normally is a large proportion of cases that are disposed with little court involvement; a second proportion that dispose after one or two issues are resolved (e.g., a suppression motion); and the smallest proportion do not resolve without a trial. This tripartite model is reflected in many differentiated case management systems. Based on this understanding, the standards provide a first tier time period within which 75 percent of the filed cases should be disposed; a second tier time period within which 90 percent of the filed cases should be disposed; and a third tier time period within which 98 percent of filed cases should

² These are illustrative examples. Jurisdictions may identify other events which appropriately should be excluded from the time to disposition calculation, though these should be kept to a minimum.

TABLE OF MODEL TIME STANDARDS

Case Category	Case Type	COSCA Standard	ABA Standard	Model Standard
CRIMINAL	Felony	100% within 180 days	90% within 120 days	75% within 90 days
			98% within 180 days	90% within 180 days
			100% within 365 days	98% within 365 days
	Misdemeanor	100% within 90 days	90% within 30 days	75% within 60 days
			100% within 90 days	90% within 90 days
	Traffic and Local Ordinance			98% within 180 days
				75% within 30 days
				90% within 60 days
				98% within 90 days
	<i>Habeas corpus</i> and similar Post-conviction proceedings (following a criminal conviction)			98% within 180 days
CIVIL	General Civil	100% of non-jury within 12 months 100% jury trials within 18 months	90% within 12 months	75% within 180 days
			98% within 18 months	90% within 365 days
100% within 24 months			98% within 540 days	
	Summary Matters			75% within 60 days
				90% within 90 days
				98% within 180 days
FAMILY	Dissolution/ Divorce/ Allocation of Parental Responsibility	100% uncontested within 3 months 100% contested within 6 months	90% within 3 months	75% within 120 days
			98% within 6 months	90% within 180 days
			100% within 12 months	98% within 365 days
	Post Judgment Motions			98% within 180 days
	Protection Orders			90% within 10 days
				98% within 30 days
JUVENILE	Delinquency & Status Offense		90% within 3 months	For youth in detention: 75% within 30 days 90% within 45 days 98% within 90 days
			98% within 6 months	
			100% within 12 months	
				For youth not in detention: 75% within 60 days 90% with 90 days 98% within 150 days
	Neglect and Abuse		90% within 3 months 98% within 6 months 100% within 12 months	Adjudicatory Hearing 98% within 90 days of removal Permanency Hearing 75% within 270 days of removal 98% within 360 days of removal
Termination of Parental Rights		90% within 3 months 98% within 6 months 100% within 12 months	90% within 120 days after the filing of a termination petition 98% within 180 days after the filing of a termination petition	
PROBATE	Administration of Estates			75% within 360 days
				90% within 540 days
				98% within 720 days
	Guardianship/ Conservator of Incapacitated Adults			98% within 90 days
	Civil Commitment			98% within 15 days

be disposed. The 98 percent tier is key to establishing a backlog measure and setting the expectation of the maximum time within which a case should be decided or resolved. The other two tiers are intended as points of measurement for effective management of pending cases. The intent is to encourage the fair disposition of cases at the earliest possible time. Standards for completing critical decision points in the process are suggested in the commentary for each case disposition time standard to assist the judicial branch of states and individual courts in assessing and managing caseload.

A 98 percent level is used rather than 100 percent in recognition that there will be a very small number of cases that will require more time to resolve, e.g., capital murder cases and highly complex, multi-party civil cases that require a trial. Even these cases, however, should be monitored closely to ensure that they proceed to disposition without unnecessary delay.

FELONY CASES

Model Standard

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

Definition. Felony cases are those criminal cases involving “an offense punishable by incarceration for a year or more.”³ In the preparation of these time standards, consideration was given to whether capital murder cases should be designated as a separate case category with different time standards. Because some capital cases are disposed by plea, however, it was concluded that those requiring a trial can be better accommodated simply as a “top tier” of one-two percent of all felony cases that require more time to reach disposition. The standards run from the filing of the initial complaint through disposition (e.g., dismissal or sentencing). Thus, in jurisdictions with a limited and general jurisdiction court, the standard would run from the filing of the complaint in the lower trial court except in those few cases filed directly in the general jurisdiction court.

Earlier National Time Standards. In 1983, COSCA provided a 180-day time standard for felony cases, while the 1992 ABA Time Standards provided that 90 percent of felony cases should be disposed within 120 days after arrest, 98 percent within 180 days, and 100 percent within 365 days.

³ See Court Statistics Project, *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*, 18 (Williamsburg, VA: NCSC, 2009).

State Judicial Branch Time Standards.⁴ At least 39 states and the District of Columbia have overall felony time standards, and two states have separate time standards for capital cases. There is considerable variation from state to state, however. For example:

- Ten states have adopted the COSCA time standard of 180 days, with six specifying that all cases are to be disposed within that time, and with five having the 180-day time standard run from filing of or arraignment on an indictment or information rather than arrest or initial appearance.
- As suggested in the ABA time standard, ten other states have adopted one year, 12 months, 365 days or 360 days as the longest time, although four do not have a 100 percent time standard and contemplate that from one to ten percent of all felonies may take longer to be disposed.
- Maximum times to disposition in other states range from 120 days to 22 months.
- The most common approach (14 states) is to provide simply that cases must be decided within a given time period. There are 13 states where the maximum specified duration is for fewer than 100 percent of all cases, assuming that there may always be some cases that might understandably take longer. The next most common approach (five states) is to provide times within which 90 percent, 98 percent and 100 percent of all cases must be disposed. In all, there are at least 17 different configurations for felony time standards.
- In at least 11 states, time standards do not run from arrest or initial appearance, but rather from the filing of an indictment or information, general-jurisdiction arraignment on that charging document, or some other event other than arrest or initial appearance.
- At least ten states have time standards for one or more intermediate case-processing stages.

Overall Felony Case Time Standards. It is critically important to note, however, that the time standard for felony cases is not a “speedy trial rule” requiring dismissal of the case if the standard is not met. These standards are intended as measures of the overall time to disposition in a jurisdiction, not as a rule governing individual cases or creating rights for individual criminal defendants. Moreover, speedy trial rules generally run from the date of arrest (or sometimes the date of arraignment on the indictment) to the start of trial. These standards are based on the period between the date on which the case is first filed with a court to the entry of the dispositional order (e.g., a dismissal, sentence).

The adoption here of a 365-day maximum rather than one of 180 days is based on the real experience of urban courts. After the adoption in 1983 of the COSCA time standard for felony cases, large-scale studies of felony case processing times in large urban trial courts were undertaken by NCSC.⁵ In those studies, no court met the COSCA 180-day time standard for all cases disposed in 1987, and even the fastest courts in the study had eight percent of their cases taking longer. In the slowest court, 81 percent took longer than 180 days.⁶ In a subsequent study of felony case disposition times in nine state criminal trial courts, even the fastest court saw 14 percent of its 1994 disposed cases taking

⁴ See NCSC, Knowledge and Information Services, Database, “Case Processing Time Standards [CPTS],” www.ncsconline.org/cpts/cptsType.asp, as downloaded from the Internet on September 8, 2010.

⁵ See J. Goerd, C. Lomvardias, G. Gallas and B. Mahoney, *Examining Court Delay: The Pace of Litigation in 26 Urban Trial Courts* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1989); and J. Goerd, C. Lomvardias and G. Gallas, *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation in 39 Urban Trial Courts* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1991).

⁶ See *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation*, *supra*, note 5, Table 2.2. For all the courts in the study, ten percent of the felony cases took 384 days or more from arrest to disposition. When cases with failures to appear were removed, ten percent of all cases remaining still took 289 days or more.

longer than 180 days, and disposition times exceeded 180 days in 48 percent of the cases for all courts combined.⁷

For all the courts in these NCSC studies, even a 365-day time standard was difficult to achieve. For all courts for which 1987 felony dispositions were studied, 11.7 percent took longer than a year;⁸ and in the study of 1994 felony dispositions, about 11 percent took longer than a year.⁹ Yet in each study, there were courts that were able to dispose of at least 95 percent of their cases within a year – eight of 39 of the courts in the study of 1987 dispositions, and two of nine courts in the study of 1994 dispositions. Contemporary court data indicate that courts in several states are able to dispose of the overwhelming number of felony cases in a year or less. For example: Missouri is able to dispose of 85 percent of its felony cases and New Jersey is able to dispose of 90 percent of its felony cases within 301 days; Colorado concludes 90 percent of its felony cases within 325 days; Minnesota disposes of more than 92 percent of its felony cases and Utah disposes of 93 percent of its felony cases within a year.

Empirical evidence from urban trial courts thus demonstrates two things. First, a time standard of 365 days, while still difficult to attain for almost all courts, is far more realistic than a time standard of 180 days. Second, a standard of 98 percent of all felonies is more realistic than one of 100 percent. This is especially true for capital

murder and unusually complex felony cases that go to jury trial; while some may be disposed by plea within a year after case initiation, others can predictably be expected to take longer.

Intermediate Time Standards. In many jurisdictions, achievement of the goals set by these time standards involves more than one level of court (e.g., a limited jurisdiction court that hears the early stages of criminal proceedings and a general jurisdiction court that obtains jurisdiction only after an indictment or information is filed) as well as justice system partners such as the prosecutor's office, the public defender and private defense counsel, law enforcement agencies, jails, pretrial services, and probation. All must work in concert in establishing internal processes and measures to facilitate fair and timely disposition of felony cases while carrying out their particular responsibilities. This includes holding meaningful interim court events in a timely manner. However, any analysis of the performance of an individual court must be measured against the events which that court controls.

For felony cases the key interim court events include:

In 100 % of cases, the initial appearance should be held within the time set by state law.

In 98% of cases, the arraignment on the indictment or information should be held within 60 days.

In 98% of cases, trials should be initiated or a plea accepted within 330 days.

⁷ B. Ostrom and R. Hanson, *Efficiency, Timeliness, and Quality: A New Perspective from Nine State Criminal Trial Courts* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1999), Figure 2.1.

⁸ *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation*, *supra*, note 5, Table 2.2.

⁹ *Efficiency, Timeliness, and Quality*, *supra*, note 7, Figure 2.1.

In most if not all state court systems, there must be a prompt initial court appearance for preliminary arraignment, determination of eligibility for pretrial release, and determination of eligibility for defense representation at public expense. The elapsed time within which such a first court event must occur is typically within 24-72 hours after arrest. The time standards offered here acknowledge the need for such a prompt initial court event. The suggested interim standards urge that it be held in all cases within the time requirements of state law.

Although only a handful of states have intermediate time standards for felonies,¹⁰ virtually all of them give particular attention to the elapsed time from arrest to general-jurisdiction arraignment on a felony indictment or information. Many states require prompt filing of an indictment or information for felony defendants not released from pretrial detention pending adjudication, but they may not provide such strict expectations for the large majority of defendants who have been released on bail or recognizance. Emphasizing a need for timely commencement of general-jurisdiction felony proceedings, the time standards here provide an indicator for the time within which arraignment on an indictment or information should be held for virtually all felony cases.

The provision of this interim time standard also has the effect of prompting early involvement of a public defender or appointed counsel, early discovery exchange, and early commencement of plea discussions between prosecution and defense.

Since the time standards here run from filing of the initial complaint to imposition of a sentence, trial commencement is considered an interim court event rather than the end-point of caseflow management. Consequently, the third interim time standard here has to do with the elapsed time after the initial complaint was filed within which there should be an actual trial start. Having firm and credible trial dates is a fundamental feature of successful caseflow management,¹¹ and large-scale research of factors affecting the pace of felony litigation has shown that courts with a higher percentage of firm trial dates consistently have shorter times to felony disposition.¹²

¹⁰ See CPTS database, *supra*, note 4.

¹¹ See D. Steelman, J. Goerdts and J. McMillan, *Caseflow Management: The Heart of Court Management in the New Millennium* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 2004 edition), pp. 6-11.

¹² *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation*, *supra*, note 5, Figure 2.7.

MISDEMEANOR CASES

Model Standard

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

Definition. Misdemeanors involve “an offense punishable by incarceration for less than one year and/or fines.”¹³ The time standard for misdemeanors recognizes that many moving traffic infractions and other comparable violations of public order have either been formally decriminalized or are treated without the procedural requirements for criminal cases. As a result of these matters now being handled administratively, they are not included in these time standards.

Earlier National Time Standards. In 1983, COSCA provided a 90-day time standard for misdemeanors and the 1992 ABA Time Standards provided that 90 percent of all misdemeanors should be disposed within 30 days after arrest and 100 percent within 90 days.

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. Court systems in at least 32 states and the District of Columbia have misdemeanor time standards.¹⁴ Some states distinguish DUI, traffic, or motor-vehicle cases from other misdemeanors. Others make distinctions according

to differentiated case management (DCM) “track assignments.”¹⁵ As with felony cases, there is considerable variation in standards from one state to another. For example:

- Only seven agree with the COSCA and ABA standards that all or most (99 percent in one state) can or should be disposed within 90 days or less after case initiation.¹⁶
- In the remaining 25 states and the District of Columbia, the maximum time standards range from 120 to 360 days.
- Only 12 states have a single flat time standard (which may or may not be 100 percent) for misdemeanors, with no percentile gradations.
- While 20 court systems provide a maximum time within which all misdemeanors must be disposed, 13 set the maximum time standard at a level assuming that some cases may unavoidably take longer to be disposed.
- In ten states, the maximum time standard for disposition of all or most misdemeanors is identical to that for felonies.

Overall Misdemeanor Case Time Standards. The time standards offered here for misdemeanors reflect agreement with the drafters of the COSCA and ABA time standards that most misdemeanors can and should be disposed within a short time after case initiation. In fact, the great majority of all misdemeanors (90 percent) can and should be concluded within three months as those earlier standards suggest.

¹³ Guide to Statistical Reporting, *supra*, note 3, at 19.

¹⁴ See CPTS database, *supra*, note 4.

¹⁵ For more on DCM, see *Caseload Management, supra*, note 11, pp. 4-6.

¹⁶ In one state, the time standard is that all misdemeanor cases should be disposed within 60 days.

