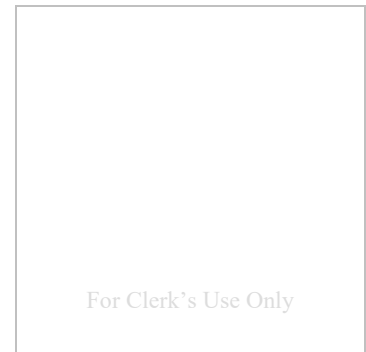


Person Filing: _____
Address (if not protected): _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____
ATLAS Number: _____
Lawyer's Bar Number: _____



Representing Self, without a Lawyer OR Attorney for Petitioner OR Respondent OR
 Third Party

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
IN MARICOPA COUNTY

Name of Petitioner/Party A

Case No. _____

FAMILY LAW INFORMAL TRIAL
ELECTION

Name of Respondent/Party B

Name of Third Party/Party C

Use this form if you want an Informal Trial instead of a Traditional Trial. You must file this form 30 days before the trial date (or trial setting if no trial date is scheduled).

Here are some of the differences between the two types of trials:

- In a Traditional Trial, both parties are allowed to call witnesses and to cross-examine the opposing witnesses. If either party requests, the Rules of Evidence apply.
- In an Informal Trial, the judge—not the parties—questions the witnesses. Other than the parties, only expert witnesses are allowed. The Rules of Evidence do not apply. Instead, the process follows the rules for Informal Family Law Trials (see AO 2022-159, adopting Rule 77.1.) See Rule 77.1 on the court's family court website.

I have reviewed the document “Helpful Information about Family Law Trials.”

1. I want an Informal Trial. I am the (check one): Petitioner/Party A Respondent/Party B Third Party/Party C.

I understand that if the other party does not agree to an Informal Trial, we will have a Traditional Trial.

2. I understand that an Informal Trial works like this:

- Each party will give a brief summary of the issues that need to be decided. Each party will speak to the judge under oath about the issues in the case (examples: how to divide property and debt, parenting plan, child support, spousal support).
- Each party will have an opportunity to respond to the other party’s statement and explain how the law applies to their case.
- There is no cross examination. The judge may ask questions.
- Most of the time, the parties to the case are the only witnesses in an Informal Trial. Sometimes a party needs an expert witness (someone with special training and education) to give an opinion, which is allowed in informal trials. The parties or their lawyers may ask experts questions. The expert’s report will be received as an exhibit.
- Non-expert witnesses are generally not allowed, unless the judge orders otherwise. Instead, each party may submit an affidavit or unsworn declaration under penalty of perjury from other people. Also, each party can submit any document or other evidence they want the judge to review.
- If any professional has been appointed by the Court on the case, the individual may testify and answer questions from the Court.
- The judge will decide what credibility and weight to give documents, physical evidence, and testimony that is entered as evidence during the Informal Trial. The judge is not bound by the Rules of Evidence.
- The judge will follow the same law to decide the case, whether it is an Informal or Traditional Trial.

3. Expert witnesses (check one)

I do not have expert witness to testify at my trial.

I do have an expert to testify at my trial.

(Name) _____ has expertise in and has information relevant to my case. I have filed the report they prepared for my case.

4. I give up my right to a Traditional Trial.

By agreeing to an Informal Trial, I agree to the following:

- Voluntary. My participation in an Informal Trial is strictly voluntary. No one can force me to agree to this process. I have not been threatened or promised anything for agreeing to an Informal Trial.
- Format. The normal question-and-answer format of trial will not be used. The judge may ask me questions about the case. The other party and I can both tell the judge anything we feel is relevant.
- Rules. The Rules of Evidence will not apply in this Informal Trial. I will follow the procedures of Rule 77.1, the rule on Informal Family Law Trials.
- Evidence. Unless otherwise ordered, neither party will call any witnesses except for a court-appointed professional or expert.
- No appeal of the process. I give up my right to appeal the judge’s use of the Informal Family Law Trial process. I still have a right to appeal the final decision.

By signing below, I swear or affirm that the information above is true and correct.

Date

Signature

Printed Name

Certificate of Service

I filed the ORIGINAL of this document with the Clerk of the Superior Court in Maricopa

County on: _____.
(Month Day Year)

I mailed/delivered a COPY of the document to the Judicial Officer assigned to my case,

Judge (or Commissioner) _____,
(Name of Judicial Officer assigned to your case)

on _____.
(Month Day Year)

I mailed/delivered a COPY of the document to the other party/parties to my case,

_____,
(Name of Party)

on _____.
(Month Day Year)

_____,
(Name of Party)

on _____.
(Month Day Year)

By signing below, I state to the Court, under penalty of law, that I have filed/mailed the document as shown above. I understand that if I do not file/mail the document as shown above, the Judge in my case will not read the document.

Your signature