

**SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF NONLAWYER LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFIED
LEGAL DOCUMENT PREPARER:**

No. LDP-NFC-24-L011 and 24-L012

**SERVICIOS PRIVADOS LEGALES DE
ARIZONA, LLC**

FINAL ORDER - DEFAULT

Certificate Number [REDACTED]

CHRISTIAN SOTO,

Certificate Number [REDACTED]

On April 29, 2026, the Board of Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers (“Board”), through the Certification and Licensing Division (“Division”), pursuant to Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (“ACJA”) §7-201(H)(10), filed a Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing in the above-captioned matter with the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the Honorable Lisa Vandenberg (“Judge Vandenberg”).

Initially, the Division processed the Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing on April 2, 2026, and arranged for Christian Soto (“Soto”) and Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC (“Servicios Privados”) to be served by process server. Soto and Servicios Privados were formally served on April 7, 2026, and failed to file an Answer to Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing and did not request a hearing. Due to a filing oversight, the Division did not file the Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing with the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge on April 2, 2026, as intended. The filing of the Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing with the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge on April

1 29, 2026, does not affect the 15-day requirement for Soto and Servicios Privados to file
2 an Answer and request a hearing because Soto and Servicios Privados were formally
3 served on April 7, 2026.

4 The Board finds Soto and Servicios Privados in default and the Factual Allegations
5 of Misconduct contained in the Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to
6 Hearing, attached as **Exhibit A**, are deemed admitted pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(11).
7 The Board holds the authority to proceed with this action under ACJA §7-201(D)(5)(c).
8

9 JURISDICTION

10 Pursuant to ACJA §7-201(D)(1)(a) the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative
11 Office of the Courts (“AOC”), is responsible for administering the Board of Nonlawyer
12 Legal Service Providers and for adopting rules for the implementation and administration
13 of all certification programs, including minimum qualifications, certification and
14 disciplinary processes and a code of conduct.
15

16 Pursuant to ACJA §7-201(D)(5)(c)(1)(g) and ACJA §7-208(D)(4)), the AOC’s
17 regulatory boards make all final decisions on the disposition of a complaint.

18 Pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(10), the Board, through the Division, served Notice
19 of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing to Soto and Servicios Privados on
20 April 02, 2026. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter because Soto was certified in
21 Arizona as a legal document preparer on January 29, 2013 and his certificate has been
22 renewed without interruption and remains active. Servicios Privados was certified in
23 Arizona as a legal document preparer business entity on January 25, 2016, and its
24 certification has been renewed without interruption and remains active.
25

1 Pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(6) and 7-208(H), the matter was investigated, and
2 Soto and Servicios Privados were provided an opportunity to respond to the complaint,
3 participate in the investigation of the complaint, file an Answer to the Notice of Formal
4 Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing, and request a hearing.

5 **PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

6 A. On October 09, 2024, the Division received a complaint involving Soto and
7 Servicios Privados containing two allegations.

8 B. On October 17, 2024, the Division, via United States Postal Service Certified Mail
9 and via email to a valid point of contact, forwarded Soto and Servicios Privados a copy
10 of the complaint and notice of the ACJA §7-201(H)(3)(c) requirement that Soto and
11 Servicios Privados submit a written response to the complaint within thirty (30) days.
12 Division records confirm delivery of the mailing on October 23, 2024.

13 C. Soto and Servicios Privados provided a timely written response to the complaint
14 as required by ACJA §7-201(H)(3)(c).
15

16 D. The Division's investigation addressed the complaint allegations that:
17

18 1. Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC, prepared
19 legal documents that contained multiple errors and inaccurate and incomplete
20 content.

21 2. Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC, provided
22 legal advice during preparation of legal document.
23

24 E. On March 11, 2026, pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(5)(a)(3), Probable Cause
25 Evaluator Jeffrey Schrade entered a finding probable cause exists in Allegation 2, as

1 detailed in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review, and
2 Recommendation Report (“Investigation Summary”), in complaint numbers 24-L011
3 and 24-L012; and entered a finding that probable cause does not exist as to Allegation 1.

4 F. On March 31, 2026, the Board accepted the finding of the Probable Cause
5 Evaluator and entered a finding grounds for formal disciplinary action exists as to
6 Allegation 2 pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(6)(a). The particular sections of laws, court
7 rules, ACJA, and orders relevant to complaint numbers 24-L011 and 24-L012 are ACJA
8 §§7-201(F)(1), 7-201(H)(6)(a) and (k)(6),(7), and (8); ACJA §§7-208(F)(2), 7-
9 208(J)(1)(a), 7-208(J)(5)(a), (b), (c) and (d).
10

11 G. On April 07, 2026, Soto and Servicios Privados were formally served with a
12 Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing in complaint numbers 24-
13 L011 and 24-L012. Soto and Servicios Privados did not file an Answer to the Notice of
14 Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing and did not request a hearing.
15

16 FINDINGS OF FACTS

17 Soto and Servicios Privados, having failed to file an Answer, the Board finds Soto
18 and Servicios Privados in default and the Factual Allegations of Misconduct contained in
19 the Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing, as contained in **Exhibit**
20 **A**, are deemed admitted pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(11). On May 18, 2026, the Board
21 adopted the Factual Allegations of Misconduct contained in **Exhibit A** as the Findings
22 of Fact in this matter.
23

24 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

25

1 The Board adopts the Conclusions of Law contained in Exhibit A as the
2 Conclusions of Law in this matter.

3 **FINAL DECISION and ORDER**

4 Having adopted the above-referenced findings and conclusions, the Board hereby
5 orders the following disciplinary sanctions in complaint numbers 24-L011 and 24-L012:

- 6
7 **1. Issue a Censure to Christian Soto's individual certification and to Servicios**
8 **Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC's business entity certification.**
9 **2. Christian Soto will complete ten (10) additional hours of continuing**
10 **education within six (6) months of the executed Final Order.**

11 **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO FILE SPECIAL ACTION**

12 **Pursuant to ACJA § 7-201(H)(27), Christian Soto and Servicios Privados**
13 **Legales de Arizona, LLC may seek judicial review through a petition for a special**
14 **action within thirty-five (35) days after entry of this Order.**

15
16
17 DATED this 21st day of May, 2026.

