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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the matter of:) Supreme Court No. R-26-0004
)
) **COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA**
PETITION TO AMEND RULES) **COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO**
12, 23, 25, 26 AND 38 OF THE) **JUSTICE SUPPORTING THE**
ARIZONA RULES OF PROTECTIVE) **PETITION**
ORDER 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-26-0004. 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 requests multiple changes to the Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure. These changes improve access to justice by increasing safety and efficiency for plaintiffs. The proposed change to Rule 12 clarifies that the confidential information form is the only document requiring a plaintiff's address and that a plaintiff's request to change a confidential address does not require a modification of the underlying order. Additionally, the proposed amendments to Rule 38 clarify the procedure to amend a petition at the time of a hearing, requiring events provided in an amendment predate service of the initial petition. The proposed amendments to this rule also clarify that if a plaintiff fails to appear at a hearing, the plaintiff may seek another order including the same acts. These proposed amendments increase access to justice by providing clear direction to self-represented litigants regarding the amendment process and creating uniformity in the treatment of petitions by the court after a plaintiff fails to appear.