Yet almost all states now treat high-volume speeding cases and other moving traffic violations, along with other comparable ordinance violations, as non-criminal or quasi-criminal matters for which there is little or no likelihood of jail sanctions, and for which many of the procedural safeguards of criminal procedure are absent or can be waived. These cases, though voluminous, were normally quickly resolved.¹⁷ With such matters removed from the category of criminal misdemeanors, the actual experience in most states that have adopted misdemeanor time standards is that a number of these cases cannot be justly disposed within 90 days, and indeed that some must take longer than six months to be disposed. For example, Colorado's County Courts dispose of 75 percent of filed misdemeanors within 128 days and 90 percent within 231 days. Missouri concludes 84% of its misdemeanors within 180 days and 91 percent within 240 days. For this reason, the standard presented here sets a maximum time of 180 days for misdemeanors and recognizes that as many as two percent may understandably take longer than that to be concluded.

Intermediate Time Standards. The intermediate standards provided here follow the rationale presented above for felony cases, except that no interim standard associated with bind over and felony arraignment is required. As with felonies, there is a need to assure that a court arraigns the defendant on initial charges, reviews the need for pretrial detention, and sees that an early determination is made on eligibility for defense representation at public expense.

In 100 % of cases, the initial appearance should be held within the time set by state law.

In 98% of cases, trials should be initiated or a plea accepted within 150 days.

Once there has been an initial court hearing, it is important for compliance with time standards that the court exercise control over case progress to disposition by providing an early and firm trial date. The interim time standard here for time from case initiation to misdemeanor trial start provides a measurement tool for the court to exercise such control.

¹⁷ See the Model Time Standard on Traffic and Local Ordinance Cases, p. 12 *infra*.

TRAFFIC AND LOCAL ORDINANCE CASES

Model Standard

75% within 30 days
90% within 60 days
98% within 90 days

Definition. This category of cases includes a violation of statutes and local ordinances governing traffic and parking, as well as violations of other local ordinances. In some jurisdictions these matters are called infractions; in others they are considered non-criminal violations. They include such matters as speeding, failure to yield, illegal parking, violations of noise ordinances, and illegal vending among others.¹⁸ In those states in which these matters are non-criminal violations, the standards applicable to Summary Civil Matters may be used. Driving under the influence and other serious traffic-related offenses punishable by incarceration are intended to be covered under the standard for misdemeanor cases.

Earlier National Time Standards. The COSCA time standards and the ABA time standards do not include provisions specifically relating to traffic and local ordinance cases.

Time Standards in State Court System. At least 10 state court systems and the District of Columbia courts have developed time standards for traffic and/or local ordinance cases.

- The time period specified ranges from 30 days (1 state) to 270 days (1 state). Four set 60 days as the maximum time; three 90 days; and one each 120, 150, or 180 days.
- Four sets of standards establish tiers of cases.
- Seven set the maximum standard for less than all the cases ranging from 80 percent in one jurisdiction to 98 or 99 percent in four others.
- Two jurisdictions limit their time standards to contested traffic cases.
- One state distinguishes between jury and non-jury matters.

Overall Traffic and Ordinance Violation Case Time

Standards. Traffic and ordinance violation cases constitute a significant part of the caseload of many municipal and other limited jurisdiction trial courts, and are the cases that involve the greatest proportion of the general public. Thus, both from the perspective of effective case management and from the perspective of providing effective and efficient judicial services, it is essential that these high volume matters are heard or resolved in as timely a manner as possible. In order not to take up court time and law enforcement officer time unnecessarily with uncontested cases, persons cited who do not wish to challenge the citation should be able to acknowledge guilt or responsibility and pay a standard financial penalty at the clerk's office, through a kiosk, or via the Internet, without having to appear in court. An appearance before a judge or hearing officer should only be required if a person cited submits a notice that he or she wishes to contest the citation or fails to respond. The time standards include both those cases resolved without a court appearance and those in which formal court involvement is required, but contemplates

¹⁸ Guide to Statistical Reporting, *supra*, note 3, at 29-31.

that the overwhelming majority of traffic and ordinance violation citations will be resolved without a formal court appearance.

Intermediate Time Standards. The intermediate time standard suggests that the appearance date for all traffic and ordinance violation citations should occur within 30 days. For those matters which may require a trial that cannot be accommodated on a general docket because of length or that require a continuance because the respondent wishes to retain counsel, the trial date should be set to permit disposition within the recommended overall time standard.

In 100% of cases, the initial court appearance should occur within 30 days of citation, notice of contest, or failure to respond to the citation.

Habeas corpus* and similar POST-CONVICTION PROCEEDINGS

Model Standard

98% within 180 days

* Following a criminal conviction

Definition. This case type involves petitions for collateral review of a criminal conviction, whether under statutory post-conviction review provisions or through proceedings on common law *habeas corpus* or *coram nobis* petitions. It does not include direct appeals or proceedings on motions for new trial, to reconsider or in arrest of judgment, nor to violation of probation proceedings.

Prior National Time Standards. The COSCA time standards and the ABA time standards do not include provisions for such proceedings. ABA standards relating to post-conviction review call for there to be a “prompt response” by the prosecution and court assignment of “suitable calendar priority” if there is reason for expedition, but they do not provide any specific time standard within which such proceedings should be concluded.¹⁹

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. One state has established time standards for post-conviction review proceedings -- 100 percent be disposed within 3 months after the filing of a petition.²⁰

¹⁹ See American Bar Association, Standards for Criminal Justice (2nd Edition, 1980, with 1986 supplement), Chapter 22, Standards 22-4.1 – 22-4.7, www.abanet.org/crimjust/standards/postconviction_toc.html. Proposed revisions to the post-conviction remedies standards are being considered by the Standards Committee in 2010.

²⁰ See CPTS database, *supra*, note 4.

Overall Time Standards. Many petitions for post-conviction relief may be decided by a court without need for an evidentiary hearing. The time standard offered here recognizes that, while allowing time for prosecution and petitioner to prepare for hearing if one is required.

Intermediate Time Standards. Given the nature of a petition for collateral review, it is important that the prosecution respond with reasonable expedition. Statutes in some states indicate a time within which a prosecutor must file a response to a post-conviction petition.

In 98% of cases, responses with affidavits should be filed by the prosecution within 120 days.

GENERAL CIVIL CASES

Model Standard

75 percent within 180 days

90 percent within 365 days

98 percent within 540 days

Definition. Civil cases are a broad category of cases in which “a plaintiff requests the enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a wrong.”²¹ They include automobile torts and other personal injuries, contract disputes, product liability issues, malpractice matters, infringements of intellectual property, and requests for injunctions among other types of cases. As with capital felony cases, consideration was given to whether complex civil cases should be designated as a separate civil case category with different time standards. Because some complex civil cases are settled relatively quickly, however, no specific category for complex civil cases is required. Those complex cases that proceed to trial or settle late in the process can be accommodated simply as a “top tier” of two percent of all general civil cases that require more time to reach disposition.

In these standards, foreclosure cases are included in the category of general civil cases. This is because the new procedures required by the mortgage crisis commencing in 2007 have substantially increased the time needed to dispose of these cases.

²¹ Guide to Statistical Reporting, *supra*, note 3, at 6.

In fact, foreclosure cases are not the only civil matters that may be considered neither “major” cases nor “summary” cases. Several state-level court systems have separate time standards for a broad category of “limited” civil cases that they distinguish from “summary” civil cases. Such “limited” cases typically include tort and contract cases that may be tried by a jury but involve claims below a certain dollar threshold but above that for small claims cases. In the time standards offered here, these “limited” civil cases are included in the category of “general” civil cases.

Earlier National Time Standards. The 1983 COSCA time standards for general civil matters provided that all non-jury cases should be tried or otherwise disposed within 12 months after initial filing, and that all jury cases should be tried or otherwise disposed within 18 months after filing. The ABA time standards did not distinguish between jury and non-jury cases, providing instead that 90 percent of all general civil cases should be tried or disposed within 12 months after filing; 98 percent within 18 months; and 100 percent within 24 months. Neither the COSCA standards nor the ABA standards distinguished “major” civil cases from “limited” non-summary civil cases.

State Judicial Branch Time Standards for Major Civil Cases.²² There are statewide time standards for major civil cases in at least 35 states and the District of Columbia. As with the standards for criminal cases, there are substantial differences among them:

- Only two states have adopted the COSCA time standards, and they are the only states that provide different time expectations for jury cases and non-jury cases.
- Only six states have exactly copied the ABA time standards.
- Nine states have a single standard of time within which all general civil matters must be disposed, while five others have a single standard of time within which a percentage lower than 100 percent (from 75 percent to 98 percent) must be disposed.
- In addition to the six states that have exactly copied the ABA time standards, there are eight other states with three “tiers.” Each of these eight states has a slightly different tier configuration, however.
- Two states and the District of Columbia distinguish among different case types within the category of general civil cases; another three states distinguish among differentiated case management (DCM) tracks.
- In 11 states, the maximum time standard is for fewer than 100 percent of all general civil cases.
- The most common maximum duration (which may be fewer than 100 percent of all cases) is 24 months or its equivalent in days (15 states). The next most common maximum is 18 months or its equivalent in days (9 states). One state provides that all cases should be disposed within 180 days. At the other end of the continuum, two states provide that all cases should be disposed within 36 months.
- Two states have a separate time standard for what they define as complex cases.
- Seven states have time standards for one or more intermediate stages of case progress to disposition.

State Judicial Branch Time Standards for “Limited Non-Summary” Civil Cases.²³ In addition to “general civil” time standards, courts in six states and the District of Columbia have “limited civil” time standards that do not distinguish between summary and non-summary matters.

²² See CPTS, *supra*, note 4.

²³ *Id.*

In addition, there are ten states that have three categories of civil time standards, generally calling them “general,” “limited,” and “summary.” Regarding the time standards for non-summary civil cases in these 17 jurisdictions, the following distinctions can be noted:

- The most common upper time limit is 180 days (six states), although only four of those states require that all such cases be disposed within that time period.
- The upper time limit in the other 11 jurisdictions ranges from 250 days to 730 days.
- In two states, the time standards run not from filing, but from service or return of service.
- In 12 states, the upper time limit is the time within which 100 percent of the cases must be disposed. In the remaining five states, the upper time limit is for fewer than 100 percent.
- As in the ABA time standards, there are four states providing time limits within which 90 percent, 98 percent and 100 percent of all cases must be disposed. Three other states have three tiers at a different percentage level, and one state has only two tiers. Eight states have just one tier – the time within which all or a specified percentage of cases must be disposed.

Overall General Civil Time Standards. Although the COSCA time standards urge that all civil cases should be disposed within 18 months, the ABA time standards suggest that one should expect only 98 percent of all general civil cases to be disposed that quickly, while the remaining two percent should require no more than an additional six months.

Studies of civil case processing times in large urban trial courts have shown how difficult it is to meet either time standard. In a 1991 study of the pace of civil litigation in 37 urban trial courts, researchers found one court that was able in 1987 to dispose of 99 percent of all civil cases within 24 months and another that was able to do so for 97 percent of all civil cases. For all civil cases in all 37 courts, only 78 percent were disposed within 24 months. Only two of the 37 courts were able to dispose as many as 90 percent of all civil cases in less than 18 months.²⁴

In 1995, a similar study was done of tort and contract litigation in the 45 largest counties in the U.S. For tort cases, in 1992 the five fastest courts were able to dispose of 92-95 percent within 24 months; for contract cases, the five fastest courts were able to dispose of 96-99 percent within 24 months; and only one court disposed of more than 80 percent of its jury trial cases within 24 months.²⁵ Only 63 percent of all tort cases and 79 percent of all contract cases were disposed within 18 months; in fact, eight percent of all tort cases and four percent of all contract cases took longer than four years to be disposed.²⁶ More recent data confirms these findings. Utah is able to dispose of 95 percent of its civil cases within 24 months and 87 percent of general civil cases within 12 months. Minnesota disposes of 92.3 percent of its major civil cases within 12 months and 97 percent within 18 months.

²⁴ See *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation*, *supra*, note 5, at Table 3.2.

²⁵ J. Goerd, B. Ostrom, D. Rottman, N. LaFountain, and N. Kauder, “Litigation Dimensions: Torts and Contracts in Large Urban Courts,” *State Court Journal* (Vol. 19, No.1, 1995) 1, Appendices 7 and 8.

²⁶ *Id.*, Figure 2.9 and Figure 2.17.

Every state requires its courts to give priority to the processing of criminal cases over civil cases. This clearly has an effect on speedy disposition of civil cases. However, the 1991 study showed that courts that were able to dispose of felony cases more expeditiously were typically able to dispose of civil cases more promptly as well.²⁷ This likely reflects a court culture favoring timely case dispositions for all types of cases.

The time standards offered here do not make a distinction between jury and non-jury cases, and reflect a continuing effort to balance the litigants' desire for prompt case disposition with the reality of current court case processing experience. Thus, the upper time limit follows the COSCA time standards at 18 months/540 days, while expressing agreement with position in the ABA time standards that not all cases can be justly disposed within that time period. In recognition of the time justifiably needed to resolve such matters as contract fraud and toxic torts, however, it does away with the expectation that all cases should properly be expected to reach disposition within 24 months.

Intermediate Time Standards. The time standards offered here for intermediate stages of general civil proceedings reflect the key points in case processing that should be monitored by a court and addressed to assure that litigation proceeds to conclusion at a suitable pace.

In 98% of cases, service of process should be completed within 60 days.

In 98% of cases, responsive pleadings should be filed or default judgments entered within 90 days.

In 98% of cases, discovery should be completed within 300 days.

In 98% of cases, trials should be initiated within 480 days.

A threshold consideration is whether the defendants have been served. A key feature of due process in civil litigation is that there can be no case resolution unless actual or constructive notice has been given to a defendant. Service of a summons and a copy of the complaint start the clock running for the filing of a responsive pleading that will join the issues in the case. Failure to complete service leaves a civil case in limbo. Service of process is a particularly daunting step for plaintiffs who are representing themselves. Setting an interim time standard for completion of service of process encourages courts to monitor the performance of this critical procedural step and to take action – such as setting an early hearing for self-represented litigants who have not filed a return of service or sending the plaintiff's attorney a notice that the case will be dismissed for failure to prosecute – when it has not been completed timely. There are exceptional cases in which defendants evade service or service by publication becomes necessary; service in these cases will often not be completed within 45 days.

²⁷ *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation*, *supra*, note 5, Figure 4.1.