18
19 
20 Paul Friedman, Vice Chair
21 Board of Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers
22
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25

1 A copy of the foregoing mailed and emailed this 22 day of May 2026, to:

2 Christian Soto
3 Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]

6 A copy of the foregoing emailed this 22 day of May 2026, to:

7 Eryn McCarthy
8 Section Chief Counsel
9 Agency Counsel Section
10 Office of the Arizona Attorney General
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]

13 Diane DeDea
14 Assistant Counsel
15 Arizona Supreme Court
16 Administrative Office of the Courts
17 Administrative Services Division
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

By:

Pasquale Fontana
Complaints and Audit Unit Manager
Certification and Licensing Division

EXHIBIT A



Supreme Court
STATE OF ARIZONA

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING DIVISION

1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 104
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3222
602-452-3378

April 2, 2026

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC.

Christian A. Soto



**Re: Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing
Complaint Nos. 24-L011 and 24-L012**

Dear Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC. and Christian A. Soto:

This letter is to inform you of the Board of Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers ("Board") action regarding the above-referenced complaints. On March 31, 2026, the Board, having reviewed the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review and Recommendation Report, entered the enclosed Order, finding that regulatory violations occurred in the above-referenced complaint number(s).

The Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing is enclosed for your review and contains time-sensitive information on your rights to request an evidentiary hearing. **You must file an Answer to this Notice of Formal Statement of Charges within fifteen (15) days after the date this Notice is served.**

The Answer shall be filed **electronically** with the Arizona Supreme Court Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, 1501 West Washington, Suite 102, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, at officepdj@courts.az.gov. **Do not mail your Answer.**

Filing must conform with the Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Administrative Order 2020-05 [AO 2020-05.pdf](#). **If you fail to file an Answer within the time provided and do not request a hearing, you are in default and the factual allegations in the formal charges are deemed admitted and the Bard may then determine the matter against Servicios Privados de Arizona, LLC and Christian Soto without further consideration.**

If you have questions, please contact the Division by email to complaints@courts.az.gov or by regular mail to the address above.

Sincerely,



Pasquale Fontana
Complaints and Audit Manager
Certification and Licensing Division

**SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF NONLAWYER LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFIED LEGAL
DOCUMENT PREPARER:**

**SERVICIOS PRIVADOS LEGALES DE
ARIZONA, LLC**

Certificate Number [REDACTED]

CHRISTIAN SOTO,
Certificate Number [REDACTED]

No. LDP- NFC- 24-L011 and 24-L012

**NOTICE OF FORMAL
STATEMENT of
CHARGES and RIGHT to
HEARING**

On March 11, 2026, pursuant to Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (“ACJA”) §7-201(H)(5)(a)(3), Probable Cause Evaluator Jeffrey Schrade entered a finding that probable cause does not exist as to Allegation 1 and entered a finding that probable cause exists as to Allegation 2, as detailed in Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review and Recommendation Report (“Investigation Summary”), in complaint numbers 24-L011 and 24-L012, attached as Exhibit A. The particular sections of laws, court rules, ACJA, and orders relevant to the alleged acts of misconduct are ACJA §§7-201(F)(1), 7-201(H)(6)(a) and (k)(6),(7), and (8); ACJA §§7-208(F)(2), 7-208(J)(1)(a), 7-208(J)(5)(a), (b), (c) and (d).

On March 30, 2026, the Board of Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers (“Board”) accepted the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and entered a finding grounds for formal disciplinary action exists involving Allegation 2, under ACJA § 7-201(H)(6) as detailed in the attached Investigation Summary.

The Board voted to issue a Censure to Christian Soto (“Soto”) and Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC (“Servicios Privados”). In addition, the Board voted to require Soto to complete ten (10) hours of Continuing Education within 6 months.

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JURISDICTION

Pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(10), the Board serves this Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing and provides notice to Soto and Servicios Privados that they have a right to request a hearing on the proposed disciplinary action against certificate numbers [REDACTED] (Soto) and [REDACTED] (Servicios Privados). The Board has jurisdiction over this matter as Soto was granted certification as a legal document preparer on January 28, 2013, and Servicios Privados was granted certification as a legal document preparer business entity on January 25, 2016. Soto's individual certification has been renewed without interruption and remains active through the current certification period which ends on June 30, 2027. Servicios Privados' business entity certification has been renewed without interruption and remains active through the current certification period which ends on June 30, 2027.

The complaint underlying this action was received during the period of Soto's and Servicios Privados' active certifications. Soto and Servicios Privados were provided with an opportunity to respond to the complaint and participate in the investigation of the complaint. The Board holds the authority to proceed with this action under ACJA §§7-201(D)(5)(c) and 7-201(H)(9).

