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Dear Presiding Judges,

It has come to our attention that due to a processing error within the Department of Child Safety's (DCS) Guardian portal for service providers, a significant number of documents may not have been disclosed over the last two years. This issue began with the implementation of Guardian in 2021. Our preliminary assessment of the situation has determined that a minimum of 3,800 juvenile dependency cases statewide may be impacted. Due to ethical considerations and the interest of justice, we are asking the court to suspend any trials and severance proceedings currently set for the next two weeks so that we can ensure that all documents have been disclosed for these pending cases. We are also assessing **all** open dependency cases to verify that complete disclosures have been made.

With regard to any cases pending appeal before the Court of Appeals or the Arizona Supreme Court that has been identified as missing disclosure, we will be asking for a stay of the appeal and for jurisdiction to be returned to the trial court. We will provide the missing disclosure to all attorneys and the court through a notice of filing. We will be humbly asking that the trial court assess the documentation to determine if evidence needs to be reopened in the case.

So far, DCS has identified 139 cases that are finalized adoptions that may have had incomplete disclosure. We are urgently working through these cases individually to identify whether all documents were provided by the Department to counsel. We will be assessing each matter on a case by case basis to determine the appropriate course of action.

Please be assured that the Attorney General's Office and DCS recognize the gravity of this situation and are taking every measure to resolve this issue swiftly and accurately. We will be updating the courts as soon as we have more complete data.

Regards,

Kirsten Wright  
Division Chief Counsel  
Child and Family Division  
Arizona Attorney General