

1 Jessica J. Fotinos, Bar No. 019777
2 General Counsel
3 State Bar of Arizona
4 4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
5 Phoenix, AZ 85016-6288
6 (602) 340-7236

7 **IN THE SUPREME COURT**
8 **STATE OF ARIZONA**

9 In the Matter of:

Supreme Court No. R-26-0009

10 **PETITION TO AMEND RULES 47,**
11 **47.1, 47.2, 48 & 91.5 OF THE**
12 **ARIZONA RULES OF FAMILY**
13 **LAW PROCEDURE**

STATE BAR OF ARIZONA
COMMENT

14 Pursuant to Rule 28(e) of the Arizona Rules of Supreme Court, the State Bar
15 of Arizona (the “State Bar”) hereby submits the following as its Comment to the
16 above-captioned Petition.

17 The State Bar, through its Family Law Practice and Procedure Committee,
18 reviewed the above-captioned Petition to amend the Arizona Rules of Family Law
19 Procedure. The State Bar submits this Comment in support of the Petition because
20 it addresses concerns raised by both the public and the family court bench. The
21 proposed changes are informed by judicial and practitioner experience in family
22 court and provide concrete improvements to the delivery of family court services.
23 The bench and bar recognize that family violence and child safety are critical issues
24
25

1 that must be addressed with care and rigor in Arizona’s family courts. These changes
2 will better allow family courts to take the evidence needed in cases involving
3 domestic violence and family violence, to provide due process to all parties when
4 allegations of family or intimate partner violence are made, and to give parties
5 guidance on temporary orders decisions without becoming too burdensome upon the
6 courts. The proposed amendments further provide a nimbler process for addressing
7 material changes in circumstances after temporary orders hearings, as often occur in
8 cases involving children and/or domestic violence. These proposed changes further
9 address procedural challenges self-represented parties face in post-judgment or post-
10 decree proceedings. They streamline these cases in a manner that is fair to all parties
11 involved while giving the court the information and evidence to better determine
12 post-decree issues of modification and enforcement, and to protect the children from
13 further victimization.
14
15
16

17 **CONCLUSION**
18

19 The State Bar respectfully requests that the Arizona Supreme Court adopt
20 the changes proposed in this Petition.
21

22 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 1st day of May, 2026.
23

24 *Jessica J. Fotinos*
25

Jessica J. Fotinos
General Counsel

1 Electronic copy filed with the
2 Clerk of the Supreme Court of Arizona
3 this 1st day of May, 2026.

4 by: PSequin

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25