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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LA PAZ



S1500AO200400001

In the Matter of:

USE OF DIGITAL RECORDING
EQUIPMENT BY COURTROOM
CLERKS AND DIGITAL RECORDING
OF COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Administrative Order No. 2004-0001

The Clerk of the Superior Court in La Paz County has acquired and is using digital recording equipment to assist the courtroom clerks in the accurate and timely preparation of minute entries. The digital equipment also serves as the official court record, but only for a limited number of cases such as initial appearances following arrests on warrants, and, dissolution default hearings.

The primary purpose of using this digital recording equipment is to enable the Clerk of Superior Court to ensure that those courtroom clerks who lack shorthand proficiency will be able to produce minutes of court proceedings promptly. The automated, internal recordings in the devices are intended to serve as the courtroom clerks' work product and backup for notes of those proceedings and will be used only to enable these clerks to generate timely and accurate minute entries for the court. Due to the work product characteristic digital recording devices are not intended for production of the official verbatim record of the court proceedings in which an official court reporter is present.

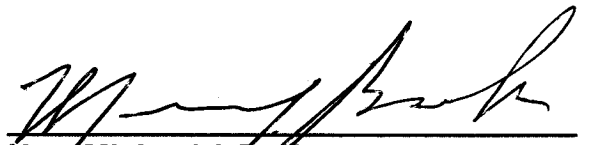
For these reasons, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. Copies or reproductions of the digital recordings of court proceedings, other than those produced as the official court record as noted above, shall be kept by courtroom clerks are not to be disseminated, absent a specific order of the court.
2. The official record of any superior court hearing or proceedings, where an official court reporter is present, is the transcript produced from an official court reporter's notes by an official court reporter. Absent a specific order of the court, or unless otherwise provided herein, no recording of proceedings made from the Clerk's digital recording system, or any other audio recording system, or transcript produced

from such recordings, except a transcript prepared by a transcription service approved by the La Paz County Superior Court, may be used as the official record of any superior court proceedings.

3. Pursuant to the authority of A.R.S. § 38-424, any judge or commissioner of Superior Court in La Paz County may choose to utilize digital recordings to create the official record of court proceedings. Digital recording may be used in these specific court proceedings provided there is not an official court reporter present at the time of any such proceeding and unless a party to the proceedings request an official court reporter. This is a decision made by the judicial officer presiding over the proceeding in question.
4. Digital recordings, not specifically designated as the official record, may be destroyed after reference value is served.

DATED this 14 day of June 2004.



Hon. Michael J. Burke, Presiding Judge
La Paz County Superior Court

Original filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in La Paz County.

Copies to:

Sheri Newman, Clerk of the Superior Court
Richard J. Tozer, Court Administrator
Hon. John C. Drum
Hon. Elizabeth Williams
Hon. Joseph Deschaine
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