

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
2014 FEB 13 AM 10:18
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PINAL

ESTABLISHING A DEPENDENCY) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT AND)
APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY)
COORDINATORS IN THE JUVENILE) NO. 2014-00 006
COURT)

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Arizona vest the Pinal County Juvenile Court with jurisdiction over dependent children in this County and charge this Court with the responsibility for adjudicating dependency, establishing and approving a case plan with appropriate services; determining placement and visitation for dependent children; reviewing compliance with the case plan, related court orders and compliance with Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requirements; and assuring that children receive timely permanency; and

WHEREAS the timely, efficient and effective performance of these responsibilities is essential to protecting the health and safety of dependent children and achieving positive outcomes for them as well as their parents, families and the public; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile 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; and **THEREFORE**:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED creating a Dependency Case Management Unit within Juvenile Court Services for the purpose of providing support and assistance to the Court in carrying out its functions, duties and responsibilities in dependency cases and in developing and implementing the vision of the Presiding Judge of Pinal County Juvenile Court regarding Dependency Court policies, processes, procedures and programs.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Dependency Unit shall include a Dependency Supervisor who shall have responsibility for the administration of the Dependency Unit. The Supervisor shall assist the Court in the development and implementation of the vision of the Court, including development and implementation of programs, processes and procedures related to dependency cases. In addition, the Dependency Supervisor shall be available to assist the Court in carrying out its adjudicative responsibilities by providing consultation and advice.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Dependency Unit shall include such other staff as needs require and resources permit, including, but not limited to, community service coordinators, expert advisors and administrative support staff.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED authorizing the establishment of the position(s) of Community Services Coordinator. The purpose of the position will be to identify, resolve and facilitate the timely delivery of services ordered by the Court in dependency cases and to assure that reasonable efforts are being made to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the case plan that is in effect and to finalize the permanent placement of the child. In this capacity, the Community Services Coordinator may assist the parties in identifying community-based services and resources to meet the needs of children and their families; may facilitate communication among all parties and any entities ordered to provide services; may review files to identify and overcome any barriers to the delivery of court-ordered services; and may perform related duties as ordered by the court. All duties specific to the Dependency Case Management Unit will be identified in Pinal County Juvenile Court Policies and Procedures.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Dependency Supervisor/Community Coordinators, in performing their authorized duties, may contact treatment providers and other court employees as necessary for the purpose of coordinating matters attendant to the delivery of court-ordered services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(B)(1), the Dependency Supervisor/Community Services Coordinators are authorized to receive and review Child Protective Services (CPS) information related to dependency cases in order to carry out their authorized duties pursuant to this Order and this authorization shall extend to equivalent information from any successor agency to CPS that may now or hereafter assume all or part of its relevant duties and responsibilities.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a Dependency Court Improvement Committee shall be formed to develop strategies and guide initiatives designed to promote safe, timely, permanent and positive outcomes for children, families and the public.

DATED this 13 day of FEBRUARY, 2014

[Redacted signature block]

Honorable Stephen McCarville
Presiding Superior Court Judge

[Redacted signature block]

Honorable Kevin D. White
Associate Presiding Superior Court Judge

[Redacted signature block]

Honorable Gilberto V. Figueroa
Presiding Juvenile Court Judge

A.O. No. 2014 _____

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court
Judges, Pinal County
Court Administration
Todd Zweig, Director of Juvenile Court Services
Lillian Downing, Dependency Unit Supervisor
Attorney General