ANSWER OF CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(11), Soto and Servicios Privados shall file an Answer to this Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing within fifteen (15) days after the date this Notice is served. The Answer shall comply with ACJA §7-201(H)(17) and Rule 8 of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure. Any defenses not raised in the Answer are waived. If Soto and Servicios Privados fail to file an Answer within the time required, Soto and Servicios Privados are deemed in default and the Factual Allegations in the Formal Charges are deemed admitted. The Board may then determine the matter against Soto and Servicios

Privados without further proceedings. The Answer shall be filed electronically with the Arizona Supreme Court Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, 1501 West Washington, Suite 102, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, via officepdj@courts.az.gov. Filing must conform with the Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Administrative Order 2020-05 found at [AO 2020-05.pdf](#)

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO HEARING

Pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(12)(c), Soto and Servicios Privados may request a hearing within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this Notice of Formal Statement of Charges and Right to Hearing. The Request for Hearing must comply with ACJA §7-201(H)(13), including the factual basis supporting the request for hearing and relief demanded. The Request for Hearing must be filed electronically with the Arizona Supreme Court Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, 1501 West Washington, Suite 102 Phoenix, Arizona 85007, via officepdj@courts.az.gov. Filing must conform with the Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Administrative Order 2020-05 found at [AO 2020-05.pdf](#).

BACKGROUND FACTS

A. On October 9, 2024, the Certification and Licensing Division ("Division") received a written complaint from Vidiriana Garcia ("Garcia") involving Soto and Servicios Privados.

B. On October 17, 2024, the Division, via United States Postal Service certified mail and by email to a valid point of contact, forwarded Soto and Servicios Privados a copy of the complaint. The Division also notified Soto and Servicios Privados that, pursuant to ACJA § 7-201(H)(3)(c), Soto and Servicios Privados were required to submit a written response to the complaint within thirty (30) days. Division records confirm delivery of the mailing on October 23, 2024.

1 C. Soto and Servicios Privados provided a timely written response to the complaint on
2 November 22, 2024, as required by ACJA § 7-201(H)(3)(c).
3

4 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT**

5 The Board, having sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth of this
6 information, hereby alleges and finds as follows:
7

8 A. On October 9, 2024, a complaint was filed with the Division containing two allegations:

9 1) Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC prepared legal
10 documents that contained multiple errors and inaccurate and incomplete content.

11 2) Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona LLC, provided legal
12 advice during the preparation of legal documents.

13 B. The Division's investigation addressed the two allegations. The Division did not
14 substantiate Allegation 1. The Division substantiated Allegation 2 that Soto and Servicios
15 Privados provided legal advice to a client, as detailed in the Investigation Summary.

16 C. In communications between Garcia and Soto/Servicios Privados, Soto provided legal
17 advice, opinions, and strategies to Garcia.

18 D. On March 30, 2026, the Board reviewed the Division's Investigation Summary and
19 accepted the findings and recommendations of that report and of the Probable Cause Evaluator.
20 Based on those determinations, the Board voted to issue a Censure to Soto and Servicios
21 Privados. The Board also voted to require Soto to complete an additional ten (10) hours of
22 continuing education to be completed within six (6) months.
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FORMAL CHARGES

As detailed in the Investigation Summary, the Board finds that Soto and Servicios Privados violated the following statutes, court rules or ACJA sections:

A. Soto and Servicios Privados violated ACJA §§7-201(F)(1), 7-201(H)(6)(a) and (k)(6),(7), and (8); ACJA §§7-208(F)(2), 7-208(J)(1)(a), 7-208(J)(5)(a), (b), (c) and (d), by engaging in unprofessional conduct; constituting grounds for discipline pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(6) for an unacceptable practice of providing legal advice outside the scope of a legal document preparer.

PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

The Board, based on the foregoing Factual Allegations of Misconduct, is seeking the following disciplinary sanctions pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(24)(a)(6)(b):

1. Issue a Censure to Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC.
2. Christian Soto will complete ten (10) additional hours of continuing education within six (6) months of the executed Final Order.

DATED this 2nd day of April 2026,


Paul Friedman, Acting Chair
Board of Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers

1 Original of the foregoing filed this 2 day of April, 2026 with:

2 The Honorable Lisa A. VandenBerg
3 Presiding Disciplinary Judge

4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]

7 With formal service to the following certificate holders:

8 Christian Soto
9 (Individually and as Statutory Agent for Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC)

10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]

13 A copy of the foregoing emailed this 2 day of April, 2026 to:

14 Eryn McCarthy
15 Section Chief Counsel
16 Agency Counsel Section
17 Office of the Attorney General

18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]

21 Diane DeDea
22 Assistant Counsel
23 Arizona Supreme Court
24 Administrative Office of the Courts
25 Administrative Services Division

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By: _____

Pasquale Fontana
Complaints and Audit Unit Manager
Certification and Licensing Division

EXHIBIT B

**Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts**



**INVESTIGATION SUMMARY,
DETERMINATION, PROBABLE
CAUSE REVIEW AND
RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Complaint Nos. 24-L011, 24-L012

Certificate Nos. [REDACTED]

03/02/2026

Certification and Licensing Division

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
INVESTIGATION SUMMARY, DETERMINATION, PROBABLE
CAUSE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

<i>CERTIFICATE HOLDER INFORMATION</i>	Certificate Holder:	Christian Soto
	Certificate Number:	██████
	Business Name:	Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona LLC
	Business Certificate Number:	██████
	Type of Certificate:	Legal Document Preparer Legal Document Preparer Business Entity
<i>COMPLAINANT</i>	Name:	Vidiriana Garcia
<i>INVESTIGATION INFORMATION</i>	Complaint Numbers:	24-L011 24-L012
	Investigator:	Shaun Baland
	Complaint Received:	10/09/2024
	Complaint Forwarded to the Certificate Holder:	10/17/2024
	Certificate Holder Received Complaint:	10/23/2024
	Response From Certificate Holder:	11/22/2024
	Period of Active Certification:	01/28/2013 - Present (Soto) 01/25/2016 – Present (Business)
	Status of Certification:	Active
	Availability of Certificate Holder:	Available
	Availability of Complainant:	Available
	Report Date:	03/02/2026