The next consideration is whether a defendant has filed a responsive pleading. In their study of civil cases decided in 1992 in 45 large trial courts, researchers found that an answer was filed by a defendant in only 51 percent of all tort cases in one court, and that answers were filed in only 87 percent of all tort cases in the court with the highest percentage of cases with answers filed. For contract cases, the filing of an answer was even less common, ranging from 21 percent of all such cases in one court to 69 percent in the court with the highest portion of defendant responses.²⁸

To avoid having cases lay fallow for months or even years without being at issue, the second intermediate time standard thus offers a suggested elapsed time within which there should either be a responsive pleading by a defendant or a plaintiff request for default judgment. This intermediate time standard embodies a suggestion that the trial court should monitor cases to determine whether a responsive pleading has been filed within a reasonable passage of time after case commencement. The exercise of early court control in this fashion has been found to have a statistically significant correlation with shorter times to disposition in civil cases.²⁹

Civil cases vary in the amount of discovery they require, with tort cases being more likely to have discovery than contract, real property or other civil cases.³⁰ Court management of discovery promotes expedition and helps conserve court resources. Research has shown that civil practitioners support direct court involvement and control over discovery through such means as holding an early discovery conference or establishing a discovery plan, through consistent application of the rules, and through the imposition of costs and sanctions for abuse.³¹ Having an intermediate time standard like that presented here for completion of discovery can serve as an important tool for the court to exercise ongoing control of case progress.

The fourth intermediate stage in these time standards has to do with having timely and credible trial date scheduling. To help make better use of their time, many civil attorneys prefer to have trial date predictability, and having credible trial dates is a means for the court to prompt the attorneys to give early attention to whether a matter can be resolved by negotiation rather than by trial. Having actual trial commencement within 16 months in most cases where it is needed can serve as a helpful means to assure that almost all cases are concluded within 18 months.

²⁸ "Litigation Dimensions," *supra*, note 25, Appendix 5.

²⁹ *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation in 39 Urban Trial Courts*, *supra*, note 4, Figure 3.7.

³⁰ See S. Keilitz, R. Hanson and H. Daley, "Is Civil Discovery in State Courts Out of Control?" *State Court Journal* (Vol. 17, No. 2, Spring 1993) 8.

³¹ See S. Keilitz, R. Hanson and R. Semiatin, "Attorneys' Views of Civil Discovery," *Judges' Journal* (Vol. 32, No. 2, Spring 1993) 2, at 38. Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), *Interim Report & 2008 Litigation Survey of the Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers on the Joint Project of the American College of Trial Lawyers Task Force on Discovery and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System* (Denver, CO: IAALS, 2008); www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/Interim%20Report%20Final%20for%20web1.pdf; IAALS, *Survey of the Oregon Bench and Bar on the Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure* (Denver, CO: IAALS, 2010). www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pdf/IAALSOregonSurvey.pdf; IAALS, *Survey of the Arizona Bench and Bar on the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure* (Denver, CO: IAALS, 2010). www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pdf/IAALSArizonaSurveyReport.pdf; IAALS, *Civil Litigation Survey of Chief Legal Officers and General Counsel belonging to the Association of Corporate Counsel* (Denver, CO: IAALS, 2010) www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/GeneralCounselSurvey.pdf.

SUMMARY CIVIL MATTERS

Model Standard

75% within 60 days

90% within 90 days

98% within 180 days

Definition. Small claims³² and landlord/tenant³³ matters are the most common cases in this category. Other kinds of matters that might be included are harassment, garnishment, and civil infractions such as traffic and local ordinance violations where they are classified as non-criminal matters. For foreclosure cases and other limited non-summary civil cases, see the commentary above on standards for general civil matters. Where traffic and local ordinance violations are considered criminal or quasi-criminal proceedings, the standard specifically addressing those matters applies.

Earlier National Time Standards. The COSCA time standards have no provision for summary civil matters. The ABA time standards do include a specific provision for summary matters, suggesting that 100 percent be disposed within 30 days.

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. There are specific time standards for summary civil matters in 21 states and the District of Columbia. No court system agrees with the ABA 30-day standard. Highlights of the variations among states include the following:

- The state with the shortest time expectation calls for all unlawful detainer matters to be disposed within 45 days, but allows up to 95 days for all small claims.
- The two jurisdictions with the longest time expectation allows up to 12 months for all cases. No other state has an upper limit longer than six months.
- In 18 states, the upper limit is from three to six months.
- In 11 states, there is a single specific time within which all cases must be disposed.
- Nine states have tiers giving times within which specified percentages must be disposed.
- In five states, the upper time limit is for a percentage lower than 100 percent, reflecting an expectation that some cases will unavoidably need more time to be disposed.

Overall Time Standards for Summary Civil Matters. In 1992, a study was published about times to disposition in 1990 for small claims cases in 12 courts.³⁴ The researcher found that only one court was able to dispose of as many as 75 percent of its small claims cases within the ABA 30-day time standard. In fact, eight of the 12 courts took longer than 30 days to dispose of just 25 percent of their cases. On the other hand, only four courts needed more than 125 days to dispose of 90 percent of all their small claims cases.

³² "A subcategory of civil cases (tort, contract, or real property claims) that are governed by statutorily defined summary procedures and in which the remedy sought is a specific, limited amount of monetary damages. Typically these cases dispense with written pleadings, legal counsel, and strict rules of evidence." *Guide to Statistical Report*, *supra*, note 3, at 10.

³³ "Contract cases alleging a breach of contract (lease/rental agreement) between a landlord and commercial or residential tenant in which a landlord alleges that the tenant's right to occupy the real property has terminated." *Id.* At 9.

³⁴ See J. Goerd, *Small Claims and Traffic Courts: Case Management Procedures, Case Characteristics and Outcomes in 12 Urban Jurisdictions* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1992).

The time standards offered here for summary civil matters are premised on the actual experience of courts in summary matters.³⁵ They suggest that most summary civil cases be disposed within two or three months. Yet they also show an appreciation for the fact that contested matters actually going to trial may need more time.

Intermediate Time Standards. As with other trial court matters, providing prompt and affordable justice in summary civil matters calls for the court to exercise early and continuous control of case progress. It may be even more important in summary matters than in general civil cases that the court finds an efficient way to monitor service on a defendant and the filing of an answer. The time standards offered here consequently provide an expected elapsed time within which an answer or a request for default judgment has been filed. Sixty days is a reasonable time period for summary civil cases because the time periods for service of process and for filing a responsive pleading are generally shorter than for general civil matters. Further, service is performed by the court using certified mail in a number of states.

In 98% of cases, service of process should be completed within 30 days.

In 98% of cases, responsive pleadings should be filed or default judgments entered within 60 days.

In 98% of cases, trials should be initiated within 120 days.

By their very nature, summary civil matters do not usually require a substantial amount of time for the completion of discovery. It is therefore important that the court set an early and credible date for trial commencement, as suggested here.

³⁵ E.g., Colorado County Courts dispose of 75 percent of summary civil cases within 63 days, but disposition of 90 percent requires up to 113 days, and disposition of 98 percent cases require 267 days.

Family Dissolution/Divorce/ Allocation of Parental Responsibility

Model Standard

75% within 120 days*

90% within 180 days*

98% within 365 days*

*Not including a statutorily imposed waiting period if any.

Definition. This case category includes custody, visitation, and spousal and child support matters that are subsumed as part of a dissolution/divorce proceeding. It also includes cases involving custody, visitation, or support of the children of unmarried couples who may be dissolving their relationship, and paternity/parentage or non-divorce custody, support or visitation proceedings.³⁶ It does not include post-decree proceedings to enforce or modify court orders on custody, visitation and support.

Earlier National Time Standards. The 1983 COSCA time standards for domestic relations matters distinguish between uncontested cases, which are to be tried or otherwise disposed within three months after filing, and contested cases, which are to be disposed within six months after filing. The 1992 ABA time standards do not make such a distinction. Instead, they provide that 90 percent of all domestic relations cases should be tried or otherwise disposed within three months after filing; 98 percent within six months; and 100 percent within 12 months.

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. At least 27 states and the District of Columbia have overall time standards for Family Dissolution/Divorce cases.³⁷ The standards for the great majority of these states exceed the COSCA time standard of six months and are more in line with the proposed standard of 98 percent within 12 months.

- Five states have separate standards for contested and uncontested matters, but only two states have adopted the COSCA standards as promulgated. In the other three states, the upper time limit for contested cases is 12 or 14 months, and one of them provides that two percent might take longer.
- In two states, a difference in time expectations is based not on whether a matter is contested, but on whether there are children involved.
- No state has adopted the ABA standards as promulgated. Two states come close: one provides that 90 percent of all cases should be disposed within three months, 95 percent within six months, and 99 percent within 12 months; and the other provides that 90 percent should be disposed within three months, 95 percent within nine or ten months (depending on whether there are children), and 100 percent within 12 months.
- In nine states, the maximum time standard is 12 months, like that of the ABA standard, while six states set the maximum time at 18 months. Only one state has a maximum time standard longer than 18 months.
- A common approach (adopted in nine states) is simply to indicate how long it should take for 100 percent of all cases to be disposed, with no provision for the percentage of cases that should be disposed within a shorter time. Ten states allow that a small percentage of cases (from one percent to ten percent) may take longer than the stated maximum.
- Only one state has a separate time standard for complex cases.

³⁶ *Guide to Statistical Reporting*, *supra*, note 3, at 12.

³⁷ See CPTS Database, *supra*, note 4.

Overall Time Standards. Compared to the prior COSCA standard, the proposed time standard allows for additional time for the final disposition of dissolution/divorce cases. It is comparable to the current ABA standard and is in line with standards established by the state courts, based on their experience of the length of time needed to resolve the complex financial and parenting issues present in some of these cases.

A 1992 national study of case processing and the pace of litigation in urban trial courts hearing divorce matters supports the ABA 12-month maximum time standard as an achievable goal for divorce cases. In that study, researchers found that three of the 16 courts in the study were within four percent of meeting the 12-month time standard, and six courts came within ten percent. Yet only two courts were able to come close to the six-month time standard (100 percent of all cases for COSCA and 98 percent for ABA). In fact, 14 of 16 courts had less than 75 percent of their cases disposed within six months.³⁸

Although there are no more recent multi-jurisdiction assessments of disposition times for divorce cases in American trial courts,³⁹ there has been a recent analysis of case processing times of divorce cases in Canadian courts, with results very similar to those in the 1992 study in American courts. While common law court practices in Canada are not identical to those in the US, the data tend

to support the time standards offered here. For 2008/2009 divorce cases in four provinces and three territories, 77 percent reached initial disposition within six months after case initiation; 92 percent within 12 months; and 99 percent within 24 months.⁴⁰

The proposed standard takes into account that statutes and court rules in most states reflect the state's policy that spouses, and particularly those with children, must wait for a period of time to reflect on the consequences of their actions before their divorce may become final. These waiting periods are generally between 30 to 90 days, although in some states they are as short as 20 days and in others as long as six, 12, and 18 months. The existence of a waiting period should not deter courts from moving a case as far along in the process as expeditiously as possible before the waiting period concludes. The proposed standard also takes into account the statutes and court rules in some states that require mediation/arbitration and/or parenting classes as preconditions to a trial and/or issuance of judgment.

Intermediate Time Standards. Only two states have time standards for intermediate stages in dissolution cases. One has established a standard of three months for the issuance of a temporary/interim order, even in complex cases involving children, in order to establish stability and financial support for the children. The other provides that

³⁸ J. Goerd, *Divorce Courts: Case Management Procedures, Case Characteristics, and the Pace of Litigation in 16 Urban Jurisdictions* (NCSC, 1992), pp. 9-11.

³⁹ The limited single-state data available shows that Missouri disposes of 90 percent of its domestic relations cases within 300 days; Colorado is able to dispose of 90 percent of its domestic cases within 328 days; and Minnesota 91.3 percent of its dissolution cases within 365 days.

⁴⁰ See M. B. Kelly, "The Processing of Divorce Cases Through Civil Court in Seven Provinces and Territories," *Statistics Canada* (May 2010), Table 4, www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010001/article/11158-eng.htm.

a case management order for custody and visitation is to be filed within 90 days after the return date.

Four intermediate time standards for family dissolution/divorce cases are proposed:

In 98% of cases, service of process should be completed within 45 days.

In 98% of cases, temporary orders should be issued within 60 days.

In 98% of cases, responsive pleadings should be filed or a default judgment entered within 90 days.

In 98% of cases, trials should be initiated within 300 days.

- Especially when children may be involved, courts should be vigilant to ensure that the early stages of dissolution cases do not fall prey to party-caused delay. This includes timely service of process. As suggested with regard to general civil cases, setting an interim time standard for completion of service of process encourages courts to monitor the performance of this critical procedural step and to take action – such as setting an early hearing for self-represented litigants who have not filed a return of service or sending the plaintiff a notice that the case will be dismissed for failure to prosecute – when it has not been completed in a timely fashion.
- In many instances, the most important pre-trial step is the issuance of a temporary order to stabilize the financial and parenting situation pending final judgment. For the safety and security and well-being of the spouses and children, it is important that an order be established early on addressing child support, spousal support (maintenance), custody (parental rights and responsibilities), and visitation (parent/child contact). Other matters that may need to be resolved early include possession of the dwelling, and, if not

resolved through a domestic violence proceeding, orders to protect the safety of either spouse. Sixty days should be considered the maximum amount of time for issuance of a temporary order in all or nearly all cases.

- An intermediate standard of 90 days for the issuance of a default judgment is established for those cases in which there are no contested issues. This would be evident to the court by a failure of a party, properly served, to respond to the complaint. It would also be evident by parties filing a stipulation to judgment that resolves all issues to the satisfaction of the judge.
- A standard of 300 days for the start of the trial is needed for the overall time standard to be met. Many cases that go to trial contain complex issues that require extensive findings by the judicial officer. To the greatest extent possible, divorce trials should be heard without interruption rather than be held intermittently over several weeks.

As is the case with the overall time standards, states should take into account the waiting period, if any, prescribed in their statutes or court rules in setting their specific standard.

POST JUDGMENT MOTIONS (Domestic Relations)

Model Standard

98% within 180 days

Definition. This category includes motions for modification of child support, spousal support, visitation and custody, and other requests for review of matters determined during a divorce, dissolution, or allocation of parental responsibility proceeding.⁴¹

Earlier National Time Standards. Neither the 1983 COSCA nor 1992 ABA time standards specifically address post judgment motions in domestic relations cases.

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. Only four states directly address disposition of post judgment domestic relations matters.

