



## ARIZONA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85009  
TELEPHONE: (602) 252-6563 FACSIMILE: (602) 254-0969

DAVID CLOUSE, NAVAJO COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT  
WILL PONCE, LA PAZ COUNTY SHERIFF, VICE PRESIDENT

THE ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION IS THE ONE UNITED CREDIBLE VOICE REPRESENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE COUNTIES OF ARIZONA

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Clerk of the Court  
Arizona Supreme Court  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
1501 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Comment on Petition to Amend Rules 12, 23, 25, 26, and 38 of the Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure

Dear Clerk of the Court,

On behalf of the Arizona Sheriffs' Association (ASA), we respectfully submit comments on the proposed amendments to the Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure (ARPOP).

Arizona's sheriffs are committed to protecting victims of domestic violence and to the effective enforcement of protective orders. We recognize the heightened risk firearms can pose in these cases and support efforts to strengthen victim safety and improve compliance with firearm-related restrictions.

At the same time, the proposed amendments, particularly those related to firearm provisions, represent a significant expansion in the scope and complexity of law enforcement's role in protective order enforcement. While these responsibilities build on duties already performed by law enforcement, the proposal will increase demands related to service, compliance verification, follow-up, and firearm handling across jurisdictions.

As drafted, the proposal raises important questions regarding implementation, including operational consistency, alignment with existing legal frameworks, training needs, and overall agency capacity. Addressing these issues is essential to ensuring that the rule changes can be carried out effectively, safely, and uniformly statewide.

ASA respectfully requests that the Court consider a brief delay in implementation to allow for coordination with law enforcement stakeholders to:

- Establish clear and practical implementation standards
- Ensure alignment with statutory authority and procedural guidance

- Provide necessary training and operational direction
- Evaluate resource impacts and identify any additional support needed

These steps will help ensure the proposed changes achieve their intended purpose—enhancing victim safety—while equipping law enforcement agencies to carry out their responsibilities effectively and consistently.

We appreciate the Court’s consideration and welcome continued collaboration on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Clouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Clouse  
President  
Navajo County Sheriff