

Superior Court of Gila County

Department Description

The Superior Court of Gila County is part of the Arizona's only general jurisdiction court. The Superior Court may hear and decide a large variety of cases of almost any type, excluding small claims, minor offenses, and violations of city codes and ordinances. Generally, there are two categories of cases heard in Superior Court: criminal and civil. Criminal cases involve a person or entity charged with committing, attempting to commit or engaging in an activity prohibited by law and defined as a crime. Civil cases include all court cases not defined as criminal. They include such matters as disputes between citizens involved in contractual agreements and tort liability, probate matters, divorces, etc. A verbatim record is kept on all proceedings held in the Superior Court.

The Superior Court has original jurisdiction of cases and proceedings in which exclusive jurisdiction is not vested by law in another court. The Superior Court is empowered to hear cases of equity and law involving title to or possession of real property, or the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or a municipal ordinance; civil claims of \$5,000 or more; felony prosecutions and misdemeanors not otherwise provided for by law; forcible entry and detainer actions; proceedings in insolvency; actions to prevent or abate nuisance; matters of probate; divorce and annulment of marriage; naturalization and the issuance of papers therefore; and special cases and proceedings not otherwise provided for by law. Additionally, the Superior Court is authorized to act as an appellate court, hearing appeals from decisions made in Justice of the Peace and Municipal Courts.

The Superior Court has exclusive original jurisdiction in all proceedings and matters affecting dependent, neglected, incorrigible, and delinquent children under eighteen years old. Through its probation departments, the Superior Court is responsible for supervising adults and juveniles on probation.

Currently, there are two divisions (plus a pro tempore division) of the Superior Court in Gila County under the administrative supervision of the Presiding Judge who is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. The Superior Court in Gila County has a Court Administrator who assists the Presiding Judge in carrying out the courts administrative duties, such as budget preparation; coordinating the administrative and management activities of the court, its departments and entities; directing the non-judicial activities of the court; and coordinating with the Clerk of the Court to accomplish the prompt and orderly disposition of the court's business.