- Two use a three-tiered standard with all but one or two percent of the cases to be disposed in 180 days or 365 days respectively and at least 75 percent of the cases disposed within 60 to 90 days.
- One state employs a COSCA type standard calling for 100 percent of post judgment matters to be disposed within 180 days.
- One state differentiates the amount of time by the subject matter of the proceeding: child support enforcement and modification of parental contact motions – 60 days; child support contempt, child support modification, and parental role and responsibility – 90 days; spousal maintenance – 120 days.

Overall Time Standards. Post judgment motions constitute a significant portion of the caseload of any court hearing domestic relations matters and often address issues of great significance to parties or their children. Hence, they should be resolved as quickly as is possible. These motions range from clarifying some aspect of the initial divorce, child support, or custody order; to modifying an order because of changed circumstances; to, in essence, re-litigating the entire case. Little data is currently available regarding how long these motions take to resolve in practice. Thus, rather than establishing tiers, the proposed standard urges that nearly all post judgment motions be disposed of within six months, with the expectation that the vast majority will be resolved much more quickly.

Intermediate Time Standards. The intermediate time standards for post judgment motions, like those for other types of proceedings are intended to facilitate the ability of courts to decide these matters within the overall time limits.

In 98% of cases, service of process should be completed within 30 days.

In 98% of cases, responsive pleadings should be filed or a default judgment entered within 75 days.

In 98% of cases, hearings should be initiated within 150 days.

⁴¹ The *Guide to Statistical Reporting* classifies these matters as “reopened” domestic relations case, *supra*, note 3, at 13.

PROTECTION ORDER CASES

Model Standard

90% within 10 days
98% within 30 days

Definition. This time standard applies only to cases involving a civil protection order or a restraining order issued by the court to limit or eliminate contact between two or more individuals or prevent harassment of one person by another.⁴² The bulk of these cases arise as a result of violence between domestic partners but can also result from dating violence, stalking, workplace harassment, and cyber-attacks. This category is not intended to apply to criminal proceedings involving charges of domestic violence.

Earlier National Time Standards. The COSCA time standards and the ABA time standards do not include provisions relating to domestic violence cases.⁴³

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. At least ten jurisdictions have time standards for domestic violence cases.⁴⁴ The shortest time standard is that 99 percent of domestic violence cases be disposed within ten days. Five states call for all domestic violence cases to be concluded within 21 – 30 days. Two jurisdictions have a 60-day standard; one a 120-day standard. Three have adopted time standards that include tiers with the top tier setting the disposition time for less than 100 percent of the cases.

Overall Time Standards. The proposed standard comports with national and state policy that domestic violence will not be tolerated and that victims of domestic violence need to be able to access the courts to receive orders protecting them from their abuser as quickly as possible. It recognizes also that respondents have an interest in resolving the matter quickly if, for example, they are excluded from the family home by the order. The establishment of two tiers acknowledges that while initial contested hearing in most cases can be held and the case disposed within 10 days, some may require more time in order to enable one or both parties to obtain representation and sufficiently prepare their case. In these instances, however, it is anticipated that a temporary protection order will be in effect until the formal hearing can be held.

Intermediate Time Standards. All states and territories in the US have adopted legislation to protect victims from domestic violence.⁴⁵ Some states require that courts be available to accept the filing of domestic violence complaints 24 hours-a-day and seven days-a-week and to issue orders within hours of the filing of the complaint. Other states require that states accept complaints and issue orders within 24 hours. The proposed standard calls for 100 percent of *ex parte* hearings to be held and orders issued in compliance with state law.

In 100% of cases, *ex parte* hearings should be concluded within the period specified by state law.

⁴² *Guide to Statistical Reporting*, *supra*, note 3, at 15.

⁴³ In National Conference of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), *A Guide for Effective Issuance and Enforcement of Protective Orders* (2005), there are no suggested time standards for these cases.

⁴⁴ See CPTS Database, *supra*, note 4.

⁴⁵ For state-by-state information on statutory enactments since 1995 on domestic violence matters, see NCJFCJ, "Publications: Family Violence: Legislative Updates," www.ncjfcj.org/content/blogcategory/256/302/.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND STATUS OFFENSE

Model Standard

For youth in detention:	For youth not in detention:
75% within 30 days	75% within 60 days
90% within 45 days	90% with 90 days
98% within 90 days	98% within 150 days

Definition. This case type includes both delinquency cases (i.e., cases involving an act committed by a juvenile, which, if committed by an adult, would result in prosecution in criminal court and over which the juvenile court has been statutorily granted original or concurrent jurisdiction),⁴⁶ and status offense cases (i.e., non-criminal misbehavior by a juvenile such as a curfew violation, running away, truancy, or incorrigibility).⁴⁷ In some jurisdictions, status offense cases are called CHINS or CINS cases (child or children in need of supervision), PINS cases (person in need of supervision), or JINS cases (juvenile in need of supervision). The time period begins with the filing of the complaint or petition and runs through the issuance of the dispositional order.

Earlier National Time Standards. The 1983 COSCA time standards did not address juvenile delinquency cases. The 1992 ABA time standards specify that 90 percent of delinquency cases should be disposed within three months; 98 percent within six months; and 100 percent within 12

months. The National Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (NACJJDP) standards issued in 1980 recommend 30 days from filing to disposition for juveniles in custody, and 45 days for juveniles who are not detained.⁴⁸ The most recent set of recommendations are contained in the 2005 *Guidelines* issued by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). Those *Guidelines* distinguish between youth who are detained and those who are not detained, setting a maximum time of 30 calendar days between arrest and disposition for detained youth, and 58 calendar days for juveniles who have been released.⁴⁹

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. At least 27 states and the District of Columbia have overall time standards for juvenile delinquency cases.⁵⁰ Two offer standards for Status Offense cases. All but one set of state standards exceed the NCJFCJ *Guidelines*; however, all but four specify a maximum time to disposition for all cases well below the ABA's one year limit.

- Six jurisdictions make a distinction between the time period for cases in which the youth is detained and those in which the juvenile has been released, with two making an additional differentiation between secure and non-secure detention. All but three set the end point as the disposition rather than adjudication. The beginning point, if stated, varies from arrest, to filing, to first appearance.

⁴⁶ *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*, *supra*, note 3, at 24.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ National Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *Standards for the Administration of Juvenile Justice*, Standard 3.161 (Washington, DC: OJJDP 1980).

⁴⁹ National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, *Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases*, 90, 121, 137 (Reno, NV: NCJFCJ, 2005).

⁵⁰ See CPTS *supra*, note 4.

- One jurisdiction sets separate time periods for the most serious cases and another has established different time standards for jury and non-jury cases.
- While eight jurisdictions have established tiers of time standards, no state has adopted the ABA standards as promulgated. Both the percentages and prescribed time maximums vary widely. The most frequent maximum time limits are 90 days (five states), 180 days (five states) and 270 days (four states). Only one state's standard exceeds one year; one sets a time limit of 37 days for detained youths.
- Seven states provide for a percentage of cases to exceed the maximum time limit – two percent (three states); one percent (two states); five percent (one state); and 25 percent (one state).

Overall Time Standards. As stated in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges *Guidelines*:

... [T]imeliness throughout the juvenile justice process is critical for two reasons:

- One purpose of the juvenile justice process is to teach offenders that illegal behavior has consequences and that anyone who violates the law will be held accountable. A youth ... who must wait a significant period of time between offense and consequence may not be able to sufficiently connect the two events. ...
- If the juvenile justice process is not timely, many youth will experience prolonged uncertainty [which] can negatively impact trust and a sense of fairness. If a youth does not perceive the juvenile justice system to be predictable and fair, then the system's goal of changing behavior is less likely to be achieved.

The most comprehensive information regarding the time required to dispose of delinquency cases is reported in a 2009 study of juvenile courts in 392 counties by

Butts, Cusick, and Adams.⁵¹ In 2004, 71 percent of the delinquency cases were disposed within 90 days of filing. Cases in which the youth was not detained proceeded slightly more slowly than those involving detention (67 percent disposed within 90 days vs. 71 percent).⁵² A report of 2007 caseload information in one state revealed that only 32 percent of contested juvenile delinquency cases were disposed within 30 days, about 78 percent were concluded within 90 days, and approximately 90 percent within 180 days. However, the report points out that there is no data available on uncontested cases which are generally “too short” to make data collection worthwhile. Data on total delinquency dispositions in 2009 is available from three other states. One reported that 74 percent of juvenile delinquency cases were disposed within 90 days, 88 percent within 150 days, and over 92 percent within 180 days. The second reported that 80.6 percent were concluded within 90 days, 92.5 percent within 150 days, and 95 percent within 180 days. The third reported that 75 percent of the delinquency cases were concluded within the time standards (180 days for non-jury cases; 240 days for jury cases).

Intermediate Time Standards. Only three states establish interim time standards for delinquency and status offense cases. Two include a standard for holding the detention hearing (one 24 hours, the other 48 hours); one has a standard for the filing of trial briefs (30 days); all three set a standard for holding the adjudication hearing or making a decision; and one establishes a time limit for holding a dispositional hearing after adjudication.

⁵¹ J.A. Butts, G.R. Cusick, and B. Adams, *Delays in Youth Justice* (Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall, University of Chicago, 2009).

⁵² *Id.*, at 62.

In 98% of cases, detention hearings should be held within 48 hours.

In 98% of cases, waiver hearings, if needed, should be held within 45 days.

In 98% of cases, the trial/adjudication hearing or acceptance of an admission should be held within 60 days after the detention hearing if the juvenile is detained.

In 98% of cases, the trial/adjudication hearing or acceptance of an admission should be held within 120 days after detention hearing if the juvenile is not detained.

Effective case management is essential if the time standards for disposition of juvenile delinquency cases are to be met. Setting and enforcing intermediate time standards are part of an effective case management strategy. Three intermediate time standards are proposed. The first is for holding the detention hearing, i.e., the initial appearance of an alleged delinquent youth before the judge to advise the juvenile of the charges and her or his rights; ensure that the juvenile has counsel; determine whether there is probable cause to proceed; and decide custody status. Frequently at these hearings, the court is advised whether the prosecution is seeking to transfer the youth to the criminal court and the youth will be asked whether he/she denies or admits the allegations.⁵³ It has long been accepted that when the juvenile is being detained, this initial hearing must be held within a day or two days at most. Difficulty in notifying the parents of the need to appear...should be the only reason to delay the detention hearing...⁵⁴

The second proposed intermediate standard addresses the timing of the hearing to determine whether the juvenile court will waive jurisdiction and transfer the case to the criminal court. Because transfer of jurisdiction has significant short-term and long-term consequences if the youth is ultimately convicted, time is required by both the state and defense to prepare. On the other hand, because the standard of proof is generally low (usually probable cause), the preparation time can be less than that required for a full-scale trial or adjudication hearing.⁵⁵

The third intermediate standard is for the adjudication hearing or trial. It sets the time for the adjudication hearing sufficiently before the expiration of the overall standard to permit a determination of what services and level of supervision are needed following a finding that the youth is delinquent.

⁵³ NCJFCJ, *supra*, note 49, at 89.

⁵⁴ *Id.*, at 90.

⁵⁵ *Id.*, at 102-104.

NEGLECT AND ABUSE CASES AND TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

Neglect and Abuse Model Standard

Adjudicatory Hearing

98% within 90 days of removal

Permanency Hearing

75% within 270 days of removal

98% within 360 days of removal

Termination of Parental Rights Model Standard

90% within 120 days after the filing of a termination petition

98% within 180 days after the filing of a termination petition

Definition. Neglect and abuse cases are actions brought by the state alleging that a child has been hurt or maltreated or that the person legally responsible for a child's care has failed to provide the child with suitable food, shelter, clothing, hygiene, medical care, or parental supervision. In each of these circumstances, it is usually required that the maltreatment or omission threatens to cause lasting harm to the child.⁵⁶ Some jurisdictions characterize these matters as dependency cases. Termination of parental rights cases result from the filing of a petition by the state to sever the parent-child relationship due to allegations of abandonment by a parent, child abuse, or unfitness of a parent.⁵⁷

Earlier National Time Standards. The 1983 COSCA time standards did not address juvenile dependency cases. The 1992 ABA time standards specify that 90 percent of neglect and abuse cases and terminations of parental

rights should be disposed within three months; 98 percent within six months; and 100 percent within 12 months. The federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) (P.L.105-89) requires that in order for states to receive funds under Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, they conduct a permanency hearing for a neglected or abused child no later than 12 months after the child has entered foster care.⁵⁸

A child is considered to have entered foster care upon a judicial finding that the child has been subjected to abuse or neglect (the adjudicatory hearing) or 60 days after the child has been removed from her/his home, whichever occurs earlier.⁵⁹ A permanency hearing is the proceeding at which a court determines:

...the final plan in a neglect or abuse case that will move the child out of temporary foster care and into a safe, nurturing and permanent home. At the permanency hearing, the judge must order one of the following permanent plans for the child and specify the date that the plan will be implemented:

- Return to the parent
- ...[A]doption ...with the state filing a petition to terminate parental rights, if necessary;
- ...[L]egal guardianship;
- ...[P]ermanent placement with a relative, foster parent or other non-relative; or
- ...[A]nother specified permanent living arrangement....⁶⁰

⁵⁶ *Guide to Statistical Reporting*, supra, note 3, at 27.

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ 42 U.S.C. §675(5)(C).

⁵⁹ 42 U.S.C. §675(5)(F).

⁶⁰ National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, *Adoption and Permanency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases*, 18 (Reno, NV: NCJFCJ, 2000).

Termination proceedings under ASFA must be initiated, in most instances, if “a child... has been in foster care under the responsibility of the state for 15 of the most recent 22 months.”⁶¹

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. Fourteen states have standards addressing neglect and abuse cases, termination of parental rights proceedings, or both. The four that specifically address the permanency hearing are all consistent with ASFA.

- Four states set overall time limits covering the time to a permanent placement with 18 months as the most frequently used goal. Eight address only the hearing to determine that a child has been neglected or abused. These standards vary from 33 to 180 days, with four in the 88 to 120-day range. One state has standards for both achievement of permanency and adjudication hearings.
- Five jurisdiction’s standards distinguish between the time limits that should apply to cases in which a child has not been removed from her/his home and those in which removal has occurred. One also sets different time limits for standard and complex cases in each category.
- Six jurisdictions have specific time standards for termination proceedings (two at 180 days, two at 360 or 365 days, and one each at 120 and 150 days respectively). Four states address both neglect and abuse cases and termination cases.
- Three states provide for a percentage of cases to exceed the maximum time limit – one percent (one state); five percent (one state); 25 percent (one state).