ALLEGATION:

1. Christian Soto and Servicios Legales De Arizona, LLC, prepared legal documents that contained multiple errors and inaccurate and incomplete content.
2. Christian Soto and Servicios Legales De Arizona, LCC, provided legal advice during preparation of legal documents.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURE:

- Written complaint and documentation submitted by complainant, Vidiriana Garcia (“Garcia”)

- Written response and documentation submitted by certificate holder, Christian Soto (“Soto”) and Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC (“Servicios Privados”)
- Review of applicable Certification and Licensing Division (“Division”) records
- Review of applicable sections of Arizona Revised Statutes (“A.R.S.”), Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (“ACJA”) §7-201 and §7-208, and Arizona Supreme Court Rules

INTERVIEWS:

1. Vidiriana Garcia
2. Christian Soto

SUMMARY OF FACTUAL FINDINGS OF INVESTIGATION:

Complaint:

Garcia alleged that Soto and Servicios Privados exceeded the permissible scope of a Certified Legal Document Preparer while assisting her in a family court paternity/custody matter (FC2024-002494).

Specifically, the complaint asserted that:

- Soto provided legal advice, including via text messages and voice messages, despite not being an attorney.
- Soto prepared a Response to Petition to Establish Paternity containing incorrect, unauthorized, or unwanted information.

Initial Written Response to Complaint:

In the written response to the complaint, Soto/Servicios Privados stated that he clearly disclosed his non-attorney status to the complainant through multiple means, including a signed service agreement, business cards, and posted office signage. Soto indicated that the complainant signed an agreement acknowledging that he does not provide legal advice and that the client is responsible for reviewing, approving, and supplying all information used in any court filings.

Soto further asserted that all information included in the filed court response was either provided directly by the complainant or derived from the opposing party’s petition. He denied misrepresenting himself as an attorney and maintained that the services he provided were limited to document preparation, not legal advice.

To support his response to complaint, Soto submitted exhibits including the signed service contract and proof of payment, excerpts of text communications between himself and the

complainant, a copy of the filed court response, and documentation reflecting his office licensing and posted disclaimers.

Garcia Interview:

In Garcia's interview with the Division, she stated that she sought assistance from Soto after being served with family court paperwork related to paternity and custody shortly after the birth of her daughter. Garcia explained that at the time she was unfamiliar with the legal system and did not understand the distinctions between a lawyer and legal document preparer. Garcia indicated that a family member referred her to Soto using a Spanish term commonly associated with "lawyer," which led her to believe he was an attorney or functioning in that capacity.

Garcia stated that when she met with Soto at his office, she explained her situation and told him she wanted full custody of her daughter and did not want the child to have the father's last name. According to Garcia, Soto told her that he could "take the case" and described it as an "easy case," which increased her confidence in relying on him. Garcia did not recall Soto ever specifically identifying himself as an attorney, however.

Garcia stated that Soto agreed to complete and file the Response to Petition to Establish Paternity. She alleged that he told her to sign the blank form and that he would complete it for her. Garcia said she signed the document and left it for Soto to complete. She told the Division that she did not have the opportunity to review the completed Response to Petition before it was filed and trusted that Soto would accurately reflect what she had told him. She further stated that Soto filed the documents on her behalf.

Garcia said she only learned of the document's completed details after receiving a copy from the court. Upon reviewing the document, she contacted Soto with questions and concerns about the filed document. A primary concern for Garcia was related to the issue of her child's last name. She stated that Soto told her that, in response to her request that the father's last name not be given to the child, the judge would grant the child the father's last name regardless of her wishes because the father was the biological parent. Based on this explanation, Garcia stated that she agreed to include the father's last name in the filing, even though she did not want to do so.

Garcia said she later consulted with attorneys offering free legal consultations and learned that adding the father's last name was not mandatory. Garcia stated that by that time, the court had already granted the name change, and she believed the outcome resulted from relying on Soto's explanation. Garcia stated that she told Soto that the child's father had claimed to be involved in selling marijuana but had never been convicted of a crime. She reported that the Response to Petition included statements characterizing this as criminal conduct, which she stated she did not authorize or intend.

Garcia described ongoing communication with Soto primarily through WhatsApp (an online messaging application) after her initial in-person meeting with Soto. She said that she contacted Soto with questions about what she could or could not do in her case and that

he responded with direct answers. She stated that these responses influenced how she proceeded in her case and reinforced her belief that he was guiding her legal decisions. Garcia also stated that when she mentioned seeking an attorney, Soto commented that lawyers were expensive and implied that hiring one was unnecessary.

After reviewing the filed documents and speaking with attorneys, Garcia stated that she lost confidence in Soto's assistance and chose to represent herself. She further stated that she ultimately filed the complaint with the Division because she believed Soto went beyond document preparation, advised or opined that she included the baby father's name in the document, and influenced decisions that had lasting consequences in her family court matter.

Garcia E-Mail with attached WhatsApp Text and Voice Messages:

Following her interview with the Division, Garcia emailed the Division screenshots and audio files (provided by Garcia as screen videos) capturing WhatsApp communications between herself and Soto.

