

Role of Community Coordinator in Dependency Cases

The Community Coordinator collaborates with community providers that consist of representatives from local public and private agencies such as the Department of Child Safety (DCS), Court staff, behavioral health providers, early educational services, Foster and Kinship placements, mental health and developmental specialists in order to ensure children and families receive timely and quality service delivery in accordance with best practices and Arizona statutes.

In Pinal County, the Community Coordinator is typically assigned by the judge to a dependency case for children under the age of three. In most cases, the court orders the coordinator to follow up on the assessments and court ordered services for the child. The court may also assign a case due to its complexity and ask the coordinator to follow-up on a specific area.

The Community Coordinator:

- ✚ Ensures the needs of infants and toddlers are met
- ✚ Serves as a liaison between the Court, DCS, and the Providers
- ✚ As a resource for the Judge and court team in areas of community resources and child development, and best practice for very young children
- ✚ Monitors cases of children under 3 to ensure court ordered services are timely
- ✚ Attends court hearings
- ✚ Maintains contact with all relevant parties
- ✚ Participates in case reviews with appropriate providers/attendance and at Child Family Team (CFT) meetings
- ✚ Maintains data
- ✚ Facilitates ongoing communication and coordination across the court team to avoid duplication of services, decrease amount of time children are in care and expedite permanency

- ✚ Assists with ongoing trainings and support for court staff and community providers.

Community Coordinator and Department of Child Safety (DCS)

The Community Coordinator keeps an open line of communication with the case managers and service providers in order to assist with completion of the assessments and court ordered services.

- ✚ The Judge will typically assign a case during the Pre-Protective Hearing with the instructions of what to follow up on (assessments or complex issue)
 - Interested parties can request the CC during the Pre-Protective Conference and the Judge will decide whether to assign the case.
- ✚ CC will submit a letter via email to the case manager and the Attorney General's office informing them the case has been assigned.
- ✚ CC will need copies of:
 - Hospital birth records
 - Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) and immunizations (medical records from Primary Care Physician)
 - The Rapid Response- BOTH portions
 - Arizona's Children Association (or other agency completing the initial developmental assessment)
 - Easter Seals Blake Foundation (typically the infant toddler mental health assessment)
- ✚ Information to attend the CFT
- ✚ Any ongoing progress notes (re: visits, placement, therapy for child, developmental monitoring)
- ✚ Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) referral and assigned agency
- ✚ Any miscellaneous items that may be needed to address services specific to the child
- ✚ CC is typically present during court hearings to give a report to the Judge regarding services for the child.
- ✚ CC submits a written report with all information received at that point for the court and discloses to all interested parties at the 60 day mark. At this time:
 - CC will request to be removed from a case if all assessments have been received/disclosed and ongoing services are in place or,

PINAL COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

- CC will request to remain on the case until all assessments have been received/disclosed or to address any barriers preventing ongoing services.
- ✚ The CC primarily focuses on the completion of assessments and referrals to appropriate services, but also gathers information and may report out on:
 - Visitation plan
 - Placement
 - Progress towards permanency
 - Attention to the needs of the child's well-being