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SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:

Supreme Court No. R-26-0004

PETITION TO AMEND RULES 12, 23,  
25, 26, AND 38 OF THE ARIZONA  
RULES OF PROTECTIVE ORDER  
PROCEDURE

**COMMENT ON PETITION TO  
AMEND RULE 23 OF THE  
ARIZONA RULES OF  
PROTECTIVE ORDER  
PROCEDURE (ORDER OF  
PROTECTION)**


Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 28(e), the Pima County Attorney, Laura Conover, respectfully submits this comment in support of the Petition to amend the rules of protective order procedure. Tucson City Court Judge Wendy Million has pioneered a unique program that has fostered much needed follow up when a City Court judge orders the defendant in an order of protection to surrender firearms. This collaboration with the Tucson Police Department (TPD), has proven both effective and workable. The program has been so successful that beginning in July, the Pima County Consolidated Justice Court plans to roll out such a program. Pima County Superior Court plans to follow as well.

We know that the presence of a firearm in the home where domestic violence occurs increases the lethality risk by 500%. I make a point of personally meeting with next of kin when asked in homicide cases. Domestic violence homicides occur far too often in my

community and throughout the state. My office works closely with law enforcement to use the Arizona intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System (APRAIS), also known as Form 4C to make evidence-based recommendations when accused defendants are asking to be released. The rule change proposed by Judge Million applies that same evidence-based analysis to orders of protection when judges are making a decision on whether the defendant should surrender firearms. Copies of such orders are appropriately shared with the applicable law enforcement agencies to conduct follow up investigation where appropriate.

We can never predict with certainty what people will do in the future. My office has the utmost respect for the rights of responsible gun owners, and we do not take the decision to order surrender of firearms lightly. We also know the available bandwidth of our law enforcement partners is finite. Taking the position that domestic violence is a problem and issuing blanket orders to surrender firearms dilutes already limited resources. By applying evidence-based, documented best practices, this rule change allows law enforcement to focus on the highest risk individuals and have the furthest possible reach in changing the trajectory of a victim's future – to cross the bridge from being a victim to being a survivor. With these goals in mind, I respectfully support the proposed rule change.

Respectfully submitted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Conover', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

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