Overall Time Standards. The proposed time standard is based upon the federal ASFA requirements leavened with the recognition that because of the difficulty in securing a safe permanent placement, a very small percentage of cases will exceed the federal timeframe. It sets time goals for both the adjudicatory and the permanency hearing in neglect and abuse cases, and for the disposition of termination of parental rights petitions. The proposed standard sets a goal of holding all but a very few adjudicatory hearings within three months and three-quarters of permanency hearings within [nine] months of removal, leaving only the most difficult cases to be heard in the [three] remaining months until the one year deadline. It is anticipated that most adjudicatory hearings can be conducted well before the 90-day goal.

Similarly, in many cases, it may be possible to hold the permanency hearing more quickly than 270 days after removal. In others, time is required to extend services to a family and assess their impact or to locate another permanent caregiver within or outside the family. However, it is essential that permanency planning and the provision of services be initiated at the earliest possible point in the process (preferably immediately upon removal), and that the exceptions that take more than one year be kept to an absolute minimum. As noted in the NCJFCJ *Guidelines*, uncertainty over placements and frequent transitions from one home to another “can seriously and permanently damage a child’s development of trust and security.”⁶²

⁶¹ 42 U.S.C §675(5)(E).

⁶² National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, *supra*, note 60, at 5.

Petitions to terminate parental rights “should be filed at any time when it is clear that reunification cannot occur.”⁶³ In some instances, the petition will be filed well before the date scheduled for the permanency hearing; in others they are filed just before or after the permanency hearing. Once the petition is filed, it is then the court’s responsibility to ensure both that the parties have sufficient time to secure counsel if they are not represented, seek a negotiated solution, retain experts if necessary, and otherwise prepare, and that this difficult issue is decided as expeditiously as possible. The standard sets a goal of determining 90% of termination cases – all of the uncontested cases and most of the contested cases within four months, and all but a very few of the remainder within six months.

States around the nation, inspired by the three National Judicial Leadership Summits for the Protection of Children, enabled by the grant funds provided through the federal Court Improvement Program, and challenged by the federal Child and Family Services Reviews have been striving to meet the prescribed timeframes. Based on 2008 data submitted by the more than 40 states participating in Summit III:

- The average mean time from filing of the protection order to the adjudication hearing was 137.2 days.
- The average median time from filing of a complaint to permanent placement was 627.1 days.
- The average mean time from notice of appeal to the final appellate decision was 197.9 days.⁶⁴

Comparable data was not collected regarding disposition of termination of parental rights proceedings.

Intermediate Time Standards. The proposed intermediate time standards address key decision points in the process. For neglect and abuse proceedings, the first point of concern to the parties is the initial hearing to determine whether removal was appropriate. If it is determined that removal was required to protect the child, then the court should set the timetable for further proceedings and assure that permanency planning is undertaken from the start. If it is determined that removal was not appropriate or is no longer appropriate, immediate action should be taken to safely reunite the family. The second interim point is the adjudication hearing. In order to achieve the goal of concluding 98 percent of adjudications within 90 days, the bulk of the hearings must occur well before that date to accommodate both the evidentiary process and time required to make a decision and craft an order. Four states have established standards for both adjudication and permanency hearings, with the time set for the adjudication hearing ranging from 33 to 153 days.

With regard to termination proceedings, ASFA requires that a termination of parental rights petition must be filed for any child who has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months unless timely services were not provided to the family, the child is being cared for by a relative, or there are other compelling circumstances. [42 USC §675 (5)

⁶³ *Id.*, at p26.

⁶⁴ R. Van Duizend & N. Sydow, “A New Judicial Commitment to Improving the Child Protection Process and the Quality of Outcomes for Children,” *Future Trends in State Courts 2010*, 107, 109 (Williamsburg, VA: NCSC, 2010).

(E) and (F).] This requirement is intended to avoid “the documented substantial and unjustified delays in many states in legally freeing children for adoption.”⁶⁵ An intermediate standard is not included because the filing of the petition is not a matter directly within a court’s control.⁶⁶ The third intermediate standard seeks to balance the need for a prompt determination with the recognition of the time required to perfect service and prepare for a proceeding at which a fundamental right is at issue. It calls for the vast majority of hearings to take place within 150 days so that the overall 180 day to disposition goal can be met. To the greatest extent possible, termination hearings should be heard without interruption rather than be convened intermittently over several weeks. The NCJFCJ Guidelines recommend that all termination proceedings that require a trial begin within 90 days, with a decision no later than 14 days after conclusion of the trial. The Guidelines also encourage use of mediation and other settlement techniques to achieve voluntary terminations and settlement of related issues so as to avoid as many trials as possible.⁶⁷ The one state that includes an interim standard for termination cases calls for hearings within 60 days and all dispositions within 150 days.

Neglect and Abuse

In 98% of cases, the preliminary protective hearing should be held within 72 hours.

In 98% of cases, the adjudicatory hearing, if required, should start within 60 days.

Termination of Parental Rights

In 98% of cases, the trial/termination hearing should start within 150 days after service of process.

⁶⁵ National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, *supra*, note 60, at 26.

⁶⁶ If a state wishes to adopt an intermediate standard regarding the filing of a termination of parental rights petition, one approach could be: In 90% of cases, TPR petitions, if required, should be filed within 455 days (15 months) after the preliminary protective hearing; in 98% of cases, TPR petitions, if required, should be filed within 670 days (22 months) after the preliminary protective hearing.

⁶⁷ National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, *supra*, note 60, at 27.

ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES

Model Standard

75% within 360 days

90% within 540 days

98% within 720 days

Definition. Cases of this type involve the estate of a deceased person, including the determination of the validity and proper execution of a will or, in the absence of a will, the determination of the decedent's heirs. Also included is the adjudication of disputes over a will and the oversight of actions by an executor, administrator, or personal representative.⁶⁸

Earlier National Time Standards. The COSCA time standards and the ABA time standards do not include provisions on administration of decedents' estates. Although it emphasizes that probate proceedings, in general, and estate administration, in particular, should proceed in a timely manner, the National Probate Court Standards⁶⁹ do not prescribe specific time standards.

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. At least 12 jurisdictions have time standards for cases involving the administration of decedents' estates. They vary considerably.⁷⁰

- Two states have a time standard only for contested estates, while two others have one time standard for uncontested estates and another for contested estates.

- One jurisdiction has separate time standards for small and large estates, while another separates the time requirement for estates with a federal estate tax from that for all others.
- Two states have one time standard for cases with no formal administration and another for those with full administration.
- Maximum times vary from three months to three years, with the most common expected duration (five states) being 360 days.
- All 12 states expect that a substantial portion of the estates should be settled within 12 months or less.

Overall Time Standards. The 360-day time standard offered here is reasonably consistent with the estate administration norms for all of the court systems with time standards. In some states, however, current experience may be that the portion of all decedents' estates taking longer than a year to reach conclusion may be greater than two percent.

Intermediate Time Standards. An intermediate time standards is suggested here for the initial critical step in a probate estate case -- when the court "issues letters" -- that is, when it appoints an executor, personal representative, or administrator. Since most estates are uncontested and may require little or no active or formal probate court involvement, the intermediate time standard from filing to issuance of letters is short.

In 98% of uncontested cases, letters of administration or letters testamentary should be issued within 90 days.

⁶⁸ See *Guide to Statistical Reporting*, *supra*, note 3, at 19.

⁶⁹ National College of Probate Court Judges, *National Probate Court Standards* (NCPJ and NCSC, 1993), www.ncsconline.org/WG/Publications/Res_PropCt_NatlProbateCrtStandardsPub.pdf.

⁷⁰ See CPTS database, *supra*, note 4.

ADULT GUARDIANSHIP/ CONSERVATORSHIP CASES

Model Standard
98% within 90 days

Definition. This case type includes matters involving the establishment of a fiduciary relationship between a person charged with taking care of either the personal rights of an adult who is found by the court to be unable to care for himself or herself (guardianship) or the property of an adult found by the court to be unable to manage his or her own affairs (conservatorship).⁷¹ It includes both full and limited guardianship and/or conservatorship for adults, but does not include guardianship of a minor or elder abuse cases.

Prior National Time Standards. The COSCA time standards and the ABA time standards do not include provisions for this case type. The National Probate Court Standards call for early court control and expeditious case processing, with hearings set at the earliest date possible, but do not offer specific time standards.⁷² The terms of the Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act (UGPPA 1997) provide simply that the court should set a date and a time for a hearing.⁷³

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. There appear to be only two state court systems with time standards specifically for guardianship and conservatorship cases.⁷⁴

One calls for all such cases to be disposed within eight months after filing; the other specifies that 75 percent of guardianship/conservatorship cases should be disposed within six months, 90 percent within nine months, and 100 percent within 12 months.

At least three states have a statutory requirement for how soon a court hearing should be held after the filing of a petition for guardianship and conservatorship.⁷⁵ One requires that a hearing be held within 120 days after filing; the other two within 60 days after filing.

Overall Time Standards. The time standard offered here addresses the time from the filing of the petition to denial of the petition or issuance of a court order appointing a fiduciary on a non-temporary basis. It is premised on two considerations. First, there should be a prompt court decision balancing the due process rights of a disabled person with the need to protect that person or her or his estate. Moreover, in many such cases there is no dispute over either the disabled person's capacity or the suitability of the individual or organization proposed to be his or her fiduciary.

It should be noted that this standard covers only the proceedings leading to the appointment of a guardian or conservator for an incapacitated adult. It is beyond the scope of these standards to address the time frames

⁷¹ See *Guide to Statistical Reporting*, *supra*, note 3, at 19.

⁷² See *National Probate Court Standards*, *supra*, note 69, Sections 3.3.3, 3.3.8, 3.4.3, and 3.4.8.

⁷³ See National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act (1997), Sections 305 and 406, www.law.upenn.edu/bll/archives/ulc/fnact99/1990s/ugppa97.htm.

⁷⁴ See CPTS database, *supra*, note 4.

⁷⁵ See American Bar Association, Commission on Law and Aging, "State Law Charts and Updates: Guardianship: Conduct and Findings of Guardianship Proceedings (as of Dec. 31, 2009)" (August 2010), http://new.abanet.org/aging/PublicDocuments/chart_conduct_08_10.pdf.

applicable to the monitoring of the well-being of incapacitated adults by guardians and the management of their estates by conservators. [*But see, National Probate Court Standards, supra, note 65.*] However, it is anticipated that courts will require submission of reports and accounts at least on an annual basis.

Intermediate Time Standards. In some circumstances, it is important for quick action to be taken to protect a disabled person or the estate. For this purpose there should be provision for prompt temporary appointment of a fiduciary. A requirement for temporary appointment in most circumstances within 72 hours allows time for notice and the scheduling of a court hearing while still assuring prompt action. When there is no dispute over incapacity, who should serve as guardian or conservator, and the terms of the guardianship or conservatorship, the hearing should be held and the order issued as quickly as possible so that needed services can be provided and assets protected. Holding a hearing in contested cases within 75 days should provide sufficient time for an investigation and also for possible mediation if there is a dispute.

In 98% of cases, in which emergency action is required, a hearing should be held within 3 days.

In 98% of uncontested cases, trials/hearings regarding a permanent appointment should be held within 30 days.

In 98% of cases in which there are contested issues, a trial/hearing should be started within 75 days.

CIVIL COMMITMENT CASES

Model Standard
98% within 15 days

Definition. In terms of court statistical definitions, civil commitments are “mental health cases” in which a court is requested to make a legal determination whether a person is a danger to him or her or others due to mental illness or incompetency and “should be placed, or should remain, under care, custody and/or treatment.”⁷⁶ This case type does not include court determination of competency to stand trial, nor does it include proceedings for civil commitment of sexually violent predators.

Earlier National Time Standards. Neither COSCA time standards nor ABA time standards include provisions relating to civil commitments. The National Guidelines for Involuntary Civil Commitment urge that a court hearing should be held no more than three days after a respondent was taken into custody or a petition was filed.⁷⁷ More recently, the Model Law for Assisted Treatment provides that on any petition a court does not dismiss, the court should schedule a hearing to be held within ten calendar days after the petition was filed.⁷⁸

⁷⁶ *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting, supra, note 3, at 19.*

⁷⁷ Task Force on Guidelines for Involuntary Civil Commitment, *National Guidelines for Involuntary Civil Commitment* (NCSC, Institute on Mental Disabilities and the Law, 1986), Guideline F2, http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cgi-bin/showfile_xe?CISOROOT=/ctadmin&CISOPTR=12.

⁷⁸ Treatment Advocacy Center, “Model Law for Assisted Treatment” (2009), § 5.3, www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/LegalResources/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=49&Itemid=78.

State Judicial Branch Time Standards. Two state-level court systems have promulgated time standards relating to civil commitment proceedings.⁷⁹ One provides that 80 percent of mental health cases should be disposed within 30 days, 90 percent within 45 days, and 99 percent within 60 days; the other specifies that 90 percent of civil commitment matters should be disposed within 14 days, and 100 percent within 28 days. Some states have statutory requirements for the timing of court hearings.⁸⁰ In Florida, for example, “Baker Act” hearings on involuntary treatment must be held within five days, unless a continuance is granted; and in North Carolina, a court hearing must be held within ten days after a respondent has been taken into custody, with the court authorized to grant a continuance of up to five additional days.

Overall Time Standards. Since the 1986 recommendation by the Task Force on Guidelines for Involuntary Civil Commitment that there be a court hearing on involuntary treatment within three days after custody or petition, there has been time to observe whether so expeditious a process is workable. The 2009 Model Act allows a longer elapsed time – ten days. The statutory provisions relating to the timing of a court hearing in both Florida and North Carolina explicitly allow for the hearing to be continued. The time standard offered here for civil commitment proceedings seeks to balance the need for a prompt court determination of the need for involuntary treatment with

the practical problem of completing an evaluation and scheduling the court event with adequate prior notice.

Intermediate Time Standards. In order to protect the legal rights of a respondent while addressing a possible need for prompt care, the critical intermediate event is the completion and submission of the assessment report regarding the need for care and treatment. The timing for such a report should give sufficient time for it to be reviewed by the respondent and his or her representatives prior to the hearing by the court.

