

Samuel A. Thumma
Chair, Arizona Commission on Access to Justice
Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals
Division One
State Courts Building
1501 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007-3329
Telephone: (602) 452-6700

**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the matter of:) Supreme Court No. R-26-0009
)
) COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA
PETITION TO AMEND RULES) COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO
47, 47.1, 47.2, 48 & 91.5 OF THE) JUSTICE SUPPORTING THE
ARIZONA RULES OF FAMILY) PETITION
LAW PROCEDURE)
_____)

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 9, 2026, Commission meeting, a motion was made and seconded that the Commission support Rule Change Petition

No. R-26-0009. 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 for the changes requested in the Petition.

This Petition seeks to amend the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure to provide priority review of temporary orders when a party alleges domestic violence has occurred in a family law case. It would require the court to prioritize the hearing and set sufficient time to address the domestic violence allegations. It also provides a procedure for reviewing temporary orders and provides the court latitude in the time for ruling, should the court need additional information. This Petition increases access to justice by requiring the court to be conscientious regarding time limits, ensuring it has all the relevant evidence in situations where domestic violence has been alleged. Additionally, the pleading requirement puts the other party on notice of the issues for the hearing, which provides the other party with due process to address those allegations.

\
\
\
\
\
\
\

