

Paul McMurdie, Chair
Family Court Improvement Committee
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IN THE SUPREME COURT

STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)	
)	Supreme Court No.
PETITION TO AMEND RULE 20 RULES)	
OF FAMILY LAW PROCEDURE)	

The Family Court Improvement Committee unanimously voted to amend Rule 20 of the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure. The need to modify the rule is the ease of use of mandated federal forms in child-support enforcement.

The proposed amendment creates an exception to the general requirement in Ariz. R. Fam. Law P. 20(b)(7) that pleadings filed with the court be originals. The Central Registry of the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSS), like all IV-D agencies, receives documents from other states connected with its responsibilities to assist them in establishing and enforcing child-support obligations. Some documents are received electronically, while others are received by regular mail. Once received, however, all are scanned to the DCSS's database. With a decentralized workforce, both in DCSS and the Attorney General Office, electronic copies make the litigation process substantially more efficient. This request is consistent with A.R.S. § 25-1256 and OCSE PIQ-18-01 (Electronic Documents and Tribunals under UIFSA Section 316).

Rule 20. Form of Documents

(a) – (b)(8) No change.

(9) INTERSTATE FORMS. FORMS PRESCRIBED BY THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR USE IN INTERSTATE CASES ACCORDING TO THE UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT ARE DEEMED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS RULE. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (B)(7), SUCH FORMS MAY BE COPIES OF THE ORIGINALS. CERTIFIED FOREIGN ORDERS OR SWORN STATEMENTS OF ARREARS MAY BE COPIES SO LONG AS THEY CONTAIN THE COURT'S OR GOVERNMENT BODY'S OFFICIAL SEAL OF AUTHORITY.

(c) No change.