



Denise Smith
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JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Pinal County Superior Court

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PRELIMINARY PROTECTIVE CONFERENCE PURPOSE AND PROCESS

(Revised 10/2/17)

The Dependency Unit, as part of Juvenile Court Services, is responsible for coordination and facilitation of the Preliminary Protective Conference (PPC) which occurs prior to the Preliminary Protective Hearing (PPH).

PURPOSE: The purpose of the PPC is to encourage agreement on placement of children, develop a plan for visitation between parents and their children and siblings if necessary. This is also an opportunity for the Department of Child Safety to review the recommended services for parents and children.

PROCESS:

1. The Department's Initial Court Report is submitted to the court and dependency unit by noon of the prior business day to the scheduled PPC and PPH.
2. The signed DCS report is emailed to the Judges' Juvenile Assistants (JA) **and** the Dependency Unit
 - a. The J.A.s are Kathy Sherwood, Ksherwood@courts.az.gov, 520-866-5409 for Judge Daniel Washburn;
 - b. Jessica Lewis, jelewis@courts.az.gov, 520-866-5491 for Judge Delana Fuller;
 - c. Norma Cruz, Nacruz@courts.az.gov, 520-866-5572;
 - d. The Dependency Unit email is Pinaldepdstaff@courts.az.gov.
3. Having the DCS report submitted on time is critical for the judges and PPC facilitators in order to prepare for conferences and hearings.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE:

1. Bring copies of the DCS court report and any disclosure you plan to file in for the attorneys
2. Come prepared to discuss placement, visitation and services
 - a. Placement-you may be asked how the children are doing in placement, if the department will consider alternative placement, such as with a relative
 - b. Visitation-provide as much detail as possible regarding a visitation plan for the parents to see their children on a regular basis.
 - i. Will the visits need to be supervised?
 - ii. Will the parents visit together or separately?
 - iii. Who can supervise
 - iv. Discuss the schedule for frequency and where the visits can occur
 - v. If the placement will be supervising visits in their home, explain how this will be coordinated with the parents
 - c. Services-review the services offered with the parents and provide details to assist them in setting up and starting services. Be mindful of explaining the services at the parents' level of understanding.
 - d. Services-for children, include all services that may be needed based on the children's needs especially if they are under three years of age and require additional assessments.