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## **Maricopa County Superior Court establishes Late Case Fair Limits Proceeding**

(7/15/2020)

On July 13, 2020, in an effort to continue to respond to the needs of those with ongoing civil cases, the Maricopa County Superior Court entered Administrative Order regarding the establishment of a Late Case Fair Limits Proceeding. This new process, which will be in effect until July 15, 2021, applies to all civil cases that are not otherwise part of mandatory arbitration.

As detailed in the Court's Administrative Order, before cases are scheduled for trial, the Court will assign a Judge, a retired Judicial Officer, or a practicing attorney, to help the parties evaluate the opportunity to settle the dispute, to narrow the remaining areas of dispute, and to pare down the matters to be tried. This latest order reflects an effort to minimize the resources needed to safely conduct jury trials, and the Court's overt attempt to urge litigants to avoid the risk, uncertainty, and extensive resources associated with trial.

To be clear, this latest Administrative Order does not limit access to the Court system for those in need. In fact, it enhances the resources available to litigants to resolve their disputes short of trial, and is just another example of the dynamic ways that the system is adjusting to the protection of the public's health and safety.