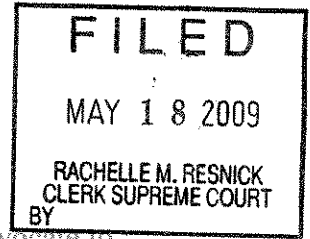


The Clerk of the Arizona Supreme Court
Attention: Rules Comment Section
1501 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3231

May 15, 2009



RE: Rule Petition No. R-08-0012

Please adopt the proposed change to allow manufactured park residents to have an advocate to help them prepare for and present their case in a Hearing Petition.

My Experience with the process:

Prior to last fall, I have never been involved with a 'court proceeding' in my 66 years. There was reason to use the hearing process because of things going sour in the manufactured home park of which I have lived for three years.

Using the website, we educated ourselves to the best of our ability and submitted our paperwork with exhibits to the Building Fire and Life Safety Department. It was approved and we had a hearing scheduled for fall of 2008. I was chosen by the residents to represent them having no clue, the opposition would be using an attorney.

The whole thing was lopsided from the beginning -- I had another resident willing to help with the presentation, but was told by the judge that wasn't possible because my name was the only name that appeared on the petition. If I had known, it would have been submitted differently. The park manager was represented by a slick Phoenix lawyer and here I was trying to represent the residents of the park! It was embarrassing the number of times the judge had to stop me and educate me as to how I should be proceeding in my presentation as well as the cross-examination. It also slowed down the entire hearing.

Obviously the lawyer with his years of education could work circles around me. In the long run we lost and I should tell you, I am not a sore loser! I truly believe it was because of my lack of knowledge of the process and I had to go it alone without being able to have assistance by a knowledgeable party. No way could we have been prepared to represent ourselves against someone who is schooled and had many years of practical experience in hearing procedures and court processes.

The hearing process is a wonderful vehicle, although I feel we need to level the playing field. I truly believe that if people using the system would be allowed to have help in preparing for and presenting their case, the judge's job would be easier as both sides would be presented in a professional manner by people who knew the process. And who knows, final rulings might be better too!

Sincerely,

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