

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

FILED BHC
TIME 9:18 AM

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MOHAVE

APR 17 2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO
ACCEPT DEPENDENCY PETITIONS
WITHOUT AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE

VIRLYNN TINNELL
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT
DEPUTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2020-20

Due to the concern for the spread of COVID-19 in the general population, the Governor of the State of Arizona has declared a statewide emergency pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-303 and in accordance with A.R.S. § 26-301(15). The Mohave County Superior Court is aware that the Attorney General's Office has imposed restrictions requiring Assistant Attorney Generals to work remotely to reduce the risk associated with this public health emergency. This restriction creates a hardship in obtaining original signatures on dependency petitions that are filed pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-821(H).


Although the courts in Mohave County remain open for business, cooperation by the Judicial Branch is essential to reducing the risk associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the Court will temporarily accept dependency petitions filed by the Arizona Attorney General without an original signature, provided an original signature page is submitted to the assigned judicial officer within 20 days.

IT IS ORDERED that the Clerk of the Superior Court in Mohave County is authorized to accept dependency petitions and case initiating documents in Juvenile Dependency cases filed by the Arizona Attorney General which have an electronic (/s/), scanned or faxed copy of an attorney's signature.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if a dependency petition that does not bear an original signature is filed and the Attorney General's Office fails to provide an original signature page to the assigned judicial officer within 20 days, the assigned judicial officer may dismiss the petition, set an order to show cause hearing to determine if the Attorney General should be held in contempt of court, or take any other action that justice so requires and that is consistent with the best interests of the child.

This Administrative Order shall expire without further order of this Court upon expiration of the Governor's declared State of Emergency with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic or on July 1, 2020, whichever occurs first.

DATED this 17th day of April, 2020.


Hon. Rick A. Williams
Presiding Juvenile Judge
Mohave County Superior Court

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