NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts

Contact: Aaron Nash
Phone: 602-452-3656
Email: anash@courts.az.gov

August 19, 2020

Offsite Cash Payment Program Succeeds in Time of COVID

PHOENIX – The Administrative Office of the Courts announced a program in March of 2020 that made it possible for court customers to pay through the PayNearMe network with cash at locations throughout the state and nation. The program has allowed court users to resolve their court cases and has been especially helpful in Arizona's rural communities. The network has proven to be like an extension of a court service window.

Chief Justice Robert Brutinel's five-year strategic agenda, *Justice for the Future: Planning for Excellence*, calls for ways to make it easier for defendants to make time payments on court-imposed financial sanctions and for courts to provide ways to do court business away from the courthouse. This has been increasingly important given the coronavirus pandemic and the limitations on entering courthouses. Originally intended to improve access for those without traditional banking services, use of the offsite cash payment program has increased across all populations and locations, including 10 – 15% of all payments being made outside of Arizona.

The PayNearMe network includes 27,000 retail locations nationwide that accept cash payments, including participating 7-Eleven®, Family Dollar® and other retail locations. The program allows customers to bring in a barcode linked to their Arizona court case to make cash payments on outstanding costs, such as victim restitution, court fines and fees, and deferred filing fees. The barcode can be sent to the customer by email, text, or printed, and customers use the barcode to make payments on their Arizona cases at participating retailers.

The program allows payments in criminal and civil cases, including traffic matters, and in juvenile cases. The program does not accept payments for warrants, probation payments, child support, or other family court costs and the court must have entered a final disposition in the case. The 178 Arizona courts that participate in the FARE program accept cash payments using

PayNearMe. Maricopa County Superior Court, Mesa Municipal Court, Tempe Municipal Court, Gilbert Municipal Court, and Paradise Valley Municipal Court are not currently participating in the FARE program, but planning is underway for all courts to join FARE and to offer the same services to their customers. All other Arizona courts are participating.

Court customers can still pay their court costs using a debit or credit card at the website https://azcourtpay.com. Those who do not use debit or credit cards or who prefer to pay with cash can print or receive a barcode from the same website and use it at a PayNearMe participating retailer in Arizona or around the country to make a cash payment. Although PayNearMe allows multiple forms of payment in its other programs, such as utility bill payments, Arizona's courts program is a cash-only service. Arizona participants using PayNearMe pay a $2.99 fee to the vendor to process up to $1,000 for each payment made through the service. Customers who make a cash payment toward their court-related costs will receive a receipt as proof of payment and the funds will be applied directly to the individual's court case.

###

To learn more about Arizona's judicial branch, visit www.azcourts.gov.
Follow us on Twitter: @AZCourts and on Facebook at @ArizonaSupremeCourt.