

By Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court

Relationships are the focus in October

This article looks at three events taking place in October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the last month to file for families taking part in November's National Adoption Day, and National Customer Service Week. Each event has ties to the Clerk's office, and although they are very different situations, these events deal with important relationships the court and Clerk's office take seriously.

Protective orders

The Superior Court in Maricopa County processes a combined total of approximately 13,500 orders of protection and injunctions against harassment each year. Court rules and state and federal statutes drive the requirements, processing, and maintenance of these documents. All courts hear protective order cases but the superior court has exclusive jurisdiction when parties to the protective order proceeding have an open domestic relations case.

The court issues protective orders that inform individuals of the actions that will maintain or violate public safety and personal rights. Police agencies enforce the orders and the parties can challenge the terms and duration of the orders in court. The Superior Court in Maricopa County has a Protective Order Center online. From this website, individuals can learn about protective orders, including: how and where to obtain a protective order during and after business hours; answers to frequently asked questions; contacting a domestic violence advocate; and locating counseling, shelters, legal services and other support. For more information, visit the court's website at <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/ProtectiveOrderCenter/index.asp>.

National Adoption Day

Maricopa County expects to lead the nation again in adoptions at this year's 16th Annual National Adoption Day, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015 at the Juvenile Court Center located at 3131 W. Durango St. in Phoenix. The public is welcome to attend this free event and can expect appearances from well-known local figures as well as sports team mascots and other supporters of this family-friendly celebration.

Judges, clerks, and court staff work with other volunteers to prepare for and carry out the event each year, which has been the largest of its kind in the country for several years. The deadline for filing an adoption petition to take part in the event is Friday, Oct. 9, 2015. The deadline for all other adoption paperwork is Friday, Oct. 30, 2015 to participate in the National Adoption Day events in November. For questions regarding this year's adoption event and for more information, see the Facebook page for the Maricopa County National Adoption Day Foundation.

Customer service week

National Customer Service Week is celebrated in October. Like most employers over the last few years, the Clerk's office has bid fond farewells to many staff who served decades in the office. From handwritten docket books to typewriters and PCs, the office has been fortunate to employ professionals who care about doing the right things right. Staff who enjoy their work share that enthusiasm with the litigants, attorneys, runner services, legal support staff and others who start their judicial journey at the Clerk's office. Feedback, suggestions and advice from both our internal and external customers make this a better office. We thank you for it and look forward to serving you soon!