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

IN THE MATTER OF PROHIBITING STEFANIE KUERSCHNER FROM FILING ANY LAWSUIT IN MARICOPA COUNTY WITHOUT OBTAINING PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE COURT	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 2025-144

The request to consider issuing an administrative order declaring Stefanie Kuerschner a vexatious litigant was referred to the office of the Presiding Judge by both Judge Kerstin LeMaire and Judge Adam Driggs. After considering all matters presented, the Court makes the following findings and orders.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-3201, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court may designate a self-represented litigant who engages in vexatious conduct as a vexatious litigant. In addition, courts "possess inherent authority to curtail a vexatious litigant's ability to initiate additional lawsuits." *Madison v. Groseth,* 230 Ariz. 8, 15 (App. 2012). The filing excesses of vexatious litigants interfere with the orderly administration of justice by diverting judicial resources from those cases filed by litigants willing to follow court rules and those meritorious cases that deserve prompt judicial attention. *See Acker v. CSO Chevira,* 188 Ariz. 252 (App. 1997). Arizona Revised Statues § 12-2301(E) defines vexatious conduct to include repeated filing of court actions solely or primarily for the purpose of harassment, filing claims unreasonably expanding or delaying court proceedings, bringing court actions without substantial justification, and filing claims or requests for relief that have been the subject to previous rulings by a court in the same litigation.

Stefanie Kuerschner was declared a vexatious litigant in PB2021-003597 on July 11, 2025. The Court found that Ms. Kuerschner filed items to harass the other parties, including but not limited to alleging conspiracies between the Clerk of Court and James Kuerschner to alter the court docket, issuing voluminous subpoenas in a manner Ms. Kuerschner has been advised is unlawful, and filing "dozens and dozens" of documents after the Court barred her from doing so.

The Court in PB2021-003597 further found that Ms. Kuerschner has filed extensive pleadings frivolously and that she has expanded litigation, asking for complete accountings, appointing a special administrator, and enforcing subpoenas, following the trial's conclusion and entry of a final judgment. Ms. Kuerschner filed CV2024-019544, attempting to improperly relitigate matters addressed in both PB2021-003597 and in CV2024-007214, a case closely related to her probate matter that the Court had previously dismissed with prejudice in 2024. The Court dismissed CV2024-019544 after finding that the action was barred by claim preclusion and awarded attorney's fees and costs to the defendant James Kuerschner.

The Court has repeatedly provided Ms. Kuerschner with resources and information concerning the proper manner of litigating claims. The Court has repeatedly imposed sanctions against Ms. Kuerschner. And yet, she continues to file pleadings unreasonably expanding court proceedings, bringing court actions without substantial justification, and filing claims or requests for relief that have been the subject to previous rulings by a court in the same litigation.

Attempting a lesser sanction, the Court previously barred Ms. Kuerschner from filing any further pleadings in PB2021-003597 without prior approval. After this restriction was put in place, Ms. Kuerschner filed numerous pleadings, including:

- Declaration of Stefanie A. Kuerschner Regarding Motion to Strike as Violation of First and Fourteenth Amendment Rights, filed on August 17, 2025.
- Request to File Motion for Leave to Serve Subpoenas Duces Tecum, filed on August 17, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Petitioner's Notice of Appeal July 28, 2025 Order and Application to Continue Fee Deferral/Waiver to Appeal, filed on August 18, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Motion for Attorney's Fees, Expenses, and Sanctions Pursuant to A.R.S. §12-349, filed on August 18, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Motion for Protective Order Regarding Subpoena Costs, filed on August 18, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Petitioner's Motion for Leave to File Second Exhibit List and for Judicial Notice in Advance of September 3, 2025 Hearing filed August 26, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Motion for Judicial Notice of Banking Records Proving Community Funding and Fraudulent Creditor Claim Issue filed on August 28, 2025.
- A 145-page Request for Leave to File Memorandum of Law filed August 28, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Petitioner's Supplemental Pretrial Statement filed August 28, 2025.
- A 216-page Request for Leave to File Motion for Leave to Serve Subpoenas for Estate Accounting Records filed August 29, 2025.
- A 457-page Request for Leave to File Motion for Judicial Notice of Tax and Retirement Account Evidence Demonstrating Damages to Summit Aesthetics LLC and Petitioner Stefanie Kuerschner filed September 2, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Emergency Motion for Preservation and Non-Destruction of the Record, Exhibits, Digital Evidence, and Minute Entries Pending Appellate Proceeding filed September 2, 2025.
- A 305-page Request for Leave to File Notice and Request for Judicial Consideration of Previously Filed Evidence (Empower/Baird Accounts and 11/27/2024 Transcript) filed September 2, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Final Exhibits and Witness List filed September 3, 2025.
- A 99-page Request for Leave to File Motion for Judicial Notice of Trust Funding Evidence and Related Testimony filed September 3, 2025.
- Petitioner's Good Faith Motion to Withdraw Subpoenas filed September 4, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Certificate of Notice of Appeal filed September 4, 2025.

