

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
AUTHORIZING AN ONLINE DISPUTE) Administrative Order
RESOLUTION PILOT PROJECT IN) No. 2018 - 78
THE SUPERIOR COURT IN PINAL)
AND YUMA COUNTIES)
_____)

The Arizona Judiciary’s strategic agenda, *Advancing Justice Together: Courts and Communities*, includes the goal of “Promoting Access to Justice” by exploring the use of technology-based access to justice solutions.

Consistent with this goal, the Judicial Branch is working to increase access to justice and reduce the time and expense to Family Court litigants by using online dispute resolution (ODR). This pilot project will experiment with the use of this technology to allow litigants to resolve disputes without coming to the courthouse.

This Order authorizes the court procedures necessary for the Superior Court in Pinal and Yuma Counties to experiment with ODR.

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

IT IS ORDERED that the Superior Court in Pinal and Yuma Counties (“courts”) are authorized to participate in an ODR pilot project for Family Court cases. The ODR pilot project shall run 12 months from the date of implementation. The following procedures for ODR cases are adopted to implement the project:

1. Eligible Cases

Eligible cases shall include Family Law cases that meet the eligibility criteria as determined by the local court.

2. Official Record of ODR Cases

All documents electronically transmitted by court staff to the Clerk’s Office for filing or printed from the ODR platform by court staff and forwarded to the Clerk’s Office for filing and that are file-stamped and maintained by the Clerk’s Office, shall be considered the original documents of record. A copy of any of these documents upon which

the Clerk's Office has placed its seal attesting to the document's authenticity shall be considered a certified copy of the original.

3. Document Format

Any court rule requiring that a document be an original, be on paper or other tangible medium, or be in writing, is satisfied by the documents defined as the original documents herein.

4. Satisfaction of the Sworn Written Verification Requirements

Electronically signing the stipulation or agreement after uploading a copy of a form of state-issued identification into the ODR platform shall satisfy the sworn written verification requirements of the Rules of Family Law Procedure.

5. Program Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

Each court shall develop, as necessary, written program policies, procedures, and guidelines in consultation with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that provisions of this Order that are inconsistent with the Arizona Rules of Court shall supersede procedural requirements of the rules.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the AOC shall provide the Arizona Judicial Council with a final report on the ODR pilot project by December 31, 2019.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2018.

SCOTT BALES
Chief Justice