The messages and audio recordings reflect ongoing, case-specific communication between Garcia and Soto following the initial document preparation. The content of the responses suggest that Soto was functioning as an ongoing point of guidance for Garcia as her case progressed.

In the messages, Garcia asked Soto questions regarding her case, including what actions she could or could not take, how to respond to certain developments, and what to expect procedurally. In most responses, Soto provides direct, informational responses. There are occasional instances, however, where Soto's voice message replies addressed how Garcia should proceed in her matter. The following examples are transcribed by the Division:

05/18/2024 Video: Voice message from Soto in response to Garcia's question about whether she can take the baby to California to visit family [*italics added*]:

"Hello Vidi, I got your message. Well, there's nothing wrong with that. Remember, there's no orders. And most important, there's no one on the birth certificate, so you are the sole caretaker of the child. No one can tell you 'Hey, she can't go with her', 'she can't do this.' No, you're the sole caretaker. Take the birth certificate. There's no father, so you control everything. You do what you want, as you want, when you want. So I wouldn't worry about it, OK? Take care."

Video (Date not listed): Voice message excerpts of Soto's response to Garcia expressing concerns about how much time the baby should have with the birth father and grandmother (the birth father's mother):

"But you know, one hour is a little bit. If he really thinks he wants more time, you know, there's no reason why you shouldn't give him a few more, you know, a few more hours."

“Why don’t you want the mother...is the mother dangerous, does she do drugs or something? I mean, if he is allowed to take the child...I’ll have to review the case...you know, he can most likely take it to his mom. Is there a reason you don’t want him to take it to his mom?”

“They’re probably thinking you’re being a certain way, you know what I mean? But they don’t know what you’re trying to do. You’re trying to protect the best interest of the child.”

09/28/2024 Video: Voice message excerpts of Soto’s response to Garcia’s text message about Garcia leaving the meetup with the baby’s father because he was ‘disrespecting’ her and her concern that this could be used against her:

“You have to record everything that’s going on. If he’s disrespecting you, you have to have your thing on.”

“And if you have a reason to and you’re being harassed, threatened, or what you’re telling me, make sure you record those kinds of things, OK?”

These communications appear to be consistent with Garcia’s interview statements that she did not understand the legal process and depended on Soto to tell her what to do.

Soto Interview:

In Soto’s interview with the Division, he stated that he is a Certified Legal Document Preparer and operates Servicios Privados. He explained that he does not provide legal advice and does not represent clients in court, and that he makes his non-attorney status clear through written contracts, office signage, business cards, and verbal explanations at intake. Soto stated that he understands his role to be limited to preparing documents based on information provided by clients.

Soto stated that Garcia visited him in his office, seeking assistance after being served with a Petition for Court Order for Paternity through Maricopa County Super Court, case number FC2024-002494. He explained that during their initial meeting, Garcia described her situation and expressed concerns regarding custody and the child’s father. Soto stated that he understood Garcia’s goal was to obtain full custody, limit the father’s involvement, and for the baby not to have the father’s last name.

Soto further stated that, as he reviewed his contract with Garcia, he explained to her that he was not an attorney and could not represent her in court. He indicated that Garcia signed a written contract acknowledging this limitation. Soto said he agreed to prepare a Response to Petition to Establish Paternity based on Garcia’s instructions and Soto denied making legal decisions on her behalf. He explained that his practice is to include in filings whatever information the client wants reflected, and that the court ultimately determines outcomes.

Regarding the preparation of the Response to Petition to Establish Paternity, Soto stated that Garcia provided the information used in the document and that any positions taken reflected her wishes at the time. He told the Division that Garcia was present while he completed the document and she reviewed and signed the document. Soto stated Garcia was given a copy of the completed document at that time. Soto emphasized that clients are responsible for reviewing documents for accuracy before signing. Soto also stated Garcia did not express concern over the completed document either before or after leaving his office.

Investigator Note: Soto's statements that Garcia was present while he completed the document and that she reviewed and signed the document are inconsistent with Garcia's statements. She told the Division that Soto asked her to sign the blank document, that she trusted Soto to accurately include what she told him and file the documents. She told the Division that she did not see the completed document until she received a copy from the court and she saw that the child's father was named in the document.

In his interview with the Division, Soto was asked about the child's last name issue. Soto initially stated that while Garcia initially told him she did not want the child to have the father's last name, her position later changed. Soto stated that Garcia signed the document reflecting the inclusion of the father's last name.

Later in the same interview, Soto told the Division that he could not positively remember why he entered the father's name on the document when Garcia was adamant about this not occurring. Soto offered two different scenarios that may have taken place, but he could not be positive about either hypothetical.

When asked if he knew why Garcia would change her mind on such a key issue, Soto acknowledged that he may have discussed his prior experiences in family court and stated that he may have told Garcia that, in his experience, he had not seen judges deny adding a father's last name. Soto characterized such statements as general information rather than legal advice or strategy.

Later in his interview with Division, Soto opined that the document might have initially been completed without the father's last name included but could have changed if Garcia changed her mind any time before the document being filed. Soto indicated it would be easier to change the document prior to the court filing. When asked if that would have resulted in him revising an already signed and notarized document, Soto did not provide a clear answer. He said he couldn't remember if that occurred or not.

Soto stated that Garcia told him the child's father had been involved in selling marijuana. Soto said that the language used in the filing reflected information provided by Garcia and his understanding of how such information is commonly presented in family court pleadings. He denied intentionally mischaracterizing information or adding facts without Garcia's knowledge.

