

Greg Sakall
Judge, Division 23
Pima County Superior Court
110 W Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701
Telephone: (520) 724-8301
datascoe@courts.az.gov

**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of	)	Arizona Supreme Court No. R-24-0060
	)	
AMENDED PETITION TO	)	
AMEND RULES 22 & 77,	)	REPLY IN SUPPORT OF
ARIZONA RULES OF FAMILY	)	AMENDED PETITION
LAW PROCEDURE	)	
_____	)	

The Committee on Family Court (“COFC”) files this Reply in support of the Amended Petition.

At its regularly scheduled May 15, 2025 meeting, COFC reviewed the status of the Petition, as well as the Comment filed by the Arizona Commission on Access to Justice. During the discussion, one member raised a concern about the lack of a deadline for a party to request a different procedure than the court’s direct examination of a self-represented party in proposed Rule 77(d)(2), Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure. COFC discussed the concern and voted unanimously to propose the additional three words indicated in red in Attachment A.

COFC respectfully requests that the Court adopt the amendments to Rules 22 and 77, Rules of Family Law Procedure, as set forth in Attachment A.

DATED this 29th day of May, 2025.

/s/ Greg Sakall

Greg Sakall
Chair, Committee on Family Court

Attachment A

Rules 22 and 77 of the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure are amended as noted below (deletions indicated by strikethrough and additions by underscoring):

Rule 22. Conduct of Proceedings

(a) ~~Time Limits.~~ ~~The court may impose reasonable time limits appropriate to the proceedings. A party may request additional time.~~

(b) ~~Decorum.~~ ~~All participants must conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, and dignified manner. Parties must address their arguments and remarks to the court and not to the other parties or their counsel.~~

(c) ~~Examining a Witness.~~ ~~Unless allowed by the court, only one attorney for each party may examine a witness.~~

Rule 77. Trials Setting; Conduct of Proceedings; Procedures for Evidentiary Hearings and Trials

(a) Setting Cases for Trial. Unless the court has already set a trial on its own or at a resolution management conference or a scheduling conference, any party may file a motion to set a case for trial. The motion must state:

- (1) the date by which the case will be ready for trial;
- (2) the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the parties or their attorneys who are responsible for the conduct of the litigation;
- (3) whether the case is entitled to a preference for trial because legal decision-making or parenting time is at issue; and
- (4) the estimated time for trial.

(b) Continuances and Scheduling Conflicts. Rule 34 addresses trial continuances and scheduling conflicts.

(c) Conduct of Proceedings. In all court proceedings,

(1) Time Limits. The court may impose reasonable time limits appropriate to the proceedings. A party may request additional time.

(2) Decorum. All participants must conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, and dignified manner. Parties must address their arguments and remarks to the court and not to the other parties or their counsel.

(3) Examining a Witness. Unless allowed by the court, only one attorney for each party may examine a witness.

(d) Procedures for Trials and Evidentiary Hearings.

(1) Procedures Applicable to All Trials and Evidentiary Hearings. The court should adopt procedures for trials and evidentiary hearings as necessary or

appropriate to facilitate a just, speedy, and efficient resolution of the action, including but not limited to imposing reasonable time limits and allocating trial time between the parties. In all trials and evidentiary hearings, the court must ensure that all parties and counsel, if any, have an opportunity to be heard; to present evidence; and to call, examine, and cross-examine witnesses.

(2) *Additional Procedures Applicable to Trials and Evidentiary Hearings with a Self-Represented Party.* In addition to the procedures of 77(d)(1) and absent a request otherwise **before testimony begins**, the court will conduct the direct examination of a self-represented party on the issues raised by the parties' pleadings, pretrial statements, and notices of issues. The court must allow a self-represented party to, within that party's allotted trial time, (1) testify about relevant information not addressed by the court's direct examination; (2) conduct their own direct examination upon request; and (3) cross-examine any other parties and their witnesses.

(3) *Additional Procedures Applicable to IV-D Child Support Hearings.* In addition to the procedures of 77(d)(1), the court may examine a witness.