

# COMMISSION VIEWS AND NEWS



## Letter from our Chairwoman

Throughout the COVID 19 pandemic, the ACJC team has been working diligently to find funding to assist criminal justice agencies around the state who were directly impacted by the loss of resources during the pandemic. In partnership with Governor Ducey, ACJC was able to secure over \$11 million in Coronavirus response funding, implemented which allowed for faster distribution of funds to each agency. To read more about these and other ACJC initiatives, make sure you check out the newsletter.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence affects millions, both men and women, nationwide and does not discriminate based on race, religion, culture, or status. Together, we can #EndDVinAZ.

According to the annual report by the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, titled "Impact of Domestic Violence," nearly one in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence in their lives. This is staggering, equaling over 804,000 women and 453,000 men in Arizona alone. In an effort to raise awareness around this critical issue, the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family continues with its "Light Arizona Purple" campaign to highlight the state's many valuable resources for those individuals impacted by DV. Here at ACJC, we are encouraging everyone to wear purple on October 22nd to support our statewide awareness efforts. ACJC is also partnering with state agencies to raise awareness, provide resources, and work to improve services across the state for individuals who are impacted by DV. For more Domestic & Sexual Violence resources, visit: <https://goyff.az.gov/domesticviolence/resources>

We are also pleased to announce the launch of our new and improved website. Consistent with our mission, we are always looking for ways to improve service delivery to our stakeholders and policymakers. The new website provides greater navigability and access to information. We welcome your feedback about the site and any additional improvements you might recommend.

As we all continue to navigate through these uncharted "pandemic" waters, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission will adjust for these changing times.

*Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney and ACJC Commission Chair*

EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE SAFE AT HOME

Challenges related to Covid-19 have increased risk factors for domestic violence.

Find resources and support at [ItCanStop.AZ.gov](https://ItCanStop.AZ.gov)

#EndDVinAZ



## ACJC's Crime Victim Assistance Program

Every year, the ACJC Crime Victim Assistance Program distributes grant funds to provide victim assistance services directly to victims of crime. Funds are used to provide crisis intervention services, emergency services, support services, court related services such as advocate services, victim rights notification, training for staff and volunteers who provide direct services to victims, and other services addressing victimization.

Funding from this grant has helped to support a variety of projects related to domestic violence including: supporting a portion of costs for Shelter Community Liaisons to provide crisis intervention, refer residents to community resources and provide life-skills and domestic violence education; employing an Operations Manager for maintenance and repairs of an emergency shelter; providing legal assistance to victims of crime, and funding for advocate, child advocate, and lay legal advocate positions at emergency shelters.

Funding for training has supported a Trauma and Resilience Trainer who facilitates live and web-based training on trauma and trauma-informed care; has subsidized trainings to provide advocates and allied professionals standardized training on comprehensive victims' issues; and provided program funding to develop training for law enforcement, schools, and youth providers to support teens/students who witness or experience domestic/sexual/teen dating violence.

In FY2020, these grant funds had a significant impact on the delivery of victim services by organizations. For one agency, grant funds allowed them to better assist victims with obtaining victim compensation. Funded advocates were able to help victims with the submission of compensation applications, which they found critical during this time of pandemic, as many victims had nowhere to turn to due to curfew and/or being quarantined.

Grant funding for one particular domestic violence shelter allowed victims to work with transitional housing coordinators, and with the assistance of these coordinators, one particular survivor was able to finish her schooling and obtain a car.

For another shelter, funding provided a survivor access to services for domestic and sexual violence. During her time at the shelter, the survivor was able to regain confidence, a sense of security, and self-empowerment through the advocacy, domestic and sexual violence education, emergency financial assistance and trauma-informed services and support. This survivor constantly expressed her gratitude for all of the help and services she received from the agency, and is a positive reminder of how vital victim advocacy is for domestic violence victims in our community.

Funding for legal advocacy has supported services to survivors such as court accompaniment, court notifications, emotional support, referral and resources, filing of legal motions and providing legal guidance to victims of crime, which for one agency, are most often victims of domestic and sexual violence.

These are just a few examples highlighting how ACJC funds assisted programs to provide services to victims and survivors of domestic violence. It is through the work of these great programs that essential services and support are provided to victims of domestic violence.