Soto acknowledged that he continued communicating with Garcia after the documents were filed, including through WhatsApp text and voice messages. He stated that Garcia contacted him frequently with questions and that some of her questions sought legal advice. Soto stated that he attempted to avoid providing legal advice and characterized his responses as general information, reassurance, or encouragement.

Soto further acknowledged that he did not recall the specific content of many of those communications. He stated many of his clients are unfamiliar with the court process and often have many questions for him. He stated he always tries to be supportive and encouraging with them without providing legal advice.

Throughout the interview, Soto stated that he believed Garcia misunderstood his role and later became dissatisfied with the outcome of her case. He stated that he believed Garcia's statements were inconsistent and that she may have changed her position multiple times during the process. Soto denied intentionally misleading Garcia, providing legal advice, or representing himself as an attorney, and stated that he believed he always acted within the scope of his certification.

Investigator Note: In the interview, Division asked Soto to provide any communications - specifically records of the WhatsApp written and audio messages. Soto responded via e-mail that he was unable to retrieve the WhatsApp messages and/or message logs related to Garcia's case. Soto stated the documents provided to the Division to date are what he has in his possession.

Allegation 1: Christian Soto and Servicios Legales De Arizona, LLC, prepared legal documents that contained multiple errors and inaccurate and incomplete content.

The evidence gathered during the investigation includes Garcia's written complaint and recorded interview, text and WhatsApp message exchanges, voicemail messages from Soto, and Soto's interview and written response.

Garcia's allegation that Soto prepared documents containing errors or where otherwise inaccurate is based on Soto adding the child's father's last name and information related to the child's father being involved with marijuana.

Garcia and Soto provided disputing and conflicting accounts regarding whether Garcia remained in Soto's office while he prepared the documents. Garcia claims that Soto asked her to sign the blank document and that he would complete the document and file it with the court. She said she only viewed the finished document after Soto had filed the document with the court and the court provided a copy to her.

Soto denied doing so and stated that Garcia was present while Soto prepared the document and that she reviewed and signed the document. The Division cannot independently verify whether or not Garcia was present while Soto prepared the subject document.

Garcia stated that she was adamant about not including the child's father's last name on the document but in her interview, she told the Division that she somewhat reluctantly agreed to have the name added based on what Soto's opinion and what represented to her during their initial meeting to discuss the documents. Similarly, Garcia said there was conversation involving the child's father telling her that he had been involved in selling marijuana but that she did not want this information put into the document.

Soto claims that all the information he included in the document he prepared came directly from Garcia or derived from the opposing party's petition.

The WhatsApp communications that Garcia provided to the Division and the nature of the questions she was asking Soto, along with his response to the questions, seem to support Garcia's statements that she was unfamiliar with the process and that she trusted Soto's expertise. The WhatsApp communications are further referenced and detailed in Allegation 1.

As to Allegation 1 and whether the documents Soto prepared included errors or inaccurate information, the Division did not find clear evidence to substantiate Soto's actions constituted misconduct or a violation.

Allegation 1 is not substantiated

Allegation 2: Christian Soto and Servicios Legales De Arizona, LCC, provided legal advice during preparation of legal documents.

Garcia told the Division that she relied on Soto for guidance because she did not understand the legal process. She described Soto explaining likely court outcomes and responding directly to questions about what she could or could not do in her case.

In response to the complaint and in his interview, Soto denied that he provided legal advice to Garcia. Soto pointed to service agreements that his clients sign acknowledging that he does not provide legal advice. Soto maintained that the services he provided were limited to document preparation.

As previously documented in this Investigation Summary, Garcia provided the Division with several WhatsApp communications she had with Soto.

The Division asked Soto for his record of WhatsApp communications with Garcia and he stated that he was unable to retrieve any.

The Division reviewed the WhatsApp communications (text/audio/video) that Garcia provided. Those communications reflected Soto's answers and replies to Garcia's questions.

Garcia's questions to Soto reflect that she sought legal guidance before taking certain actions while she was in what appeared to be a dispute proceeding before the court. The

communications by Soto demonstrate that he was expressing opinions and providing guidance to Garcia that is contrary to ACJA §7-208(J)(5)(b) and (c). The evidence shows that Soto and Servicios Privados exceeded the scope of a legal document preparer and engaged in the authorized practice of law.

ACJA §7-208(F)(1)(b) allows legal document preparers to provide general factual information but prohibits legal document preparers from providing “any kind of specific advice, opinion, or recommendation to a person or entity about possible legal rights, remedies, defenses, options or strategies.”

- b. Provide general legal information, but may not provide any kind of specific advice, opinion, or recommendation to a person or entity about possible legal rights, remedies, defenses, options, or strategies;

ACJA §7-208(J)(5)(b) and (c) expressly bars legal document preparers from providing legal advice by expressing opinions, either verbal or in writing or making recommendations.

5. Performance in Accordance with Law.

- b. ...nor shall the legal document preparer provide legal advice or services to another by expressing opinions, either verbal or written...

- c. A legal document preparer shall not provide any kind of advice, opinion or recommendation to a consumer about possible legal rights, remedies, defenses, options, or strategies.

ACJA §7-201(F)(1):

- 1. Code of Conduct. Each individual certificate holder shall adhere to the code of conduct or standards of conduct, subsection (J) in the applicable section of the ACJA.

