

Pinal County Attorney's Office



Strategic Business Plan FY 2011/2012

The Mission of the Pinal County Attorney's Office is

Seek the truth
Serve the people
Do justice

The Pinal County Attorney's Office major charge is to prosecute both felony and misdemeanor crimes in Pinal County. We act as legal advisor to the County Board of Supervisors, other elected officials, county departments, school districts and certain special districts. We also support victims of crime and collect child support payments from non-custodial parents.

Pinal County Attorney's Office

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Section 1
Criminal Division

Adult and Juvenile Prosecution

The Criminal Division prosecutes adult and juvenile offenders in order to do justice for the people of Pinal County. We review law enforcement referrals. Our prosecutors present cases to the grand jury, participate in preliminary hearings in Justice and Superior Courts, attend Drug Court, interview witnesses, meet with victims of crime and prosecute defendants in Early Disposition Court and at jury trials in the Pinal County Superior Court.

Our juvenile prosecutors review cases referred by law enforcement and submit petitions to Superior Court, attend court hearings, prosecute minor offenders in trials. Our prosecutors also educate law enforcement and participate in Mock Trial events for high school students.

The Division's annual goal was to resolve non-complex felony cases within 180 days from receipt. This has been accomplished in part because of the Early Disposition Court's (EDC) success.

Family Advocacy Center

The Family Advocacy Center (FAC) provides space and support to local law enforcement agencies for their investigations in child abuse cases. Such support services include medical examinations by doctors or Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurses and forensic interviews of victims in cases involving physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence and neglect of children. We conducted 142 forensic interviews in cases involving allegations of sex and physical abuse crimes against children.

The FAC successfully met its goal for fiscal year 2011, which was to provide forensic interviews to 98 percent of the crime victims referred to the center.

Section 2 **Community Services Division**

The Community Services Division provides victim services, victim compensation and Adult Diversion/Deferred Prosecution and Bad Check Enforcement.

Victim Services

Our Victim Services crew provides notification, advocacy, education and crime prevention services to victims of crime. We work as a liaison with law enforcement on behalf of victims providing crisis counseling and emotional support. At the end of the process, we request all victims we serve to evaluate our services via a survey.

Our goal for 75 percent of victims served to give a favorable survey was met for fiscal 2011.

Victim Compensation

Victims of crime are entitled to compensation and financial support in certain cases. Victim compensation investigates applications and submits them to our Victim Compensation Board for review. Our crew issues payments to victims and providers, negotiates payments with medical and mental health providers and if necessary, provides emergency funds for funeral costs, wage losses and crime scene clean-up expenses.

We reviewed 100 percent of all applications received during fiscal year 2011, meeting the goal we set for ourselves.

Adult Diversion/Deferred Prosecution and Bad Check Enforcement

Adult Diversion/Deferred Prosecution and Bad Check Enforcement provide alternatives to prosecution to first time non-violent offenders and bad check writers. We hold them accountable for their conduct without a criminal conviction if they successfully follow a restitution program set up by of our office and the court. Offenders can only enter this process if the arresting law enforcement agency and the victims in the case agree to it.

Bad Check Enforcement provides restitution to victims of bad check writers. We attend court hearings and trials along with the prosecuting attorneys and our investigator testifies in court when necessary to support the criminal prosecution of a case. We assist law enforcement agencies in resolving forgery and fraudulent scheme cases. We provide affidavits of forgery for check writers and we prepare and serve subpoenas. We also give information to victims about their cases. One of our objectives is to prevent bad check writing by educating the public of the consequences.

The Adult Diversion/ Deferred Prosecution goal for 65 percent of all participants to successfully complete the program in the past fiscal year was met. Additionally more than 50 percent of all submitted bad check cases were successfully resolved.

Section 3 Child Support Division

The Child Support Division establishes paternity, child support, and medical support orders. Division personnel also provide enforcement for those orders for the benefit of single parents and, in some cases, grandparents throughout the county.

Support Establishment and Enforcement

We review each application, interview applicants and obtain copies of existing court orders. We locate non-custodial parents, their assets and investigate their employment status. Our case managers then work to establish income withholding orders and provide all non-compliance notices to the non-custodial parent, if any. They prepare and serve all enforcement requests and notices asking non-custodial parents to appear in court. They also provide corresponding notices to the custodial parent.

Medical Support Order Establishment

The Child Support Division team interviews applicants and completes child support worksheets. Our lawyers, paralegals and expert support staff prepare and approve the summons and complaints for child support, attend court hearings and prepare judgment and orders for the court to sign. Child support and medical support orders are entered into the state child support database ATLAS. We also locate the non-custodial parents and provide copies of orders to all parties.

Paternity Establishment

Paternity establishment ensures that all children, born out of wedlock, have a legal father with child support responsibilities. We work with applicants to locate non-custodial parents and prepare the necessary papers to be filed with the court. Once the court hands down an order we provide copies to all parties involved and the case is entered into the ATLAS database.

Child Support Division collected a record **\$22,612.340** for Pinal County families. This was a **4.6 percent** increase over the previous fiscal year outpacing our goal of 3 percent. We met our goal to establish child support orders for more than 85 percent of all new cases submitted to us and also establish paternity for more than 90 percent of our case load.

Section 4
Civil Division

Legal Advice and Representation

We provide legal advice and representation to the Board of Supervisors, county departments, other elected officials, schools and other districts in Pinal County so they can perform their statutory functions.

Section 5 **Administrative Division**

The Executive and Support Services Division provides human resource and information technology support and training. The Division also provides finance and budget services, manages the vehicle fleet and conducts purchasing services for all divisions of the office. In addition, the Division also coordinates and conducts the community outreach efforts of the office.

Community Outreach

Our Community Outreach efforts aim to inform Pinal County residents of the County Attorney's Office functions and activities. We work to prevent crime by providing education and training to community groups around the county on safety and drug issues. Such groups include the TRIADs. They consist of representatives from our office, volunteers and local police departments or the sheriff's office in unincorporated areas collaboratively providing safety services for older adults. We conduct prescription drug turn-in events, produce and disseminate educational materials, participate in local and countywide events and provide support for grass-root coalitions.