

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

IN THE MATTER OF CONSOLIDATION)
OF CRIMINAL CASE PROCESSING)
_____)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2000-070

Whereas, the division of criminal case processing between the Justice Courts and the Superior Courts creates unnecessary delay by separating hearings for preliminary hearings, changes of plea, arraignment and early disposition sentencings between different courts in different locations, and

Whereas, the consolidation of criminal case processing within four regional locations in the West, Central, East and Northeast Maricopa County Valley will result in prompter adherence to speedy trial rules set forth in the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, to the benefit of the public, crime victims and defendants, and

Whereas, the Superior Court desires to coordinate its policies on criminal case processing with capital improvement plans of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. It is the policy of the Superior Court of Maricopa County to consolidate all front-end felony criminal case processing involving preliminary hearings, arraignments, changes of plea and early disposition sentencings in one proceeding in the following four regional centers:
 - (a) Preliminary hearings arising from the City of Phoenix shall be consolidated in the downtown Phoenix Justice Court complex and /or the downtown Superior Court complex. Where convenient, in the discretion of the Court, preliminary hearings arising from certain geographic areas of the City of Phoenix may be heard in the Northwest or Northeast regional sites. Where necessary, cases arising from precincts contiguous to the City of Phoenix may be considered downtown.

- (b) Preliminary hearings arising in the East Valley shall be consolidated in the Southeast Superior Court complex.
 - (c) Preliminary hearings arising in the Northeast Valley shall be consolidated in the Scottsdale Justice Court located at the Scottsdale Air Park pending completion of a Northeast Regional Court facility.
 - (d) Preliminary hearings arising in the West Valley shall be consolidated in the Glendale Justice Court in downtown Glendale pending completion of a new Northwest Valley Court facility.
2. Justices of the Peace may travel to the four regional centers to conduct preliminary hearings. Superior Court hearing officers shall also be designated as Justices of the Peace pro tem to conduct hearings. Superior Court hearing officers shall be present to take preliminary hearings, waivers, pleas, arraignments and, with the consent of the parties in appropriate cases, sentencings.
 3. The Court Administrator shall work to accomplish the objectives of this policy with all deliberate and reasonable speed.

DONE on November 21, 2000

Colin Campbell, Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Justices of the Peace
Judge Thomas O'Toole, Criminal Presiding
Judge Eddward Ballinger, Criminal Division
Gordon M. Griller, Court Administrator, Superior Court
Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Chief Deputy Court Administrator
Karen Westover, Criminal Court Administration
Richard Romley, County Attorney
Susan Sherwin, County Attorney
Dean Trebesch, Public Defender
Robert Briney, Legal Defender
David Henderschott, Sheriff's Office