Judge Jay M. Polk, Chair
Task Force on the Arizona Rules for Court-Ordered
Mental Health Proceedings, Petitioner
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SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

PETITION TO ADOPT ARIZONA RULES FOR COURT-ORDERED MENTAL HEALTH PROCEEDINGS	)	Supreme Court No. R-25-____
	)	Motion to Permit Additional Time for Filing a Rule Petition

Background. This Court entered Administrative Order No. 2025-157 on August 20, 2025. The Order established the Task Force on the Arizona Rules for Court-Ordered Mental Health Proceedings ("Task Force") and appointed its members, whose terms began on August 20, 2025. The Order directed the Task Force to create an operational set of rules for civil court-ordered mental health treatment proceedings. The Order further provided,

> The Task Force will file a rule petition proposing its revisions and amendments to the Supreme Court Rules at its earliest convenience, but no later than January 10, 2026.

Currently, no set of rules specifically governing court-ordered mental health treatment proceedings exists. A small "core group" consisting of one judge, two

attorneys, and one Administrative Office of the Courts staff member worked on an initial draft set of rules prior to the Task Force's establishment. The limited representation of stakeholders on the "core group," however, posed challenges for creating a rule set suitable for statewide implementation. In contrast, the Task Force consists of 13 members who represent a broader cross-section of stakeholders and counties, resulting in more comprehensive and robust discussions.

The Task Force held its inaugural meeting on September 19, 2025, and will have convened five additional times by the end of the year. Each meeting typically spans three hours. Prior to the first meeting, the Chair conducted a survey of Task Force members to determine the order in which to review, research, and discuss the draft rules—beginning with those requiring less deliberation and progressing toward those more complex.

The "core group" had proposed approximately 45 draft rules. The Task Force has now completed its initial review and discussion of all but three of those draft rules. The remaining rules will require thoughtful discussion and careful consideration. The Task Force was not formally established until late August 2025 - less than five months before the January 10, 2026, deadline - yet it has made significant progress toward developing a comprehensive set of rules. But despite the Task Force's diligent efforts within a condensed timeframe, it will be unable to meet the January 10, 2026, filing deadline set by Administrative Order 2025-157.

Request. The Task Force therefore requests additional time to file its rule petition, as set out in the following paragraph. That additional time will allow the Task Force to complete its review of the draft mental health rules and submit a complete work product. A shortened comment period could still allow the Court to consider the court-ordered mental health treatment rules petition at its August or September 2026 rules agenda meeting.

Undersigned therefore requests that the Court enter an order permitting the Task Force to file a rule petition not later than February 16, 2026. The undersigned further proposes that the periods for public comment and for replies be extended to accommodate the proposed filing extension date.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 19th day of December, 2025.

By /s/ Judge Jay M. Polk
Judge Jay M. Polk, Chair