ACJC Staff in 2019

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA  
★  
PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is an issue affecting Arizonans in all communities, regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, nationality, or educational background; and

**WHEREAS**, twenty-four people in the United States are victims of intimate partner violence every minute; and

**WHEREAS**, one in four women and one in ten men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, 30 percent of children exposed to intimate partner violence had their first exposure before the age of two, and an additional 26 percent had their first exposure between the ages of two and seven; and

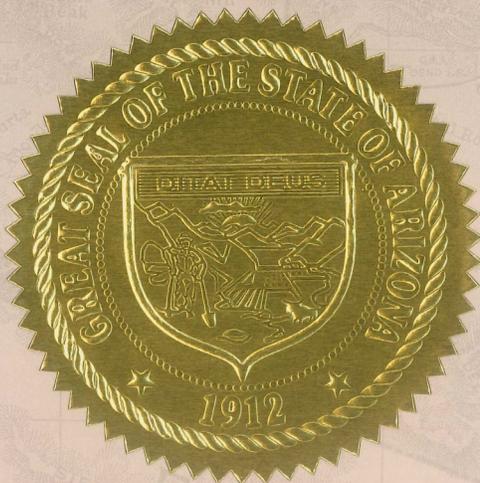
**WHEREAS**, victims of domestic violence are more likely to experience long-term mental and physical health concerns including a higher risk of chronic disease, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety; and

**WHEREAS**, challenges related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, including stressors such as unemployment, reduced income, limited resources and social support, may increase risk factors for family violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an important opportunity to enhance education, prevention and intervention efforts around domestic violence and support organizations and individuals who provide advocacy efforts, services, and assistance to victims.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**



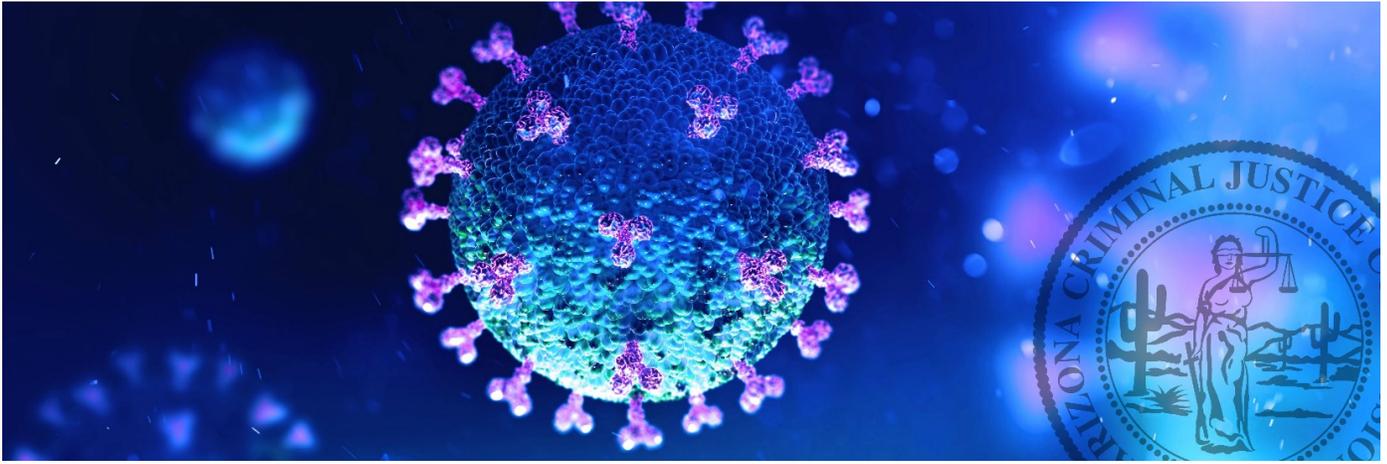
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

*Douglas A. Ducey*  
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this ninth day of September in the year Two Thousand and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fifth.

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
SECRETARY OF STATE



**Governor Ducey and the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Announces Over \$11 Million in Coronavirus Response Funding for Local, State, County, and Tribal Criminal Justice Agencies**  
*Grants to Fund Efforts for Agencies to Prevent, Prepare, and Respond to Pandemic*

In partnership, Governor Ducey and the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission announced the awarding of over \$11 million in funding to local, county, state, and tribal criminal justice agencies and non-profit agencies that provide services to the criminal justice system in Arizona as part of the Arizona Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program.

This grant funding was provided to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) as part of the CARES Act authorized by Congress and sent through the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

“This funding is another critical step in getting necessary resources out to our criminal justice agencies that are on the frontline for COVID-19 across the State,” said Governor Ducey. “This public health crisis continues to be a priority for Arizona and we have been working hard to find ways to act quickly to bring significant funding into our State to help those in need.”

