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**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the matter of: ) Supreme Court No. R-25-0059  
)  
) **COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA**  
ADOPTION OF RULES FOR ) **COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO**  
COURT-ORDERED MENTAL ) **JUSTICE SUPPORTING THE**  
HEALTH PROCEEDINGS ) **PETITION**  
)  
\_\_\_\_\_)

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-25-0059. 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 adopt a new rule set for mental health cases which will provide continuity which may not otherwise exist from one judge to the next. Currently, judges apply the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure in such cases but considering the speed of mental health cases, the need to appoint counsel, and other nuances, the civil rules are not always practical. The new mental health rules will clean up areas of dispute such as where the civil rules apply and create a clear, uniform procedure for mental health cases. For parties who seek to represent themselves, the rules will aid them in doing so. The new rule set will ensure access to justice by defining each party's rights and obligations, saving time and expense while protecting those subject to mental health proceedings.

For these reasons, the Commission supports the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-25-0059.

DATED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

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/s/  
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