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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PINAL

ESTABLISHING A VULNERABLE PERSONS UNIT IN THE SUPERIOR COURT) **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
)
) **NO. 2021-00020**

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Arizona vest the Pinal County Superior Court with jurisdiction over vulnerable populations in this County and charge this Court with the responsibility for adjudicating cases that involve persons involved in the Title 8/Title 14 Guardianship/Conservatorship process, Rule 11 and the restoration to competency processes along with Title 36 civil mental health cases. This may include both pre and post adjudication reporting and case management, reviewing compliance with statutes and related court orders and ensuring that vulnerable persons receive services as directed by the Court; and

WHEREAS the timely, efficient and effective performance of these responsibilities is essential to reduce the number of days vulnerable persons involved in the criminal justice system spend in jail, provide the necessary oversight to avoid potential neglect/abuse and protect the health and safety of vulnerable people; and

WHEREAS, the Superior Court requires staff resources with appropriate training, knowledge and expertise to assist the Court in carrying out these vital functions in an effective, efficient and timely manner;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED creating a Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) within Court Administration for the purpose of providing support and assistance to the Court in carrying out its functions, duties and responsibilities in Title 8, Title 14, Rule 11 and Title 36 cases and in developing and implementing this vision regarding Court policies, processes, procedures and programs.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Vulnerable Persons Unit shall include a Program Director who shall have responsibility for the administration of the VPU. The Director shall assist the Court in the development and implementation of the vision of the Court and be available to assist the Court in carrying out its adjudicative responsibilities by providing consultation and advice.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Vulnerable Persons Unit shall include such other staff as needs require and resources permit, including, but not limited to, case managers, expert advisors and other staff as appropriate.

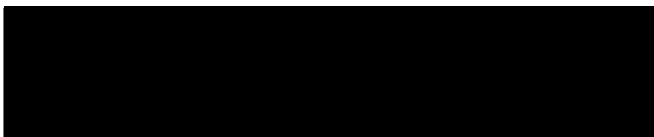
Administrative Order
Vulnerable Persons Unit

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that staff in the Vulnerable Persons Unit are authorized to receive and review information in cases assigned to the VPU and other related court cases in order to carry out their authorized duties pursuant to this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the staff in the Vulnerable Persons Unit, in performing their authorized duties, may contact treatment and care providers and other agencies and court stakeholders as necessary for the purpose of coordinating matters attendant to the delivery of court-ordered services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the VPU Director shall serve as staff to the Mental Health Task Force and develop strategies and guide initiatives designed to improve safe, timely, and positive outcomes for vulnerable persons as defined in this Order.

DATED this 1 day of ^{March}February 2021



Honorable Stephen F. McCarville
Presiding Judge

Original: Filed with the Clerk
Copies To: Superior Court Judges
Public Defender, Kate Milewski
County Attorney, Kent Volkmer
Office of Indigent Defense Services, Cathryn Whalen
Court Administrator, Todd D. Zweig
Vulnerable Persons Unit, Natalie Jones