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**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of ) Arizona Supreme Court No. R-25-0055  
)  
PETITION TO AMEND )  
R. PRO. JV. CT. 323 ) COMMENT OF THE  
) COFC  
)  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The Maricopa County Indigent Defense Agencies filed the pending petition to address the overlap of dependency proceedings with family court matters.

The Committee on Family Court (“COFC”) reviewed and discussed the Petition at its February 19, 2026 meeting. It voted unanimously to oppose the Petition as written.

COFC agrees that the overlap of dependency proceedings with family court matters is a persistent challenge which needs to be addressed. In fact, the Court’s Strategic Agenda’s Goal 3.5(G) reflects its importance, and assigns that task to COFC. Consistent with that mandate, COFC has convened a workgroup, which includes stakeholder groups from both juvenile and family courts, to discuss how to solve some of the challenges. After much

discussion and research, the workgroup is proposing new statutory language that would allow for bridge orders before a dependency action is dismissed. COFC will consider the workgroup's proposal at its May 14, 2026 meeting.

As to the pending rule petition more generally, COFC urges the Court to deny it. While well-intentioned, the proposed language does not take into consideration Rule 5.1, Ariz. R. Fam. L. P., which addresses simultaneous dependency and legal decision-making/parenting time proceedings. Portions of the proposed Rule 323 and the existing family law rules are inconsistent. *See, e.g.*, Comment of COJC. Furthermore, in various aspects, the proposed Rule 323 lacks procedural clarity and would present additional logistical and administrative complications.

For the foregoing reasons, COFC respectfully requests that the Court deny the Petition as drafted.

DATED this 1st day of May, 2026.

/s/ Greg Sakall

Chair, Committee on Family Court