

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:

MANDATORY JUDICIAL EDUCATION
PROGRAM ON INITIAL APPEARANCE
HEARINGS

Administrative Order
No. 2026 – 95
(Replacing Administrative
Order No. 2017-101)

The Task Force on Pretrial Risk Assessment and Form IV recommended that “[a]ll judicial officers conducting initial appearance hearings should be required to receive training directly related to the release process before conducting initial appearance hearings.” *Report and Recommendations June 2023 at 13*. Implementation of this recommendation led to development of the training module entitled “Informed Pretrial Release,” which has been available since March 2025 to all members of the judiciary. The training module is designed to empower a judicial officer conducting an initial appearance with a comprehensive understanding of pretrial release decisions, focusing on balancing the rights of individuals accused of crimes with the critical goals of court appearance and community safety.

To more fully implement the recommendation, newly appointed judicial officers will be required to complete the training module prior to presiding over an initial appearance hearing.

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

IT IS ORDERED that any judicial officer taking office after the date of this order must view the “Informed Pretrial Release” training module prior to presiding over an initial appearance hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this requirement applies to both full-time or part-time judicial officers, including justices of the peace, municipal court magistrates, and pro tempore judges, who may be called upon to preside over an initial appearance hearing in the course of their duties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that requests for exemption from any training required by this Order shall be submitted in writing to the Chief Justice and will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Administrative Order replace Administrative Order No. 2017-101.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2026.

ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER
Chief Justice