The Arizona Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program focuses on both short-term, immediate criminal justice system needs - like personal protective equipment for agency personnel that are in direct contact with the public and supplies that prevent the spread of the coronavirus among personnel or facilities and long-term needs that will develop as a result of the virus.

ACJC received 62 applications from criminal justice and non-profit agencies from all levels of government from across Arizona amounting to over \$33 million in funding requests. At its meeting on June 3, 2020, the Commission approved allocating the full amount of federal grant funds available, \$11,187,184, to 54 agencies to meet a wide range of both short-term and long-term needs.

**To see where funding was allocated from this funding source, visit [www.azcjc.gov](http://www.azcjc.gov)**



## Arizona Protective Order Initiation & Notification Tool

AzPOINT (Arizona Protective Order Initiation & Notification Tool) launched in January of 2020. Over the last few months, ACJC and the Arizona Office of the Courts have been making continual improvements to the system. One such agency that has been utilizing the system is The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV).

ACESDV testimony:

“ACESDV is the statewide voice for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. ACESDV has heard from survivors and advocates that the AZPOINT system has been helpful for survivors in determining which for which type of order of protection they qualify. AZPOINT keeps a record for 90 days, offering survivors more flexibility in compiling and entering information, rather than experiencing any pressure related to completing information a single attempt. Additionally, having the freedom to choose which court to file their protective order has been a positive for survivors. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission has been responsive to feedback since the rollout in January, and are regularly updating the AZPOINT system to better support advocates and survivors. At ACESDV, we have also seen an uptick in calls to our Helpline related to orders of protection, as AZPOINT encourages folks to connect with advocates for safety planning and other support prior to filing with the courts.”

Since AZPOINT was first launched in January, there have been over 20,000 petitions drafted and about 10,000 filed. Users are urged to consult with victim advocates about safety planning and risk during the time they are drafting their Orders of Protection.

	Petitions Drafted	Petitions Filed
January	3,328	1,806
February	3,232	1,736
March	3,503	1,853
April	4,745	2,025
May	3,745	1,930
June	4,187	2,202
	<b>22,789</b>	<b>11,552</b>

Visit [www.azpoint.azcourts.gov](http://www.azpoint.azcourts.gov) for more information.

# 2020 Legislative Summary



The second regular session of the 54<sup>th</sup> Arizona State Legislature commenced on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This session was impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of April 21st, there was a total of 1,607 bills and 126 memorials and resolutions introduced. Governor Ducey only signed 90 bills into law by the end of the session. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) tracked a totally of 139 bills that affected the criminal justice system throughout this session. Of the 139 bills the ACJC tracked, one was signed into law by the Governor. The legislature adjourned on May 26, 2020 for a total of 135 days in session.

The second regular session of the 54<sup>th</sup> Arizona State Legislature commenced on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **HB2227- Criminal Justice Commission; Data Collection**

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is authorized, unless prohibited by federal or state law, to require any state or local criminal justice agency to submit any necessary "information" (defined) that is available to the criminal justice agency or that can be collected without imposing a significant burden on or cost to the criminal justice agency. The Commission is also authorized to establish guidelines for submitting and retaining criminal justice information and includes procedures for data transfer, data privacy and security, and conditions for the release of data.

ARS Titles Affected: 41

First sponsor: Rep. J. Allen (R - Dist 15)

## **HB2231 – Arizona Criminal Justice Commission; Members**

Increases the number of members of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission to 16 members by adding one public defender and one victim advocate, both of whom are appointed by the Governor.

ARS Titles Affected: 41

First sponsor: Rep. J. Allen (R - Dist 15)

## **HB2437- Concealed Weapons Permit; Validity Check**

The Department of Public Safety's computerized concealed weapon permit record system must be accessible to federal firearms licensees for the purpose of confirming the permit status of a permit that is presented to the licensee in the course of purchasing a firearm. If a federal firearms licensee is presented a concealed weapons permit, the federal firearms licensee is required to confirm the validity of the permit by checking the system before accepting the permit for any purpose. A permit that is suspended or revoked is not valid. If a permit is not valid, the federal firearms licensee must require the requesting party to follow and pass any other existing background check process that is established by the national instant criminal background check system.

