

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

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In the Matter of: )  
 )  
AUTHORIZING A PILOT PROGRAM ) Administrative Order  
TO EVALUATE THE FAMILY COURT ) No. 2026 - 11  
PATHWAYS TOOL FOR USE IN )  
ARIZONA )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The Committee on Family Court, acting in its advisory role, has recommended evaluating the effectiveness of a triage model for family court cases. Assessing triage tools aligns with priorities in the Arizona Judicial Branch’s 2024–2029 Strategic Agenda, *...and Justice for All*.

The Family Court Pathways Tool assesses cases at filing and identifies the appropriate level of court intervention and services, the aim of which is to promote children’s best interests, reduce conflict, and support efficient use of court and community resources. A pilot study has shown the tool aligns with valid and reliable family risk assessment measures, and programs in other states show that pathways approaches help courts respond more quickly in high-risk cases, provide targeted support, increase satisfaction among litigants and courts, strengthen case processes, and improve use of judicial resources.

Through a Family Court Pathways Pilot Program (“pilot program”), this Court will evaluate the tool’s effectiveness in selected courts to determine its impact on case management and outcomes for Arizona families and whether broader implementation is warranted.

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

IT IS ORDERED authorizing the Superior Court in Yavapai and Yuma Counties (“pilot courts”) to participate in the pilot program to validate the Family Court Pathways Tool for use in Arizona, in collaboration with other stakeholders as necessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the presiding judges of the Superior Court in Yavapai and Yuma Counties are authorized to issue orders as necessary to implement the pilot program in their counties and make modifications as needed to facilitate its objectives.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the pilot courts shall review their initial project plan with the Committee on Family Court. Their plan shall include, but is not limited to, the following components: Objectives; Scope; Success Criteria, Measurements; Timeline; and overview of plans for Data Collection and Evaluation. Given the statewide significance of the initiative, the pilot courts shall additionally provide periodic updates to the Committee on Family Court throughout

the duration of the pilot program for purposes of feedback and evaluation that will inform scalable, statewide implementation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the pilot courts shall submit annual progress reports to the Arizona Judicial Council, at the Council's December 2026 and December 2027 meetings. At the conclusion of the project, the pilot courts shall present a comprehensive final report to the Arizona Judicial Council no later than March 31, 2029, outlining lessons learned, improvement opportunities, and recommendations regarding full-scale implementation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Administrative Director may assign staff as necessary to support and monitor the pilot program, promote Strategic Agenda goals, and ensure alignment with statewide initiatives currently underway or in development.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the pilot program shall remain in effect until December 31, 2028, unless otherwise ordered by this Court.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2026.

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ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER  
Chief Justice