

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

ORDERING SERVICE BY CERTIFIED
OR REGISTERED MAIL

}
} ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
} No. 2020-057

On March 30, 2020, to further reduce the continuing spread of COVID-19, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-18 urging Arizona residents to stay-at-home other than for essential activities. While the Executive Order acknowledges that legal and court processes constitute essential activities, the Superior Court believes it is necessary to limit travel throughout the county and limit in-person contact between persons as much as possible to protect the health and safety of the public and of Judicial Branch employees.

Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure for Juvenile Court requires that after a petition alleging an incorrigible or delinquent act has been filed, a notice to appear to the juvenile and the parent, guardian or custodian is issued by the Court. The petition and notice to appear is then required to be served on the parent, guardian, custodian and juvenile if the juvenile is fourteen (14) years of age or older and upon counsel representing any party. Normally each party is personally served by an authorized juvenile court officer or an officer authorized to serve process in a civil action. However, Rule 26(B) provides that “if the court finds that it is impracticable to personally serve the parties, it may approve service by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. Return of the receipt or an affidavit of service shall be prima facie evidence of service.”

In light of the Governor’s Order urging people to restrict personal interactions with others, and current CDC guidelines urging social distancing, it is currently impracticable to personally serve parties with petitions and notices to appear in delinquency and incorrigibility cases.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that until further notice all currently unserved petitions and notices to appear under Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure for Juvenile Court and all future petitions and notices to appear under Rule 26 will be served by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. Return of the receipt or an affidavit of service shall be prima facie evidence of service.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2020

/s/ Joseph C. Kreamer
Hon. Joseph C. Kreamer
Juvenile Department Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Hon. Joseph Welty, Presiding Judge
All Juvenile Department Judges
All Juvenile Department Commissioners
Dave Byers, Administrative Office of the Courts
Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Chief Eric Meaux, Juvenile Probation Department
Shawn Friend, Deputy Court Administrator
Cheri Clark, Juvenile Department Administrator