

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

---

In the Matter of: )  
 )  
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ) Administrative Order  
COMMUNITY COORDINATORS ) No. 2013 - 86  
IN MARICOPA COUNTY )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The Juvenile Court in Maricopa County desires to make available integrated, timely, and high-quality services by public agencies and private entities in dependency cases involving children younger than five years of age at the time of removal and their families. The Juvenile Court obtained funding and established the Cradles to Crayons (C2C) program to identify and address systemic barriers to the provision of such services and to independently provide supplemental reunification services to children and families involved in this program.

As part of the C2C program, the Juvenile Court employs Community Coordinators to assist the Court. The Maricopa County Juvenile Presiding Judge has requested authorization to appoint Community Coordinators in dependency cases involving children younger than five years of age at the time of removal and their families to identify, resolve, and facilitate the timely delivery of services ordered by the court in these dependency cases in order to expedite permanent placements.

Arizona Rule of Procedure for Juvenile Court 56(E) requires the Juvenile Court to approve a case plan and order services consistent with that plan. Rule 58 further requires that the Juvenile Court review the delivery of the services, whether the parent has participated in the services and remedied the circumstances that brought the child into care, and determine whether a child should be in the custody of the child's parents, parental rights should be terminated, and/or an alternate permanent plan is appropriate. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-829(A)(6), the Court must make this determination within six months if the child is less than three years of age, and within twelve months for children three years of age and older.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Sections 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court in Maricopa County may appoint Community Coordinators and adopt policies and procedures concerning their authorized duties. The Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court in Maricopa County shall form a steering committee that shall include representatives from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the Office of the Attorney General, and other stakeholders to provide guidance regarding the policies and procedures for Community Coordinators as well as other services offered through C2C.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Community Coordinators employed and managed by the court and appointed by the judge in a case may assist the parties in identifying community-based services and resources to meet the needs of children and their families; may facilitate communication among all parties and any entities ordered to provide services; may review files to identify and overcome any barriers to the delivery of court-ordered services; and may perform related duties as ordered by the court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(B)(1), Community Coordinators are authorized to receive and review Child Protective Services (CPS) information in dependency cases involving children younger than five years of age at the time of removal and their families in this program in order to carry out their authorized duties pursuant to this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Community Coordinators, in performing their authorized duties, may contact a party or parties, treatment providers, and other court employees as necessary for the purpose of coordinating matters attendant to the delivery of court-ordered services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Community Coordinators shall not communicate directly with the judge regarding the assigned cases, but shall prepare written reports, copies of which shall be simultaneously provided to the judge and each party in the case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no later than November 1, 2014, the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court in Maricopa County shall provide a report to the Arizona Judicial Council, the Supreme Court, and the Department of Economic Security describing the effectiveness of the use of Community Coordinators in expediting permanency involving children younger than five years of age at the time of removal and their families, and making recommendations, if any, regarding continuation, modification, or expansion of these services.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013.

---

REBECCA WHITE BERCH  
Chief Justice