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ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

In the Matter of PETITION TO
AMEND RULE 335, RULES OF
PROCEDURE FOR THE JUVENILE
COURT

R-25-0057

COMMENT ON PETITION

The Arizona Attorney General's Office offers its comment under [Rule 28\(e\)](#), Arizona Rules of the Supreme Court, to the proposed amendments to Rule 335, Arizona Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court. The Office opposes the amendments as written for the reasons set forth below.

The directors of various Maricopa County indigent representation offices ask this Court to amend [Rule 335](#), Arizona Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court, addressing Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) placements.

[Rule 335](#) was created in 2022 in response to Arizona’s implementation of QRTP placements as required by the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). There is no underlying Arizona State statute upon which the Rule is modeled; the only statutory authority is the FFPSA. Although Petitioners state that the proposed amendments will “implement” provisions of the FFPSA (Petition at 2), they instead attempt to legislate the QRTP placement process beyond the requirements of the FFPSA. For example, the FFPSA provides the State with a thirty-day time frame after a child is placed in a QRTP placement to complete a multipart assessment to determine the appropriateness of the placement. *See* [42 U.S.C. § 672\(k\)\(3\)\(A\)](#). But the proposed amendments eliminate this statutorily provided time frame and instead require that the State complete the assessment *prior* to the child’s placement. (*See* Petition at 7-8.) Because the proposed amendments attempt to legislate the QRTP placement process beyond the requirements of the FFPSA, the Office does not support adopting them as written.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of April, 2026.

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/s/ Anndrea Kawamura
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