

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

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In the Matter of: )  
 )  
AUTHORIZING AN ONLINE ) Administrative Order  
DISPUTE RESOLUTION PILOT ) No. 2019 - 04  
PROJECT IN THE SCOTTSDALE )  
CITY COURT )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The Arizona Judiciary’s strategic agenda, *Advancing Justice Together: Courts and Communities*, includes the goals of “Promoting Access to Justice” by exploring the use of technology-based access to justice solutions and “Improving Court Processes to Better Serve the Public” by improving timeliness and efficiency of processing court cases.

Consistent with these directives, the Judicial Branch is working to increase access to justice and reduce the time and expense to defendants who wish to enter a plea by mail or telephone through the use of online dispute resolution (ODR). This pilot project will experiment with the use of technology to allow defendants to resolve misdemeanor cases without coming to the courthouse.

This Order authorizes the court procedures necessary for the Scottsdale City Court to experiment with ODR.

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

IT IS ORDERED that the Scottsdale City Court (“court”) is authorized to participate in an ODR pilot project to run for 12 months from the date of implementation. The following procedures for ODR cases are adopted to implement the project:

1. Eligible Cases

The court shall establish eligibility criteria for the cases to be heard in its ODR pilot, however all cases must meet the eligibility criteria established by Rule 17.1 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure (ARCRP).

2. Official Record of ODR Cases

Forms transmitted through the ODR platform must be substantially similar to Forms 28 and 28(a), ARCRP.

All documents electronically transmitted for filing and that are file-stamped and maintained by the court shall be considered the original documents of record. A copy of any of these documents upon which the court 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. Program Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

The court shall develop written program policies, procedures, and guidelines as necessary in consultation with the 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 16th day of January, 2019.

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SCOTT BALES  
Chief Justice