ARS Titles Affected: 13

First sponsor: Rep. J. Allen (R - Dist 15)



## **SB1171 – Criminal Justice Case Information; Reporting**

Beginning 12 months after the effective date of this legislation and every 6 months thereafter, each county attorney from a county with a population of 2 million or more persons (Maricopa County) is required to make a report that includes a list of specified information about felony cases charged by the respective prosecutor's office. Beginning 12 months after the effective date of this legislation and every 6 months thereafter, each county attorney from a county with a population of 2 million or more persons (Maricopa County) that prosecutes any of a list of drug-related charges is required to make a report for each applicable individual charge, including any preparatory offenses, that includes the drug type and weight in grams or pounds of the drugs involved. Beginning 12 months after the enactment of this law and every 6 months thereafter, each county attorney from a county with a population of 2 million or more persons (Maricopa County) is required to transmit the reports required by this legislation to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, and the Commission is required to publish the reports on the Commission's website in an electronic format that is machine-readable, machine-searchable and readily accessible to the public. Beginning 12 months after the enactment of this law and every 6 months after, each county attorney from a county with a population of 2 million or more persons (Maricopa County) is authorized to make information in the reports publicly available. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is required to conduct a comprehensive survey of data contained in criminal justice records systems housed at local and state criminal justice agencies in order to create a state criminal justice data inventory report identifying what data is housed at each type of agency. The Commission is required to submit the report to the Governor and the Legislature by August 1, 2021. Information that must be included in the report is specified. By November 1, 2021, the Commission is required to develop a comprehensive list of the data that local and state criminal justice agencies are required to report into the statewide reporting system after the reporting system becomes operational. Contains a legislative intent section. Appropriates \$300,000 from the general fund in FY2020-21 to the Commission for the costs of completing the report. AS PASSED SENATE.

ARS Titles Affected: [41](#)

First sponsor: [Sen. Mesnard \(R - Dist 17\)](#)

Others: [Rep. Blackman \(R - Dist 6\)](#)



## **ACJC Adds DocuSign to help expedite Grant Funding Distribution**

In order to reduce paper use and to save processing time, ACJC has moved to an electronic signature process for grant agreements through DocuSign. DocuSign is an electronic document service that allows parties to an agreement to review a document and apply an e-signature to that document. DocuSign is a safe and secure way to electronically send and sign documents. You do not need the DocuSign service to sign a document. Using an electronic signature process will allow for faster execution of grant agreements and, ultimately, getting funding to grant recipients earlier. As a grantee, you are not required to sign-up for the DocuSign service, only to utilize it in executing the ACJC grant agreement documents. Using the DocuSign service will allow ACJC to be more efficient and streamline our grant agreement process.

Below are some resources addressing the legality and security of DocuSign:

[DocuSign Trust Center \(https://www.docusign.com/trust\)](https://www.docusign.com/trust) This page includes the latest security, compliance, privacy, legal, & system performance information.

[Legality & Security PDF \(https://www.docusign.com/sites/default/files/Overview\\_DocuSign\\_Legality\\_and\\_Security.pdf\)](https://www.docusign.com/sites/default/files/Overview_DocuSign_Legality_and_Security.pdf) This document provides an overview of DocuSign legality and security.

## Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

# New Team Members



### PROMOTION

We are pleased to announce that **Ana Daniels** has been promoted from Research Analyst II, to Senior Research Analyst in our Statistical Analysis Center.

### **Siyena Yitbarek, Grants Coordinator, Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Control Program**

Siyeni Yitbarek joins ACJC as a grant coordinator under the Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control Program. Siyeni graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelors of Science in Nutrition and worked in healthcare primarily until she joined Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, Refugee and Immigration Division as a Grant Coordinator. While at Lutheran Social Services, Siyeni managed federal, state, and privately funded grant programs. This has allowed her to learn more about administering and managing grant programs as well as working with diverse stakeholders. In her new role with ACJC, Siyeni will be focused on the administration and coordination of the Arizona

### **Martha Hunter, Auditor II, Finance**

Martha is an alum of Arizona State University Tempe with a BS Acc. Her career to date has been spent in the publishing, oil and gas, and banking industries and she brings to CJC the expertise gained as a Senior Financial Analyst and a Senior Accountant. Raised in Houston Texas with career stops in Manhattan and Austin, Martha has called the Valley home for 25 years.

### Contact Us

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
1110 W. Washington Suite 230  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Phone: 602-364-1147

[www.azcjc.gov](http://www.azcjc.gov)



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*"Our mission is to continuously address, improve, sustain and enhance public safety in the state of Arizona through the coordination, cohesiveness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system."*