ACJA §7-201(H)(6)(a)and (k)(6),(7), and (8):

- 6. Grounds for Discipline. A certificate holder is subject to disciplinary action if the board finds the certificate holder has engaged in one or more of the following:

- a. Failed to perform any duty to discharge any obligation in the course of the certificate holder’s responsibilities as required by law, court rules, this section or the applicable section of the ACJA;

- k. Engaged in unprofessional conduct, including:

- (6) Failed to practice competently by use of...unacceptable practices;

(7) Failed during the performance of any responsibility or duty of the profession or occupation to use the degree of care, skill and proficiency commonly exercised by the ordinary skillful, careful and prudent professional certificate holder engaged in similar practice under the same or similar conditions regardless of any level of harm or injury to the client or customer;

(8) Failed to practice competently by reason of any cause on a single occasion or on multiple occasions by performing...unacceptable client or customer care or failed to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing practice;

ACJA §7-208(F)(2):

2. Code of Conduct. Each certified legal document preparer shall adhere to the code of conduct in subsection J.

ACJA §7-208(J)(1)(a):

1. Ethics.

a. A legal document preparer shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities, shall respect and comply with the laws, and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the legal and judicial systems.

ACJA §7-208(J)(5)(a), (b), (c) and (d):

5. Performance in Accordance with Law.

a. A legal document preparer shall perform all duties and discharge all obligations in accordance with applicable laws, rules or court orders.

b. ...nor shall the legal document preparer provide legal advice or services to another by expressing opinions, either verbal or written...

c. A legal document preparer shall not provide any kind of advice, opinion or recommendation to a consumer about possible legal rights, remedies, defenses, options, or strategies.

d. ...A legal document preparer shall not engage in unethical or unprofessional conduct in any professional dealings that are harmful or detrimental to the public.

Allegation 2 is substantiated

DISCIPLINARY HISTORY:

Complaint Nos.

- 24-L004 Christian Soto
- 24-L005 Servicios Privados Legales De Arizona, LLC

Substantiated Allegations:

- Preparing and filing a court document containing multiple errors and inconsistencies.

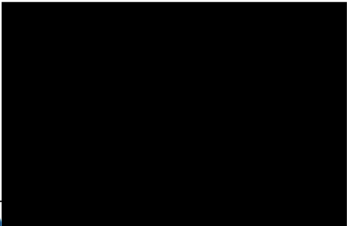
Date of Board Decision:

- December 3, 2025

Board Decision/Disciplinary Action:

- Letter of Concern was issued to Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales De Arizona LLC

SUB

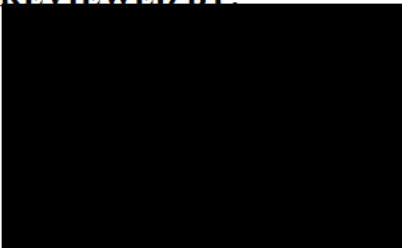


Shaun
Certification and Licensing Division

03/02/2026

Date

REVIEWED BY:

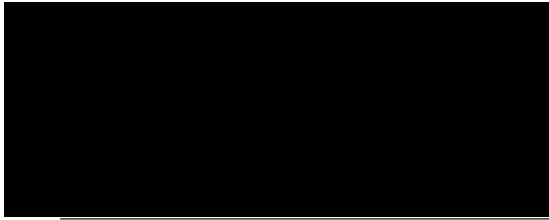


Pasquale Fontana, Manager
Certification and Licensing Division

March 02, 2026

Date

REVIEWED BY:



March 10, 2026

Abigail Raddatz, Director
Certification and Licensing DivisionDate

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
REVIEW, AND DECISION OF THE PROBABLE CAUSE
EVALUATOR**

REVIEW AND DECISION OF THE PROBABLE CAUSE EVALUATOR:

Pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(5)(a), the deputy director, serving in the capacity of probable cause evaluator under ACJA §7-201(D)(3)(a), having conducted an independent review of the facts and evidence gathered during the course of the investigation of complaint numbers 24-L011 and 24-L012:

- ☐ Directs division staff to investigate further.
- ☒ Determines probable cause does not exist demonstrating the certificate holder has committed any acts of misconduct or violations of the statutes, court rules, this section, or the applicable section of the ACJA and enters a written finding to that effect as to Allegation(s):

1

- ☒ Determines probable cause exists demonstrating the certificate holder has committed one or more acts of misconduct or violations of the statutes, court rules, this section, or the applicable section of the ACJA and enters a written finding to that effect as to Allegation(s):

2



Jeffrey Schrade
Probable Cause Evaluator

3/11/2026

Date

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD**

***CERTIFICATE
HOLDER
INFORMATION***

Certificate Holder:
Certification Number:
Business Name:

Christian Soto
[REDACTED]
Servicios Privados Legales
De Arizona LLC
[REDACTED]
Legal Document Preparer
Legal Document Preparer
Business Entity

Certificate Number:
Type of Certificate:

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF NONLAWYER LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS (“BOARD”):

It is recommended that the Board accept the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and enter a finding Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales De Arizona LLC have not committed the alleged act(s) of misconduct as detailed in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review and Recommendation Report, as to Allegation 1, in complaint numbers 24-L011 (Servicios Privados Legales De Arizona, LLC) and 24-L012 (Christian Soto).

It is further recommended that the Board dismiss Allegation 1, with prejudice.

It is further recommended that the Board accept the finding of the Probable Cause Evaluator and enter a finding Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales De Arizona LLC have committed the alleged act(s) of misconduct as detailed in the Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review and Recommendation Report in complaint numbers 24-L011 (Servicios Privados Legales De Arizona, LLC) and 24-L012 (Christian Soto).

It is further recommended that the Board enter a finding for formal disciplinary action exists pursuant to Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (“ACJA”) §7-201(H)(6) for act(s) of misconduct involving ACJA §§7-201(F)(1), 7-201(H)(6)(a)and (k)(6),(7), and (8); ACJA §§7-208(F)(2), 7-208(J)(1)(a), 7-208(J)(5)(a), (b), (c) and (d).