In 98% of cases, assessment reports should be filed within ten days.

⁷⁹ See CPTS database, *supra*, note 4.

⁸⁰ For a state-by-state summary of statutory provisions on involuntary treatment, see Treatment Advocacy Center, “Home Page>Legal Resources>In Your State,” www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/LegalResources/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=48&Itemid=271.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MODEL TIME STANDARDS

By providing goals for judges and other key participants in the court process to meet in managing caseloads, time standards can play an important role in achieving the purposes of courts in society. Yet, the mere promulgation of time standards is not sufficient to assure that courts will provide prompt and affordable justice. It is important for court leaders to create circumstances that will promote the likelihood of success.

Time standards provide a yardstick for measuring court performance and management effectiveness, serving as benchmarks for determining whether the pace of court proceedings is acceptable. Time standards are useful only if judges and other participants in the court process receive information on the extent to which they are being achieved; they should lead to the development of systems for monitoring caseload status and progress toward caseflow management goals.

Moreover, time standards provide a starting point for developing practices and procedures to meet the goals they set forth. These involve the exercise of early and continuous court control of case progress through the application of caseflow management principles and techniques. Success in such an effort requires attention to

two separate levels of concern. First, it is important that judicial leaders at the state level set the tone and provide means to promote statewide compliance. Second, it is critical that prompt and affordable justice in each judicial district or trial jurisdiction be a matter of court policy and not be subject to any substantial differences among individual judges. The policy should be reflected in a published caseflow management plan in each judicial district or individual trial court.

Adoption and implementation of time standards is also likely to have an effect on the use of available resources and the level of resource needs for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement and jail personnel, and administrative support personnel. Research has shown that there is more efficient use of the time of judges, lawyers and support staff when trial courts take effective steps to meet time standards in criminal cases.⁸¹ Moreover, taking management steps to reduce wasted time for case participants can affirmatively reduce pressure for more resources.⁸² Yet even fast courts can reach a “saturation point,” at which they cannot absorb and process more cases without additional judicial or non-judicial staff resources.⁸³ In a setting where the court is managing its caseflow, time standards help to highlight the level of its judicial and non-judicial personnel needs.

⁸¹ *Efficiency, Timeliness, and Quality*, *supra*, note 7, at 104-106.

⁸² See, for example, David Steelman and Jonathan Meadows, *Ten Steps to Achieve More Meaningful Criminal Pretrial Conferences in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida* (Denver, CO: National Center for State Courts, 2010). In that report, the authors demonstrate how effective felony caseflow management can have a significant and measurable impact by reducing wasted time and thereby moderating the need for more judgeships, prosecution and public defender attorney positions, uniformed law enforcement officer positions, and associated support staff positions.

⁸³ *Examining Court Delay*, *supra*, note 5, at 30.

1. Adoption and Use of Model Time Standards

Establishment and compliance with recognized guidelines for timely case processing has been recognized as a key measure of court performance.⁸⁴ Setting or revisiting expectations for timely justice serves (a) to emphasize the need for judges and court personnel to see this as an essential part of their work⁸⁵ and (b) to promote public trust and confidence that the courts are committed to expeditious processing of cases.⁸⁶ That process both requires and provides an opportunity for the exercise of judicial leadership to generate and maintain broad consensus on what constitutes timely justice and on what must be done for that goal to be achieved within available resources.

Timely justice as defined in the time standards should be available in all kinds of cases and throughout a state. In adopting their own standards based on these national standards, state court leaders should take into account their own statutory requirements, jurisdictional environment, and demographic and geographic factors such as the proportion of judges who must travel from court to court and the amount of their work year devoted to such travel. While the “tailoring” of the model standards to local circumstances may create variation from one state to the next, the process of adjusting to local conditions is necessary for realistic implementation of the standards throughout a diverse nation. Yet courts must respond to the quickening pace of everyday life, and the public is

Adoption and Use

To emphasize the commitment by judges and all members of the court community to the provision of prompt and affordable justice, court leaders in each state should adopt time standards for all major case types, patterned on the model time standards and actively applied in a consistent fashion throughout the state. Because they serve as a measure of what all citizens in the state can reasonably expect in terms of timely justice, time standards should be developed and promulgated by state court leaders in communication and consultation with all key justice partners.

Time standards should be viewed as a tool of successful court management, and should not be confused with speedy-trial requirements. Time standards should be used as a measure of accountability for both the court system as a whole and for individual court locations and judges. By serving as a measure of what constitutes high court performance, time standards should provide a basis for the courts to exercise ongoing leadership in efforts with their key justice partners to develop appropriate caseflow management measures and assure their active and consistent application by all judicial officers for all case types.

Together, time standards and caseflow management measures should promote justice, both in individual cases and through the effective and efficient use of time and other available resources by all participants in the court process. They should also be used as a means to determine with public funding authorities what level of resources the judicial branch of government requires to achieve high performance of its constitutional functions.

justified in expecting that their legal disputes can be resolved more quickly than they have been in the past. Consequently, any substantial deviations from the model time standards should be justified by the requirements for doing justice in an individual state; they should not be based merely on local disagreement with a national time standard.

⁸⁴ See Commission on Trial Court Performance, *Trial Court Performance Standards with Commentary* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1990, 1997), Standard 2.1.

⁸⁵ See Mahoney, et al., *Changing Times in Trial Courts* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1988), p. 202.

⁸⁶ See *Trial Court Performance Standards*, *supra*, note 84, at Standard 5.2.

Historically, time standards can be seen as a reflection of public policy considerations akin to those underlying the federal and state constitutional requirements that a criminal defendant be given a speedy and public trial. It is critically important, however, to understand that the provision of prompt and affordable justice means much more than simply avoiding dismissal of a case on speedy-trial grounds. Promptness is a necessary but not sufficient condition for effective justice; speed by itself does not constitute justice. This principle is recognized by the four “administrative principles” emphasized in the “High Performance Court Framework,” which clarifies what court leaders and managers can do to produce high quality in the administration of justice:⁸⁷

- Giving every case individual attention
- Treating cases proportionally
- Demonstrating procedural justice
- Exercising judicial control over the court process

Adoption and promulgation of time standards for the measurement of court performance is only part of what is necessary for achievement of high court performance. First the nature and importance of the standards as performance goals must be communicated to judges and staff throughout the state, as well as to justice system partners. Second, information must be used by court leaders and managers throughout the court system to measure compliance with time standards (see Section 2) in terms of both efficiency

(age of pending caseload) and productivity (times to disposition) and take any necessary corrective action:⁸⁸

- At the state level by the chief justice, court of last resort, and state court administrator to assess system performance by broad case types and by judicial districts.
- In a judicial district or individual court by the chief judge and court administrator to assess the overall status of its calendars and to troubleshoot for problems, bottlenecks or difficulties.
- By each individual judge to manage individual cases and all the cases on his or her docket.

A sizeable body of research shows that meeting the obligation to provide timely and affordable justice calls for courts to monitor and control the progress of cases from initiation to conclusion through consistent application of caseflow management principles. A third step for court leaders to assure successful compliance with time standards is therefore to take a leadership role in collaboration with judges, court managers and staff, lawyers, and others in the court process to develop and maintain broad support and understanding of policies and programs to reduce and avoid delay (as discussed further in Section 3).

Finally, effective use of time standards involves resources. Caseflow management programs can serve as an important way to avoid wasted time for judges and others.⁸⁹ If reasonably efficient use of time and other available resources does not result in substantial compliance with

⁸⁷ Brian Ostrom and Roger Hanson, *Achieving High Performance: A Framework for Courts* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 2010). See also National Center for State Courts, *CourTools, Trial Court Performance Measures*, (Williamsburg, VA: NCSC, 2004).

⁸⁸ *Caseflow Management*, *supra*, note 11, at 83-84. IAALS, *A Roadmap for Reform: Civil Caseflow Management Guidelines* (2009, www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/civil_caseflow_management_guidelines.pdf)

⁸⁹ See Steelman and Meadows, *Ten Steps to Achieve More Meaningful Criminal Pretrial Conferences*, *supra*, note 82.

applicable resources, this should provide a basis for courts and their justice partners to seek additional resources from public funding authorities. (See Section 4.)

2. Measurement of Court Compliance with Time Standards

State court leaders have a duty to hold their organizations accountable to the public and to inter-branch partners by instituting a set of empirical measures and a program of on-going assessment of court outcomes which includes the wide publication of the results of those assessments. Court performance measurement is the evaluation of overall systems and programs rather than individual judicial performance. Time to disposition is one of the important measures courts should adopt as part of their quantitative and qualitative assessment of court effectiveness.⁹⁰

The establishment of a time standard for the disposition of a case type is a first step. A time to disposition standard enables a state to define the concept of backlog and to identify a case “in backlog” as any case older than the standard.⁹¹

Thus, time standards can be helpful at the local court level to enable the local judge and administrator to focus on cases in backlog, determine whether there is a good reason why that case has not yet been disposed, and then to take appropriate steps to move the case to disposition.

Measuring Level of Compliance

By establishing time standards, court leaders demonstrate their commitment to court performance, and, in particular, a commitment to meeting the needs of litigants and the public by hearing and resolving cases in a timely manner. By measuring and monitoring compliance with time standards, court leaders demonstrate their commitment to court management and to operating an effective judicial system.

Court leaders should publish the courts’ measures of compliance with their time standards in order to demonstrate their commitment to accountability and transparency and in order to identify methods of improving compliance and performance.

Measurement of compliance with standards must:

- Be consistent from court to court
- Be accomplished in a manner to
 - Encourage timely disposition
 - Encourage judges to take the time needed to do individual justice in cases when additional time is needed
- Be used by
 - Court leaders to identify and apply best practices
 - Judges and administrators to identify and give appropriate attention to cases that are not proceeding in a manner that will ensure their disposition within the time standard

Time standards can also be helpful to enable state and local court leadership and the public to monitor compliance with time standards throughout the jurisdiction, to identify best practices used by courts who meet the standards, and to work with courts not meeting the standards to improve their performance in the future. Court leaders can use these time standards as a tool to monitor and manage active pending cases. To provide a complete picture of a court’s compliance with the time standards, courts need to adopt multiple ways to measure compliance with the adopted standards.

⁹⁰ Conference of State Court Administrators, *White Paper on Promoting a Culture of Accountability and Transparency: Court System Performance Measures*, 2008.

⁹¹ J. Greacen, “Backlog Performance Measurement – A Success Story in New Jersey,” *Judges Journal*, Winter, 2007.

- For a particular time period, for instance on a monthly, biannual, or annual basis, determine what percentage of cases disposed during that time period were completed within the applicable time standard.
 - This measure most clearly measures compliance with these standards. Courts can use this approach to measure whether 75 percent, 90 percent or 98 percent of their cases were disposed of within the adopted time standards. However, the measure is not very useful as a way to measure success or failure when a court has just embarked on a caseload reform effort, because in the early stages of the program, disposition times will be skewed by the disposition of old cases in the inventory.⁹²
- Count the number of “old cases”-- the number of pending cases that exceed their time disposition guideline age.
 - This measure is helpful to the local judge and administrator. As the number of “old cases” decreases, the court will know that it is on the right track. However, the measure is not helpful to court leadership attempting to compare courts within their jurisdiction and to identify which courts most need attention to improve their backlog. To compare courts, court leadership must compare the number of old cases to the number of cases filed in each court.
- Count the number of “old, old cases,” the number of cases pending for two or three times the time to disposition standard.⁹³
 - For reasons stated above, this measure helps judges and administrators to identify those cases that most need attention.
- Count the number of “old cases” and then divide that number by the number of cases filed in the court in the previous year.
 - This backlog percentage enables court leaders to compare courts within their jurisdiction and identify the courts that most need attention
- Determine the number of active pending cases that exceed the 90 percent standard and the number that exceed the 98 percent standard.
 - Judges and court managers can then take steps to ensure that the cases in the reports exceeding the 90 percent standard can be disposed within the 98 percent standard and to ensure progress toward disposition in those cases exceeding the 98 percent standard.

Judicial leaders should demonstrate a commitment to transparency and accountability through the use of these performance measures. To improve public trust and confidence in the courts, judicial leadership should monitor compliance with time to disposition standards, monitor the effectiveness of the steps taken to improve performance and then make this information available as a matter of public record.⁹⁴

For court leaders to be able to publish court compliance with time standards and to be able to compare compliance among the courts within their jurisdiction, it is crucial that the measures are consistent across the jurisdiction.

- Courts need a common definition of a “case.” Courts need to develop consistent and uniform methods for counting multiple criminal charges against one or more defendants; civil cases with multiple defendants and multiple claims; and child custody and child support claims in a divorce case.
- Courts need a common definition of when a case begins. These standards recommend that the time of filing be used as the point of case initiation.

⁹² M. Solomon, *Improving Criminal Caseload*, October, 2008.

⁹³ *Backlog Performance Measurement*, *supra*, note 91.

⁹⁴ National Center for State Courts. *Principles for Judicial Administration: Governance, Case Administration, Core Functions and Dispositional alternatives, and Funding*. January, 2011 Draft. IAALS, A Roadmap for Reform: Civil Caseload Management Guidelines (2009), A number of states regularly publish court level performance information including time to disposition. See e.g., www.utcourts.gov/courttools; www.mass.gov/courts/cmabreport.html. www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/MediaRelationsAndCommunityOutreach/docs/annualrep/FY2010AnnualRpt.pdf. www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/civil_caseload_management_guideline.pdf

- Courts need a common definition of when a case is disposed; e.g., at the time of dismissal or sentencing in criminal matters.

It is also crucial that the court’s case management system is viewed as reliable, is in fact reliable, and that the management reports it produces accurately report compliance with time to disposition standards.

3. Steps to Promote Compliance with Time Standards

A. Statewide Actions

It is important to provide a statewide environment in which the courts emphasize the critical importance of providing justice in a prompt and affordable manner. Assuring high performance throughout the court system through timeliness and affordability in compliance with time standards should therefore be an ongoing theme for leadership by the chief justice, the state Supreme Court, and the state court administrator and his or her office.

