

FILED
ARIZONA SUPERIOR COURT
2020 MAR 25 PM 2:54
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PINAL

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
CHANGE IN FAMILY COURT PROCEEDINGS) 2020 - 00028
TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD)
OF COVID-19)

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Arizona in and for Pinal County is the Chief Judicial Executive Officer of the County and has administrative supervision over all courts in Pinal County pursuant to Article VI of the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2017-79; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Arizona issued Administrative Order(s) 2020-47 and 2020-48 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the general population;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that commencing March 25, 2020 to April 10, 2020, (unless extended by the court) the following procedures shall be adopted in all pending and newly filed Family Court matters: **There shall be no in person family court proceedings**. Consequently, all Family Court proceedings shall be conducted telephonically or shall be continued, as determined by the assigned judicial officer.

Exceptions:

- A. Ex-parte petitions for Orders of Protection and ex-parte emergency temporary orders motions will be conducted in person.
- B. Hearings on emergency temporary motions and contested order of protection hearings shall be conducted in person.

For these few exceptions to the "no in-person" proceedings rule, arrangements are being developed to limit physical exposure to the other participants.

Waiver of the Litigants' and or Counsel's Presence:

Any Family Court matter now set (**excluding the above exceptions**) or to be scheduled on a Family Court calendar shall be converted to a non-appearance hearing. Neither the parties or the attorneys shall appear in person unless approved by the court.

In lieu of an appearance hearing, the parties shall file a Joint Pretrial Statement, providing confirmation that the parties have complied with Rule 49 of the Rules of Family Law Procedure or a joint statement regarding the issue(s) set for review. When possible, that statement shall be filed at least 3 business days before the hearing

For good cause, a party may request to convert any of those hearings to an appearance hearing by notifying the division no less than 3 business days prior to the hearing start time. The Court retains discretion to deny an appearance hearing, as the Court deems appropriate.


Consistent with this “no in-person” proceedings rule, a party and/or attorney may appear at any of these hearings telephonically, or by other virtual communications. Any party and/or attorney seeking to appear virtually must contact the assigned division to coordinate the virtual appearance with the other party(s).

Conciliation Services: Until further ordered, on-site, or “walk-in” expedited services will be suspended. All Conciliation services will be conducted telephonically, on-line, or by other virtual communications.

Motions to Continue. Any party requesting a continuance of any hearing and/or trial date must file a written Motion to Continue, or Stipulation to Continue. If there is no stipulation between the parties, any motion to continue must include the opposing party’s position or efforts taken to determine their position.

Seating/Spectators. The Court reserves the right to limit the number of persons in the courtroom to comply with CDC guidance regarding the use of social distancing to control the spread of COVID-19. The Court may enforce this by prohibiting people from sitting in specified seats to maintain appropriate distance between people. To the extent that the number of persons in the room may exceed CDC guidance, the Court will grant priority to persons participating in the hearing being held by the Court. The Court may request that other persons wait in the lobby or hallways pending completion of the hearing.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020.



Honorable Stephen F. McCarville
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court
Copies: Judges, Pinal County
Amanda Stanford, Clerk of the Court
Louis Andersen, County Manager
Todd Zweig, Court Administration
Court Administration
Elsa Robbins, Chief Deputy
Nikki Felix, Business Operations Director