

FILED

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

2019 JAN -8 PM 4: 35

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MOHAVE

WILSON JAMES
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

<p>IN THE MATTER OF:</p> <p>CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING PROCEDURE</p>	<p>ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2018-12 <i>2019</i></p>
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BACKGROUND – The Arizona Supreme Court has established Case Processing Time Standards for various types of cases. These time standards include percentages of cases that should be concluded within various time periods. The Mohave County Superior Court is not currently meeting the time standards for criminal cases. In most cases, a quicker disposition equates to a better result and greater justice for the parties, and in criminal matters to victims. The time standards make provision for, and the Court is aware that in specific cases longer timeframes are necessary to achieve a just result. Although committed to the time standards, the Court will not sacrifice justice in a given case solely for the purpose of expediency.

The time standards approved by the Arizona Supreme Court include 65% of criminal cases shall be concluded within ninety (90) days, 85% within one hundred and eighty (180) days and 95% within three hundred and sixty-five (365) days. While the Mohave County Superior Court is closing in on meeting the standard at 365 days, it is not approaching the standards adopted by the Supreme Court for the 90 or 180 day timeframes.

It is the goal of the Mohave County Superior Court to achieve the time standards adopted by the Arizona Supreme Court for the 90, 180 and 365 day time frames. In order to achieve these goals, coordinated efforts of the Court including Judicial Officers, Judicial Assistants, Administrative Staff and Court Clerks, the Mohave County Attorney’s Office and various public defense offices, attorneys and staff and private counsel is required. The Court expects these groups to make proactive efforts to meet the time standards. In order to help achieve these goals, the Court makes the following Orders in criminal matters.

IT IS ORDERED the Court and each of the Judicial Officers assigned a criminal docket will work to create a culture where speedy disposition of criminal matters is not only expected, but achieved. Each Judicial Officer will encourage changes of plea and same day sentencing when appropriate through an early disposition court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Judicial Officer at the conclusion of a significant event hearing, will set prompt trials in criminal cases to keep the matters moving. Motions to Continue are discouraged unless good cause is set forth in any such Motion to Continue.

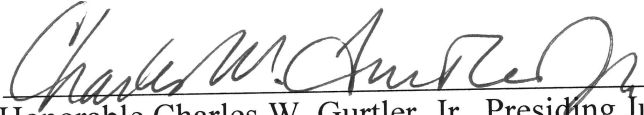
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED directing Court Administration and the Court's IT Department to work in conjunction with the Judicial Officers to discern the timeliness of case disposition with respect to contract defense counsel. The timeliness of case disposition will be added to the evaluation of continued contracts with defense counsel by Indigent Defense Services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that to the extent an early disposition court requires certain procedures or protocols, each Judicial Office assigned to a criminal docket shall create a written case management process for the same. The written case management process for early disposition court shall be created within thirty (30) days of the issuance of this Administrative Order and shall be posted to the Court's website. Each Judicial Officer with a criminal docket shall notify the Presiding Judge of the creation, implementation and posting of the early disposition court case management process.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Judicial Officers when presented with an assigned case list from Court Administration shall review all cases over 180 days old that do not have a pending hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED directing Court Administration to provide assigned case lists to the Judicial Officers at a minimum on a quarterly basis.

DATED this 8th day of January, 2019.



Honorable Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Presiding Judge
Mohave County Superior Court

Original filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in Mohave County