Public accountability. Statewide commitment by individual courts, judges and court staff members to providing timely and affordable justice in keeping with time standards is difficult or impossible to achieve unless the chief justice and the state Supreme Court regularly emphasize its importance as an element of the purpose and mission of the judicial branch of government. The chief justice and other state court leaders must show their commitment by openly accepting responsibility, and by

Promoting Use and Compliance – Statewide

To promote the provision of prompt and affordable justice in compliance with applicable time standards, state-level court leaders should encourage actions at all levels of court. These actions should reflect the requirements of each case type and the differences among metropolitan, urban, suburban, and rural jurisdictions through the state.

Among the actions that should be taken are:

- Dissemination of the state’s time standards to the public.
- Provision of annual reports on court system performance with regard to those standards.
- Promulgation of statewide administrative rules or guidelines calling for the adoption of caseload management plans to provide early and continuous court control of case progress from initiation to conclusion.
- Encouragement and assistance to judges, court managers, and court staff members to participate in national, statewide, and local educational programs on the importance of:
 - prompt and affordable justice
 - time standards
 - caseload management
- Encouragement and support for educational programs for lawyers and other key justice partners on the purposes and use of time standards and caseload management.
- Provision of technical assistance to courts within the state to help them improve their caseload management.

insisting that all judges as government officials accept responsibility for the results they provide for citizens in terms of timeliness and affordability.⁹⁵ The High Performance Court Framework calls for well-functioning courts to align their internal operating procedures with service to court customers, as a way to promote public trust and confidence in the legitimacy of the courts and to justify the provision of adequate resources by funding authorities.⁹⁶ The commentary to the Trial Court

⁹⁵ See D. Osborne and T. Gaebler, *Reinventing Government* (New York: Penguin Books, 1993), pp. 136-165.

⁹⁶ *Achieving High Performance*, *supra*, note 87, at Preface, vi and vii.

Performance Standards emphasizes the link between judicial independence and accountability, observing that each court must manage itself by establishing effective leadership, operating effectively, developing and implementing plans of action, measuring its performance, and accounting publicly for its performance.⁹⁷

Emphasis on court system accountability for compliance with time standards is thus something that the chief justice and other state court leaders can link to judicial independence, public trust and confidence, customer service, and adequacy of funding. By requiring all courts in the system to report regularly on their performance in terms of time standards, and by following up with individual courts should any significant performance issues arise, the Supreme Court can regularly reinforce the importance of the time standards. By publishing annual reports of court system performance in terms of the time standards, the Supreme Court can responsibly reiterate its commitment to timeliness and affordability.

Statewide requirement and support for early and continuous court control. Differences among individual courts in terms of the communities they serve, as well as the importance of local initiative for acceptance of responsibility and accountability by each court and its individual judges, are considerations that make it difficult and unwise for state-level court leaders to impose a detailed caseflow management approach on every court in a state. Yet it is nonetheless important for state-level leaders to

provide general guidance on the steps that individual courts should take to promote compliance with time standards.

In broadest terms, this can be done by requiring individual courts to show how they will exercise control of cases from initiation through judgment to the conclusion of all post-judgment work. This can include support for case information systems throughout the state that provide judges and court managers with timely and accurate information to monitor case progress.⁹⁸ It should also include a requirement that individual courts work in consultation with key stakeholders to develop and implement a written caseflow management plan for the exercise of early and continuous court control of case progress. This requirement should include that the plan be published locally and filed with the Supreme Court, and that each court report at least annually to both the public and the Supreme Court on its performance under the plan.

Education programs. While state court leaders should not dictate the specific steps that each court should take to manage case progress for compliance with time standards, the state-level court leaders should provide affirmative information on how to do so. An essential part of the foundation for successful caseflow management is ongoing education. The Supreme Court and the state court administrator's office should provide support for judges, court managers and staff, and lawyers to receive regularly recurring education on time standards and caseflow management through in-person and remote learning

⁹⁷ *Trial Court Performance Standards With Commentary*, *supra*, note 84, at Section 4.

⁹⁸ See National Consortium for Court Functional Standards, "Court-Specific Standards," www.ncsc.org/services-and-experts/technology-tools/court-specific-standards.aspx.

programs, whether provided at the local, regional, statewide, or national level.⁹⁹

Technical assistance. In addition to providing information on how to manage caseload, state court leaders should also provide means for individual courts and their justice partners to receive affirmative assistance with how to do it. This may be done by technical assistance programs operated by the state court administrator's office, involving judges and court managers with recognized skills, knowledge and experience in caseload management. In addition, assistance may be provided through state-level grants, support for grants from the State Justice Institute or other funding sources, or support for individual court engagement of consultants with expertise in caseload management.

B. Individual Court Actions

Whatever may be the difference in circumstances from one court to another, the provision of timely and affordable justice in compliance with time standards should be an integral part of the management culture of each court. Both in terms of customer service and internal operating procedures, a court should make compliance with time standards an important indicator of its performance.¹⁰⁰ To reinforce this, the court should make timely and affordable justice a matter of its express court policy, as reflected in the adoption, publication and consistent enforcement of a caseload management plan emphasizing early and

Promoting Use and Compliance in Individual Courts

In each judicial district or individual trial jurisdiction, caseload management and compliance with time standards should be a matter of court policy and accountability. Each judicial district or individual trial court should express its policy through:

- The adoption and publication of a caseload management plan developed in consultation with lawyers and other key stakeholders.
- Provision of local education programs.
- Regular reports to state court leaders and the public on performance under the plan in terms of the time standards.

The plan should indicate the means by which the court will exercise early and continuous control of cases, including

- Use of reports from the case information system to monitor the age and status of cases on their dockets from initiation through critical litigation stages to conclusion.
- Early court intervention to screen cases for prompt disposition, alternatives to adversarial adjudication, differentiated case management, and scheduling of discovery and other pretrial events.
- Emphasis on meaningful pretrial court events and early attention to prospects for disposition by non-trial means.
- Provision of credible trial dates, including consistent application of a court policy limiting continuances.
- Effective management of jury and nonjury trials.
- Ensure compliance with court orders
- Management of petitions to modify court orders when the court has continuing jurisdiction over a matter.

continuous court control of case progress from initiation to conclusion.

Leadership and compliance with local court policy.

In any court of two or more judges, there should be reasonably consistent application of caseload management

⁹⁹ This may be done with assistance as needed from such organizations as the National Judicial College, the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts, the National Association for Court Management, the National Association of State Judicial Education, other national organizations, or colleges and universities.

¹⁰⁰ *Achieving High Performance*, *supra*, note 87.

practices and procedures from one judge to the next. Individual judges should be fully accountable to comply with court policy to the greatest extent possible consistent with their obligation to do justice in individual cases. They should actively enforce reasonable compliance by other case participants with caseflow management requirements. When compliance with such requirements cannot be accomplished by an individual judge in individual cases, it should be the responsibility of the chief or presiding judge of a court to confer with the judge and leaders of court-related organizations (such as the prosecutor's office or public defender's office) to address legitimate concerns and promote compliance with caseflow management requirements.

The impact of court leadership and key stakeholders developing coordinated case management policies and practices is not limited solely to the timeliness of case dispositions. It has significant ramifications for the effective and efficient use of limited public resources as well.¹⁰¹ For example, a 2009 study of felony cases in a mid-sized urban jurisdiction identified one case that closed in 2008 that had 78 scheduled events, and another that had 72 scheduled events. Based on the salaries and fringe benefits of judges, prosecutors, public defenders, uniformed law enforcement officers, prisoner transport staff, and support personnel in all of the organizations involved in the criminal court process, the extra scheduled events in those two cases

alone may have cost the jurisdiction the full-time equivalent of an extra prosecutor or public defender attorney.¹⁰²

Similarly, a 2010 study of criminal and juvenile case processing in a multi-county district including a large urban court, showed that not having meaningful court dates for pretrial conferences and trials in felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile delinquency cases cost the court and its justice partners about \$7 million in personnel time each year, and that the reduction of personnel time from the adoption and implementation of effective caseflow management would yield the equivalent of having two more judges, about ten more line prosecutors, and ten more assistant public defenders, four more courtroom clerks, four more corrections and juvenile detention officers, ten more law enforcement officers, and more support staff for the court, prosecution, public defenders and law enforcement agencies.¹⁰³

The same findings held true in a less-populous jurisdiction. A 2011 study to improve the efficiency of the trial court process concluded that early and continuous court control of criminal case progress would reduce the average monthly population of the jail by almost 10%, and that it would result in a reduction of the number of scheduled criminal court events by about-25%, so that the court, the prosecutor, and the public defender would have more time available to deal more fully with criminal cases needing attention.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰¹ Ostrom and Hanson, *supra*, note 7, at 105.

¹⁰² D.C. Steelman, *Improving Criminal Caseflow Management* (NCSC Technical Assistance Report (Denver, CO; NCSC, March 2009).

¹⁰³ D. C. Steelman and J. L. Meadows, *Ten Steps to Achieve More Meaningful Criminal Pretrial Conferences* (NCSC, May 2010).

¹⁰⁴ D.C. Steelman, I. Keilitz, M.B. Kirven, N. Raaen, and L. Murphy, *Twelve Steps to Enhance the Efficiency of Court Operations in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania* (Denver, CO: NCSC, April 2011).

Published caseload management plan. When a court has decided on the course it will take to maintain timely case disposition, it should articulate its program in a caseload management plan that is published, perhaps by administrative order of the court. The plan should give details about the caseload management techniques that will be employed, include any forms (such as case information sheets to be filed with cases to facilitate differentiated case management), address overall and intermediate time standards, and present a transition plan for achieving the time standards if the court has a pre-existing backlog problem.¹⁰⁵ Having a published plan shows the court's commitment to caseload management, and it serves as a reference for the court and other case participants.

The process of preparing and reviewing drafts of the plan can serve as a means to identify detailed problems and to think through what will be the main tasks, who will be the key individual persons and what will be their specific roles and responsibilities, and the target dates for accomplishment of implementation steps. It is also an opportunity to engage the perspectives and energies of the court's justice partners, including the bar; the court requires the commitment of numerous entities and individual lawyers to accomplish the goal of timely case resolution across all case types. Once completed, the plan can be a key reference for those who seek to understand what the court seeks to accomplish, when and how. Finally, it can serve as

a reference in the evaluation of the implementation effort, as the document in which the goals and expectations for the caseload-management improvement program are set forth.¹⁰⁶

If caseloads are to be managed effectively in the court, it must be clear who is responsible for their management. The plan for caseload management and its operational implementation should set forth unambiguous lines of accountability. Time standards and goals provide one measure of accountability; specific assignment of responsibility to persons in particular positions is another effective mechanism. If one of the court's problems is a large backlog of pending cases that cannot be addressed within an acceptable period of time, then the improvement plan should include steps for backlog reduction. Once the backlog in the court's prior pending inventory is reduced to more manageable proportions, it should be an ongoing objective of the court to keep its pending inventory at a manageable level.¹⁰⁷

Monitoring status of cases and dockets. To translate "time standards" and "caseload management" from concepts into actual court practice and performance, judges must actually *do* the activity of managing case progress with the aid of court managers. In its simplest terms, "doing" active management involves monitoring the status of cases and dockets in view of overall and intermediate time

¹⁰⁵ See American Bar Association, *Standards Relating to Trial Courts, 1992 Edition*, Section 2.54A; IAALS, *A Roadmap for Reform: Civil Caseload Management Guideline* (2009), [www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/civil_caseload_management_guideline .pdf](http://www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/civil_caseload_management_guideline.pdf)

¹⁰⁶ For a recent guide to evaluation of civil rule and caseload management initiatives, see IAALS, *21st Century Civil Justice System: A Roadmap for Reform* (2010), www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pdf/MeasuringInnovationforWeb.pdf (a joint product of IAALS and NCSC).

¹⁰⁷ *Changing Times in Trial Courts*, *supra*, note 85, at. 203-204.

standards, and then taking steps to assure that the actions by attorneys and other participants in specific cases actually meet the expectations set forth in time standards and court orders. Using information for monitoring thus provides the management nexus between the expectations reflected in time standards and the action of judges, court managers and others to see that dockets are current and that individual cases progress to just outcomes without undue delay and wasted time.

Early and continuous court control of case progress.

The essence of caseflow management is for the court to intervene early and then to exercise ongoing control of the movement of cases. It is the court's responsibility to see that justice is done in individual cases, to protect citizens from arbitrary government action, to assure the rights and responsibilities of parties to litigation, and to protect the best interests of children and vulnerable adults. This cannot be done effectively if court processes are controlled by advocates rather than by the court as the disinterested participant in such processes. Court control assures the quality of our adversary process while promoting efficient use of the finite public resources of courts and court-related organizations.¹⁰⁸ Recent surveys of trial attorneys show that the bar in general supports early and active judicial control of the pace of litigation.¹⁰⁹

“Early court control” should begin with continuous court attention to the age and status of cases from initiation, as is implied in the model time standards. Whether by rule or scheduled hearing, early court intervention should also include any necessary “triage” efforts soon after initiation to identify cases suitable for prompt disposition; referral to diversion, problem-solving court programs, or alternative dispute resolution; and entry of court orders to schedule completion of any discovery and subsequent court events. Where alternatives to adjudication are used, there should be suitable management of such programs to make certain that they promote, rather than hinder, the achievement of prompt and affordable justice.

Differentiated case management. Within the broad case types covered by the model time standards, it is predictable that many cases will be relatively simple and straightforward, while a small portion will be so complex and difficult that their timely resolution will require considerable attention from judges, lawyers and other case participants. Differentiated case management (DCM) is a way for a well-performing court to distinguish among individual cases in terms of the amount of time and attention they need so that there can be proportional allocation of finite resources by the court and other case participants.¹¹⁰ DCM also serves as a court management tool to assure compliance

¹⁰⁸ See, *Efficiency, Timeliness, and Quality*, *supra*, note 7.

¹⁰⁹ Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), *Excess and Access: Consensus on the American Civil Justice Landscape* (2011), www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/ExcessandAccess.pdf; IAALS Final Report on the Joint Project of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) Task Force on Discovery and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (2009); www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/ACTL-IAALS%20Final%20Report%20rev%208-4-10.pdf; IAALS, *Survey of the Arizona Bench & Bar on the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure* (2010), www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pdf/IAALSArizonaSurveyReport.pdf; IAALS, *Surveys of the Colorado Bench & Bar* (2010), www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pdf/16.1FINALForWeb.pdf; IAALS, *Civil Litigation Survey of Chief Legal Officers and General Counsel* (2010), www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pubs/GeneralCounselSurvey.pdf; IAALS, *Survey of the Oregon Bench & Bar on the Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure* (2010), www.du.edu/legalinstitute/pdf/IAALSOregonSurvey.pdf.