- Request for Leave to File Petitioner's Response in Opposition to Personal Representative's Second Motion for Civil and Criminal Contempt filed September 9, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Reply in Support of Emergency Motion to Waive Supersedeas Bond and Stay under Rule ARCAP 7 filed September 22, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Motion for Stay Further Proceedings and Enforcement of any Fee Award Pending Resolution of Petition for Special Action filed September 22, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Motion to Seal and for in Camera Review of Medical Exhibits and for Entry of HIPAA Compliant Protective Order filed September 22, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Notice of Filing and Authentication of New Evidence and Supplemental Declaration of Petitioner Regarding Post Accident Evidence Supporting Indigency and Irreparable Harm filed September 22, 2025.
- A 200-page Request for Leave to File Supplemental Motion to Prior Indigency/Financial Hardship Filings with Additional Evidence of Poverty, Job Loss, Food Assistance and for Similar Consideration with Outstanding Requests for Cost/Fee Waiver, Reduction, Security, Sanctions filed September 22, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Petitioner's Written Objections to Lodged "Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law Re Order of Civil Contempt and Lodging of Petitioner's Proposed Order filed September 22, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Response and Opposition to Personal Representative's Motion for Civil and Criminal Contempt filed September 22, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Response Opposing Personal Representative's Second Contempt Motion Pursuant to Rule 65(d) filed September 24, 2025.
- Request for Leave to File Petitioner's Response and Opposition to Personal Representative's Application for Attorneys' Fees Arising from September 3, 2025 Order to Show Cause Hearing field September 24, 2025.

As set forth by Judge LeMaire in her referral of this matter to the Office of the Presiding Judge, the cases and pleadings filed by Ms. Kuerschner argue legal positions that are not grounded in the law and reargue the same positions with no regard to the rulings of the Court and promote abuse of process.

For the reasons set forth above and incorporating the findings of fact and conclusions of law from Judge LeMaire, the Court finds that Ms. Kuerschner has engaged in vexatious conduct by filing claims or requests for relief that have been subject of previous rulings in previous litigation, has unreasonably expanded court proceedings, and has brought court actions without substantial justification as defined in A.R.S. § 12-349.

The Court may issue an order limiting such a litigant's ability to file future lawsuits, motions and requests for relief to the extent necessary to curtail improper conduct. Ms. Kuerschner is a current defendant in CV2024-002481. The Court entered final judgment against Ms. Kuerschner on September 18, 2025 and she filed a Notice of Appeal.

The Court find the orders set out below to be the least restrictive orders that will adequately address Ms. Kuerschner's established pattern of abuse.

IT IS THEREOFRE ORDERED as follows:

1. Ms. Kuerschner may not file any new causes of action as a self-represented litigant after the date of this order without the approval of the relevant department presiding judge.

2. Ms. Kuerschner may not file any further pleading or motion in any of her current lawsuits other than CV2024-002481 as a self-represented litigant without first seeking leave from the judicial officer assigned to that lawsuit.

3. Any motion for leave to file any lawsuit, pleading or motion shall be captioned "Application Pursuant to Court Order Seeking Leave to File." Ms. Kuerschner must either cite this order in her application or attach as an exhibit a copy of this order.

4. Any request for fee waiver or deferral may only be granted by the relevant presiding judge or their judicial designee.

If approval for filing a new action by Ms. Kuerschner is granted, the Clerk of Court may accept subsequent filings in that cause number from Ms. Kuerschner. This Administrative Order does not preclude Ms. Kuerschner from filing a Notice of Appeal or a Notice of Cross-Appeal in accordance with Arizona Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Dated this 31 day of October, 2025.

/s/ Pamela S. Gates
Honorable Pamela Sue Gates
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Hon. Joseph Malka, Clerk of the Superior Court
Hon. John Blanchard, Civil Department Presiding Judge
Hon. Kerstin LeMaire
Hon. Adam Driggs
Raymond L. Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Luke Emerson, Civil Department Administrator
Jessica Fotinos, Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court
Michael Malin, EVANS DUKARICH LLP
Stefanie Kuerschner