

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RULES COMMITTEE

Mission Statement and Goals:

A. Mission Statement

The mission of the Domestic Violence Rules Committee is to 1) establish a comprehensive, statewide set of rules of procedure for protective orders aimed at achieving fair, effective, uniform and timely resolution of cases involving protective orders and 2) enhance enforcement of protective orders and public safety to the extent possible and appropriate.

B. Goals of Committee Members

- 1) Create separate Arizona Rules of Procedure for Protective Orders to be included in *Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure* and *Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure*.
- 2) Address *pro se* litigants' needs to have protective order rules that are understandable and simplified;
- 3) Address consistency and uniformity in processing of domestic violence cases;
- 4) Address the need to have policies and procedures better disseminated and publicized and included in the rules, if possible, and on the web;
- 5) Revise the *Domestic Violence Benchbook* to include only scripts and judicial information on protective order procedures; utilize the remaining valuable resource information currently included in the *DV Benchbook* to create a *Domestic Violence Resource Book* for public distribution;
- 6) Prioritize serious DV cases, particularly those involving children;
- 7) Provide better coordination of domestic violence resources for the benefit of litigants;
- 8) Relax the rules of evidence standards for protective order cases;

- 9) Address the need to be cognizant of domestic violence issues and protective orders in ADR processes to ensure the safety of the litigants and any children involved;
- 10) Address issues regarding personal identifying information and sensitive data;
- 11) Address confidentiality with protective orders generally, but particularly before service.