¹¹⁰ On DCM as a management strategy for proportional treatment of cases, see *Achieving High Performance*, *supra*, note 87, at pp. 13-14.

with the model time standards, providing a framework for 75 percent and 90 percent of all cases in any case type to be disposed with relative expedition, while allowing specially-tailored treatment of the most difficult one to two percent of such cases.

The operation of a DCM program depends on early court cognizance of each case – at the moment of filing (or even before in some kinds of cases, such as delinquency cases and many criminal matters). Based on case information sheets filed by parties, the judge or a court staff member can screen cases for complexity based on criteria established by the court. As a result of the case-screening assessments, cases are assigned to different case-management tracks. Each track has its own specific intermediate event and time standards, as well as different management procedures. There is continuous court monitoring of case progress and compliance with deadlines by parties and counsel.¹¹¹ The level of judge involvement in any particular case is determined by its specific track assignment.¹¹²

Meaningful court events and prospects for non-trial disposition. Trials in contested matters are the hallmark of American justice, and they consume an enormous amount of time for judges, court staff and lawyers. In the American court process, however, most cases of any kind (often 95 percent or more) are disposed by negotiation or other non-trial means. While court rules of procedure govern

the preparation of cases for trial, effective management to assure prompt and affordable outcomes in the court process requires attention to achieving non-trial dispositions at the earliest opportunity consistent with justice in the individual circumstances of each case.

To do this, the court must create the realistic expectation that court events will occur as scheduled and that they will be “meaningful” -- in other words, that their expected purpose will be achieved and that they will otherwise contribute substantially to progress toward disposition. Professor Ernest Friesen has famously observed that it is lawyers who settle cases, and not judges; lawyers settle cases when they are prepared; and lawyers prepare for significant and meaningful court events.¹¹³ Providing meaningful court events thus promotes timely justice by assuring that lawyers and parties will be prepared.

To make events meaningful, it is important to address problems of discovery and requests for continuances. Lawyers must be reasonably confident that they have discoverable information required to grasp the essential nature of a case in order to negotiate with opposing counsel without undue risk of malpractice or ineffective assistance of counsel. Unless the court gives timely attention to legitimate discovery issues, the pretrial process in cases may be characterized by frequent rescheduling of court events based on requests for continuances. If events are continued

¹¹¹ In some categories of cases, including marital dissolution, child protection and probate guardianships or conservatorships, there can be a requirement for substantial court activity after the initial entry of judgment. For such cases, post-judgment DCM may also be critically important. See below, **Court events and compliance monitoring after entry of judgments.**

¹¹² See Holly Bakke and Maureen Solomon, “Case Differentiation: An Approach to Individualized Case Management,” 73 *Judicature* (No. 1, 1989) 17.

¹¹³ See Ernest Friesen, “Cures for Court Congestion,” 23 *Judges’ Journal* (No. 4, 1984) 4.

without good cause, then the emotional and financial costs of litigation may be increased for parties because of the need to prepare for and participate in additional court appearances.

Credible trial dates. If it is far more likely than not that a court will be prepared to commence a trial on the first-scheduled trial date, then counsel and parties will begin preparation for trial in time to decide whether to go to trial or to reach a negotiated resolution. Since most cases are disposed by plea or settlement, success in providing reasonably firm trial dates has the effect of producing earlier pleas and settlements, while at the same time encouraging trial preparation in cases that cannot be resolved by other means.

National research shows that a court's ability to provide firm trial dates is associated with shorter times to disposition in civil and felony cases in urban trial courts.¹¹⁴ Furthermore, a court's ability to provide a firm trial date in felony cases has been found to be associated with shorter *civil* jury trial case processing times.¹¹⁵

Effective caseflow management calls for a court to take four steps to provide firm and credible trial dates.¹¹⁶ First, the court should maximize dispositions *before* cases are put

on a trial list. Second, the court should have realistic trial list setting levels that avoid both listing too few cases and having excessive "overbooking" in terms of the portion of cases that will be settled or that must be continued for good cause rather than being tried. Third, the court must create some "backup judge" capacity, so that there is a judge available to help a colleague with two cases ready for trial. Finally, the court should adopt, publish and consistently enforce a written policy to limit continuances without a showing of good cause and in the interest of justice.

Trial management. Although only a small proportion of cases actually goes to trial, many judges spend from one-third to one-half of their work time conducting jury trials.¹¹⁷ Nonjury trials are generally not as time-consuming as jury trials, but they take as much or more of a judge's time in court than almost any other non-trial courtroom event.¹¹⁸

Research shows that a large majority of judges and attorneys find no lack of fairness or justice in the courts where trials are actively managed by the court so they can be conducted more rapidly. Judges, civil attorneys and criminal prosecutors overwhelmingly consider it appropriate for judges to control trial length. While criminal defense lawyers expressed the most concern about judicial

¹¹⁴ See *Examining Court Delay*, *supra*, note 5 (1989), Figure 14, p. 38 (civil cases), and Figure 26, p. 87 (felony cases), and related text. Having firm trial dates has a especially strong correlation with shorter disposition times in felony cases. See *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation*, *supra*, note 5, at Figure 2.7, p. 23. Recent research has shown the same to be true for civil cases in the federal courts. IAALS, *Civil Case Processing in the Federal District Courts: A 21st Century Analysis* (2009) www.du.edu/legalinstitute/form-PACER-success.html.

¹¹⁵ *Reexamining the Pace of Litigation*, *supra*, note 5, at Figure 4.1 and text on p. 63.

¹¹⁶ *Caseflow Management*, *supra*, note 11, at 7-11.

¹¹⁷ B. Ostrom and C. Kauder (eds.), *Examining the Work of State Courts, 1996: A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project* (1997), pp. 25, 30 and 57.

¹¹⁸ In a multistate study of trials in nine courts, researchers found that median times for civil nonjury trials were from 4 to 6½ hours, and that average times for criminal nonjury trials ranged from 1 to 8½ hours. See Dale Sipes and M. E. Oram, *On Trial: The Length of Civil and Criminal Trials* (1989), pp. 14-15 and 19-20.

management of trials, many of the criminal defense lawyers in courts with longer trials expressed support for greater judicial controls.¹¹⁹ The implications of these findings are significant:

- The variability in trial times from one court to another suggests that, through appropriate actions, judges can make trials shorter.
- Making trials shorter need not defeat the court's responsibility to do justice.
- Judicial management of trials has considerable support among members of the bar as well as judges.
- Shorter trials mean that judges are available for other pretrial or trial events – in effect, increasing the availability of judicial resources.
- Shorter trials mean that trial schedules can be more predictable, thereby reinforcing the court's ability to provide credible trial dates.

In 1992, the American Bar Association adopted trial management standards recommended by the National Conference of State Trial Judges. The basic premise of these standards is that judges should aggressively exercise their responsibility to manage trial proceedings.¹²⁰ As part of overall caseflow management, the ABA standards observe that trial management should involve a set of steps. These include (a) preparing in advance for trial; (b) scheduling to start trials on time and provide adequate time for them; (c) managing jury selection; (d) maintaining trial momentum; and (e) establishing and enforcing time limits.¹²¹

Court events and compliance monitoring after entry

of judgment. There is a large array of proceedings in a trial court that occur after the entry of an initial disposition, including:

- Motions in divorce cases to enforce or modify custody, visitation and support.
- Placement review, permanency planning, termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings after findings of abuse or neglect.
- Proceedings in probate, guardianship and conservatorship cases after contested or uncontested appointment of a fiduciary.
- Criminal and delinquency compliance reviews to ensure participation in and completion of treatment regimens and adjudication of probation violation allegations.
- Petitions for post conviction review.
- Child support enforcement proceedings after paternity or divorce decisions.
- Proceedings to enforce civil and small claims judgments.
- Enforcement of monetary sanctions in criminal and traffic cases.

Such events as these can consume a great deal of time for parties, judges, court personnel and attorneys. In fact, some types of cases are overwhelmingly post-judgment in nature. To ensure that timely justice is done in these cases, as well as to allocate court resources effectively and efficiently, it is desirable to give appropriate caseflow management attention to post-judgment court events. The steps a court should take to manage cases after judgment:

¹¹⁹ *Id.* at 66-67.

¹²⁰ ABA, *Trial Management Standards* (1992).

¹²¹ In addition to the *Trial Management Standards*, see H.J. Zelliff, "Hurry Up and Wait: A Nuts and Bolts Approach to Avoiding Wasted Time in Trial, 28 *Judges' Journal* (No. 3, Summer 1989) 18; and B. Mahoney, *et al.*, *Planning and Conducting a Course on 'Managing Trials Effectively': A Guide for Judicial Educators* (Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1993).

- Continuing to monitor the status of cases in a post-judgment status as long as there is an ongoing compliance obligation.
- In cases involving vulnerable adults or children, such as in guardianship or conservatorship cases, exercise of “differentiated compliance monitoring” if there is a large estate, a family dispute, or other situations involving a risk of harm to a ward or beneficiary calling for more active oversight.¹²²
- Scheduling post-judgment court events to occur in a timely manner, with management of case progress following the same principles as pretrial management, including the exercise of continuous control and the realistic scheduling of meaningful court events.
- Developing and applying time standards such as the model time standards for post-conviction review to guide monitoring and ensure timely case progress to determination.
- Managing the involvement of any party in other cases, as when a new misdemeanor charge in a limited-jurisdiction court may constitute a probation violation in the general-jurisdiction court in the same district, or when a family in divorce proceedings is also involved in a child protection case.

A final element of management after initial disposition involves the determination of when all court work is done in a case. In a civil case, final closure may depend on the filing of a notice that the matter has been “settled and satisfied.”

4. Relationship between Time Standards and Resources

Courts must have an adequate and stable source of funding to execute their constitutional and statutory duties: to protect citizens’ constitutional rights, to provide procedural due process, to provide timely justice, and to preserve the rule of law. As a matter of principle, “Courts should be funded so that cases can be resolved in accordance with recognized time standards by judges and court personnel functioning in accordance with adopted workload standards.”¹²³

Resources for Providing Prompt and Affordable Justice

In order to dispose of the court’s caseload within established time standards, courts must have a sufficient number of judicial officers and administrative and courtroom staff, and must have the facilities, equipment and technology needed to schedule, hear, monitor and dispose of cases. The inability of courts to dispose of cases within the adopted time standards can be used as an indicator of the need for additional resources, but may also be the result of ineffective case management practices. Therefore, courts should use their inability to resolve cases within their time standards as justification for their request for additional resources only after they have assured themselves that they are managing their available resources in an efficient and effective manner.

¹²² See *National Probate Court Standards*, *supra*, note 69, at Standards 3.3.14 and 3.4.15, relating to the periodic filing of reports by guardians or conservators, *at least* on an annual basis.

¹²³ National Center for State Courts. *Principles for Judicial Administration: Governance, Case Administration, Core Functions and Dispositional alternatives, and Funding*. January, 2011 Draft.

¹²⁴ *Id.*

While the judiciary is a separate branch of government, it cannot function completely independently. Courts depend upon elected legislative bodies to determine their level of funding. Judicial leaders have the responsibility to justify what funding level is necessary and to establish administrative structures and management processes that demonstrate they are using the taxpayers' money wisely.¹²⁴

Courts need an adequate number of judges in order to hear and dispose of cases in accordance with the adopted time standards. The failure to comply with standards can be an indicator that the court does not have a sufficient number of judges. However as suggested in the commentary to Standard 3.B, to justify a request for more judges, judicial leadership must first be able to demonstrate that they have looked at other potential reasons for the court's backlog:

- Judicial leadership could compare the caseload management plan in the court that is not in compliance with those that are in compliance to determine whether the court is exercising the necessary early and continuous control of cases. See Standard 3B on page 42.
- Judicial leadership could compare the number of total cases disposed of per judge in the court having a backlog with the dispositions per judge in the other courts in the jurisdiction.
- Judicial leadership could contract for a weighted caseload study to examine how much time a judge needs to devote to each type of case in order to identify the number of judges needed to provide quality dispositions of the number and type of cases in the court.

- Judicial leadership could use the weighted caseload study to determine whether the judges in the court are working to capacity and by examining whether other courts in the jurisdiction are providing quality resolution of cases while devoting less judge-time to the same number and type of cases. [fn For example, If judges in one judicial district in a state take 400 minutes to handle a serious felony that their colleagues in a similarly situated judicial district next door can handle in 200 minutes, or if there is a great difference between the two districts in the percentage of pending or disposed cases over the time standards, then it is important for court leaders to look more closely at the processes and practices in those courts. Unless the 400-minute judges had a disproportionately large number of murder cases, or had several judicial positions open during the assessment period, or had a much larger geographical area to cover (causing judges to have a lot more “windshield time”), or some other sensible explanation, then it appears that the differences between the 400-minute judicial district and the 200-minute judicial district can be attributed to caseload management issues.
- Judicial leadership should ensure that the court system is organized to minimize redundancies in court structures, procedures and personnel. Every effort should be taken to avoid overlapping or duplicative jurisdiction among the courts.¹²⁵

Judicial officers are not the only resource that courts need in order to meet time standards. The clerks' offices need an adequate number of administrative and clerical staff and the equipment necessary to enable them to open cases, make docket entries, store and retrieve files, schedule and notice hearings, and prepare orders. Courtrooms must be

¹²⁵ *Id.*

available, with sufficient support staff and equipment to provide security and to make the record. Courts must have the technology needed to make the time of the judges and staff productive and to provide judges and staff with the management reports that will enable them to identify which cases need their attention.

As with deciding whether to request additional judges, judicial leaders should be in a position of demonstrating that they have thoroughly examined whether they are making the best use of their available staff, whether court procedures are simple, clear and streamlined, and whether they are making the best use of their equipment and technology before they decide that they must request additional resources to reduce the backlog.

Measuring compliance with established time standards is a critical foundation for building evidence-based requests for additional resources. It ties budget proposals to the mission of meeting agreed-upon goals.¹²⁶ Courts that adopt model time standards, measure compliance, take steps to promote compliance, and take steps to effectively govern, organize, administer and manage their court system are well positioned to request and justify the resources needed to enable the courts to hear and dispose of cases in a timely manner.

¹²⁶ *CourTools*, *supra*, note 87.



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