

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PINAL

20 DEC 10 PM 1:47

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING)
ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN CRIMINAL)
PROCEEDINGS TO HELP PREVENT)
THE SPREAD OF COVID-19)
_____)

BY MM)
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER)
DEPUTY.)
No. 2020 - 00065)

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Arizona in Pinal County is the Chief Judicial Executive Officer of the County and has administrative supervision over all courts in Pinal County Pursuant to Article VI of the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2017-79; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Arizona issued Administrative Order 2020-197 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the general population; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health and safety of all participants by limiting in-person contact as much as possible, the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court entered Administrative Order No. 2020-197 (Section II.2) that states: "During Phases I and II, judicial leadership should limit in-person contact in the conduct of court business as much as possible by using available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, video conferencing, and use of email and text messages to reasonably ensure the health and safety of all participants.";

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the use of electronic signatures in criminal court matters are authorized on a temporary basis during the pandemic.

An electronic signature can take the form of either (a) a scan of the attorney's handwritten signature; (b) an electronic signature made by means of a stylus, an electronic pen, a computer mouse, a touch screen, or other similar method; (c) an electronically inserted image intended to substitute for a signature; or (d) a "/s/ name of signatory" block. Such electronic signature shall have the same force and effect as if the attorney had affixed her or his original signature to a paper copy of the document so signed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall expire upon order of this Court.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2020



Honorable Stephen F. McCarville,
Presiding Judge

MM

Original: Filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Rebecca Padilla, Clerk of the Court
Superior Court Judges, Pinal County
Kent Volkmer, Pinal County Attorney
Kate Miliewski, Public Defender
David Rodriguez, Chief Deputy County Attorney
Cathryn Whalen, Indigent Defense Services
Todd. D. Zweig, Court Administrator