

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

In the Matter of:)	
)	
WAIVER OF DETENTION OFFICERS)	Administrative Directive
HIRING QUALIFICATIONS MINIMUM)	No. 2026 – <u>06</u>
AGE FOR PINAL COUNTY JUVENILE)	
COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT)	
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A.R.S. § 8-203(B) provides, "The director of juvenile court services shall recommend the appointment of deputy probation officers, *detention personnel*, other personnel and office assistants as the director deems necessary." A.R.S. § 8-305(A) requires the county to maintain a juvenile detention center and ensure appropriate staffing to safely detain juveniles in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

State of Arizona Juvenile Detention Standards establishes the minimum hiring qualifications for juvenile detention personnel, including an age requirement of 21 years old.

Pursuant to the Court’s administrative authority, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Pinal County requests a waiver of the minimum age hiring requirement for Juvenile Detention Officers. This request is advanced as a pilot initiative to address sustained staffing shortages and turnover, while maintaining operational safety, compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act, and adherence to established Juvenile Detention Standards.

The waiver will permit Pinal County Juvenile Court Services to hire select 19 and 20-years old Juvenile Detention Officers candidates into a Controlled Entry Pathway with enhanced screening, supervision, training, and accountability measures.

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

IT IS ORDERED that a waiver of State of Arizona Detention Standards Hiring Qualifications Section 1 A 2.1 is granted regarding the minimum age requirements allowing Pinal County Juvenile Court Services to hire select personnel for the position of juvenile detention officer.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this waiver is effective on and after the date of signature.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2026.

DAVID K. BYERS
Administrative Director of the Courts