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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

PETITION TO AMEND RULES 11(d)) Supreme Court No. R-25-0020
and 18(d), ARIZONA RULES OF)
PROCEDURE FOR EVICTION) **COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA**
ACTIONS) **COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO**
) **JUSTICE SUPPORTING THE**
) **PETITION**
)
_____)

The Arizona Commission on Access to Justice is charged with considering and recommending innovative ways to promote access to justice for individuals who cannot afford legal counsel or who choose to represent themselves in civil cases. Established in 2014, the Commission evaluates best practices, identifies possible changes in court rules or practices to reduce barriers to access, identifies and encourages the adoption of best practices among legal service providers, and considers potential long-term funding options.

Following a presentation at the April 10, 2025, Commission meeting, a motion was made and seconded that the Commission support Rule Change Petition No. R-25-0020. After discussion by members of the Commission, that motion

passed. This Comment is a result of that formal Commission action and is intended to reflect the Commission’s support of the changes requested in the Petition.

This Petition seeks to add language that further defines good cause. The additional language enhances the existing Rules of Procedure for Eviction Actions as designed by the Arizona Supreme Court, benefiting both plaintiffs and defendants in proceedings where a denial of a continuance for good cause such as childcare or health reasons means the difference between a person defending an eviction action and getting evicted. With the change, the court still retains discretion to determine whether good cause exists – including by requiring proof. This proposed amendment serves access to justice, especially with self-represented litigants and vulnerable populations, by ensuring that they are not defaulted unnecessarily due to health, disability, military service, obligation of work or childcare issues.

For these reasons, the Commission supports the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-25-0020.

DATED this 30th day of April 2025.

_____/s/_____
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