



The Southwest Fair Housing Council submits this comment in support of petition R-24-0023 submitted by the William E. Morris Institute for Justice.

The Southwest Fair Housing Council (SWFHC), founded in 1986, is a full-service fair housing agency serving Arizona. We are contacted by nearly eight hundred Arizonans every year who are experiencing problems with their housing situation. During these hundreds of discussions, a common theme that we see is how little people know and understand their housing rights and responsibilities or how to navigate the legal system to assert and defend their rights. The vast majority do not have the resources to pay for legal counsel or other assistance to help them navigate the legal system. Unfortunately, very few low-cost or no-cost resources are available to help them, forcing them to navigate the process on their own. In fact, many people do not show up to court because of a lack of knowledge, resources, or capacity due to the unnecessary barriers they face. They do not think that they stand a chance. In contrast, property owners, management companies, homeowners' associations, and other entities almost always have experience with the process and legal counsel representing their interests. The system is strongly tilted against folks trying to assert their rights. This petition will address these issues by updating the Residential Eviction Information Sheet to provide a clearly written explanation of the eviction process and available resources to parties in eviction cases that people can understand.