IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
AUTHORIZING AN ELECTRONIC	)	Administrative Order
SEARCH WARRANT PILOT PROGRAM	)	No. 2022 - 189
IN PINAL COUNTY	)	
	)	
	)	

The Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Pinal County proposes to pilot the exchange of search warrants, affidavits, and returns by law enforcement officers and the court by means of secured electronic transmission. The court anticipates that the electronic exchange of search warrant documentation will significantly reduce costs of materials and manpower and the time required to issue a search warrant.

A.R.S. § 13-3914 authorizes courts to issue search warrants upon information communicated electronically to the court. A.R.S. § 13-3915 authorizes the court to transmit approved warrants by telefacsimile. Additional authorization is necessary to implement electronic exchange procedures for all search warrant documentation.

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

IT IS ORDERED authorizing a pilot program in the Superior Court in Pinal County for receiving and signing search warrant requests, affidavits, and returns, administering oaths, and issuing search warrants authorized by law electronically pursuant to policies and procedures to be established by the Presiding Judge in Pinal County, following approval of the Chief Justice.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judge shall establish a reliable system for exchanging electronic documents between the court and law enforcement agencies participating in the program.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a law enforcement officer may sign the affidavit for search warrant electronically and the judge may also sign the search warrant using eBench. The electronic copy will be considered the original.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that returns on search warrants issued through this pilot program are to be made to the issuing court and that the officer may make a return as required in A.R.S. §§ 13-3918 and 13-3921 to the magistrate either in person or by electronic means in a manner established by the Presiding Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the pilot program shall run for a period of two years, beginning on January 1, 2023.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judge will submit a report to the Arizona Judicial Council on the effectiveness of the pilot program in December 2023.

Dated this 19th day of December, 2022.

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ROBERT BRUTINEL
Chief Justice