When making recommendations for disciplinary action, the Division considered the following mitigating and aggravating factors:

Mitigating factors pursuant to ACJA § 7-201(H)(22)(b)(1):

- ☐ The absence of a prior disciplinary record;
- ☐ The absence of a dishonest motive;
- ☐ The absence of a selfish motive;
- ☐ Personal or emotional problems;

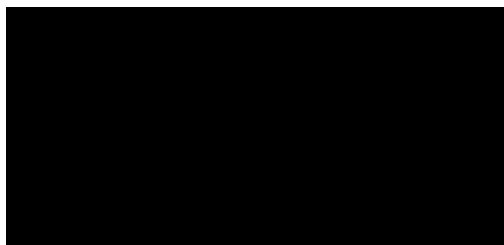
- ☐ A timely good faith effort to make restitution or to rectify consequences of misconduct;
- ☐ Full and free disclosure to the division staff, the board or the hearing officer;
- ☒ **A cooperative attitude toward any proceedings;**
- ☐ Inexperience in the practice of the profession or occupation;
- ☐ Character or reputation;
- ☐ Physical or mental disability;
- ☐ Physical or mental impairment;
- ☐ Delays in the disciplinary proceedings;
- ☐ Interim rehabilitation;
- ☐ Imposition of other penalties or sanctions;
- ☐ Remorse;
- ☐ The remoteness of prior offenses;
- ☐ Other: _____

Aggravating factors under ACJA § 7-201(H)(22)(b)(2):

- ☒ **A prior disciplinary record;**
- ☐ A dishonest motive;
- ☐ A selfish motive;
- ☐ Multiple offenses;
- ☐ Bad faith obstruction of the disciplinary proceedings by intentionally failing to comply with this section, the applicable section of ACJA, court rules or orders of the hearing officer; (Failure to respond to Division requests sent to a valid point of contact reflects an uncooperative attitude toward the investigation)
- ☐ Submission of false evidence, false statements or other deceptive practices during the discipline process;
- ☒ **Refusal to acknowledge wrongful nature of the conduct;**
- ☐ Vulnerability of the victim;
- ☒ **Substantial experience in the profession or occupation;**
- ☐ Indifference to making restitution;
- ☐ Other: _____

It is further recommended that the Board issue a Censure to Christian Soto and Servicios Privados Legales De Arizona, LLC.

SUBMITTED BY:



March 11, 2026

Abigail Raddatz, Director Date
 Certification and Licensing Division

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
DECISION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD**

DECISION AND ORDER:

The Board having reviewed the above Investigation Summary, Determination, Probable Cause Review and Recommendation Report, regarding complaint numbers 24-L011 involving Servicios Privados Legales De Arizona, LLC, certificate number [REDACTED]; and 24-L012 involving Christian Soto, certificate number [REDACTED], respectively, makes a finding of facts and this decision, based on the facts, evidence, and analysis as presented and:

- ☐ Request division staff to conduct further investigation;
- ☐ Refer the complaint to another entity with jurisdiction;

Referral to: _____

- ☐ Determine no violation exists and dismiss the complaint
 - ☐ with prejudice
 - ☐ without prejudice
- ☐ Determine no acts of misconduct or violation occurred and no discipline is warranted; however the certificate holder's actions need modification or elimination and issue an advisory letter pursuant to subsection (D)(5)(c)(1)(g);
- ☐ Enter a finding the certificate holder has violated any provisions of the statutes, court rules, this section, or the applicable ACJA specific sections or subsection (H)(6) and order an emergency summary suspension, pursuant to subsection (H)(9)(d);
- ☒ Enter a finding the certificate holder has violated any of the provisions of the statutes, court rules, this section, the applicable ACJA sections or subsection (H)(6) and issue an order imposing any or a combination of the following information or formal disciplinary sanctions:
 - ☐ Issue a letter of concern
 - ☒ Issue a censure
 - ☐ Resolve any found acts of misconduct or violations by consent order or other negotiated settlement
 - ☐ Place specific restrictions on a certificate

- ☐ Place the certificate holder on probation or a set period of time under specified conditions
- ☐ Mandate additional training for the certificate holder
- ☐ Issue a cease-and-desist order pursuant to subsection (E)(6)
- ☐ Order suspension of a certificate for a set period of time with specific conditions for reinstatement
- ☐ Order revocation of a certificate with specific conditions for reinstatement
- ☐ Assess costs associated with the investigation and disciplinary proceedings; or
- ☐ Impose civil penalties associated with the investigation and disciplinary proceedings.
- ☐ Order the preparation of documents necessary for informal or formal disciplinary actions under subsection (H)(7)(b), (H)(8)(b) or (H)(9)(b)
- ☐ Request the license holder appear before the Board to participate in a Formal Interview, pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(8).
- ☐ Enter a finding the public health, safety or welfare is at risk, requires emergency action, and orders the immediate emergency suspension of the license and sets an expedited hearing for:

Date, Time, and Location: _____

- ☐ Order the filing of Notice of Formal Charges, pursuant to ACJA §7-201(H)(10).
- ☐ Adopts the recommendations of the Division Director.
- ☒ Does not adopt the recommendations of the Division Director and orders:

The Board orders a Censure to Servicios Privados Legales de Arizona, LLC and to Christian Soto. The Board further orders that Christian Soto complete ten (10) hours of Continuing Learning Education to be completed within six months.



Paul Friedman, Acting Chair
Board of Nonlawyer Legal Service Providers

3.31.26

Date