IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATORS IN PINAL COUNTY	)	Administrative Order No. 2014 - _____
	)	
	)	
	)	

The Juvenile Court in Pinal County has determined timely, efficient, and effective performance of its judicial and statutory duties to be essential to protecting the health and safety of dependent children and achieving positive outcomes. To accomplish this, the court needs the assistance of court staff with appropriate training, knowledge and experience.

The Pinal County Juvenile Presiding Judge has requested authorization to appoint Community Services Coordinators and other staff in dependency cases to identify services, resolve issues with compliance with court orders, and facilitate the timely delivery of services ordered by the court in order to expedite permanency for dependent children.

A.R.S. § 8-829 (A) requires the court to make determinations with specific factual bases regarding reasonable efforts to achieve family reunification and permanency for each dependent child. Arizona Rule of Procedure for Juvenile Court 56 (E) requires the Juvenile Court to approve a case plan and order services consistent with that plan. Rule 58 further requires that the Juvenile Court review the delivery of the services, whether the parent has participated in the services and remedied the circumstances that brought the child into care, and determine whether a child should be in the custody of the child's parents, parental rights should be terminated, and/or an alternate permanent plan is appropriate. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-829 (A) (6), the Court must make this determination within six months if the child is less than three years of age, and within twelve months for children three years of age and older.

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

IT IS ORDERED that the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court in Pinal County may appoint Community Services Coordinators and other staff and shall adopt policies and procedures concerning their authorized duties in consultation with representatives from the Division of Child Safety and Family Services (DCSFS), the Office of Attorney General, and other stakeholders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Community Services Coordinators employed by the Court and appointed by the judge in a case may assist the parties to identify community based services and resources to meet the needs of children and their families; may facilitate communication among all

parties and any entities ordered to provide services; may review files to identify and overcome any barriers to the delivery of court ordered services; **may report to the court regarding efforts to achieve family reunification and permanency for the dependent child** and may perform related duties as ordered by the court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(B)(1), Community Services Coordinators and other Dependency Case Management Unit staff are authorized to receive and review DCSFS information and records in dependency cases in order to perform their authorized duties pursuant to this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in performing their authorized duties, Community Services Coordinators, may contact a party or parties, treatment providers, and other court employees as necessary for the purpose of coordinating matters attendant to the delivery of court ordered services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Community Services Coordinators shall not communicate directly with the Court regarding the assigned cases, but shall prepare written reports, copies of which shall be simultaneously provided to the Court and every party in the case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no later than _____ the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court in Pinal County shall provide a report to the Arizona Judicial Council, the Supreme Court, and DCSFS describing the effectiveness of the use of Community Services Coordinators and making recommendations, if any, regarding continuation, modification, or expansion of these services.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2013.

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REBECCA WHITE BERCH
Chief Justice