

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

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In the Matter of: )  
)  
ADOPTING THE STANDARDIZED )  
ASSESSMENT AND REASSESSMENT )  
TOOL AND CONDUCTING A PILOT )  
PROGRAM FOR REASSESSMENT )  
TIMEFRAMES FOR ADULT )  
INTENSIVE PROBATIONERS )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Administrative Order  
**No. 2005 - 12**  
(Affecting and Suspending in Part  
Administrative Order No. 2000-77)

Proper assessment may enable more accurate identification of individuals placed on probation and probationers who are at greatest risk for supervision difficulties. It can also help direct treatment resources and provide a baseline for assessing behavior improvement over time. In the past, considerable variability existed across the state regarding the approaches/tools used in offender assessment. Decisions were made on the basis of a range of clinical judgments and assessment tools.

For purposes of establishing a statewide standardized assessment tool, the Administrative Office of the Courts reviewed, selected, and validated the Offender Screening Tool (OST) and Field Reassessment Offender Screening Tool (FROST).

Best practice requires that departments conduct the FROST no earlier than 180 days from the previous assessment. However, this timeframe for administering the reassessment is not consistent with current Adult Intensive Probation administrative code requirements. Arizona Code of Judicial Administration, § 6-202(M)(2)(a)(2) provides:

“Each probation officer providing intensive probation supervision shall every 90 days examine and reassess the risk and needs of each probationer under the officer’s supervision and the factors associated with reducing, maintaining or increasing the intensive probationer’s level of supervision. The probation officer shall petition the court to increase or decrease a probationer’s level of supervision at regular intervals, when appropriate, based on standardized assessments and the probationer’s compliance with conditions of probation.”

In addition to adopting the new instruments for assessment and reassessment, it is necessary to suspend the 90-day timeframe for reassessment and institute, on a pilot basis, a 180-day timeframe for reassessing offenders.

Now, therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that effective January 31, 2005, probation departments shall use the OST and FROST as the statewide standardized offender assessment tools.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the 90-day timeframe for reassessment be extended to a 180-day timeframe during the pilot program. The pilot program shall continue until a new § 6-202 is adopted or until December 31, 2005.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2005.

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CHARLES E. JONES  
Chief Justice