



# Sibling Information Exchange (SIX) An Introduction

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Kandace French  
Programs Specialist  
Certification and Licensing Division



# Sibling Information Exchange

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- ❑ Created for the purpose of facilitating contact between former dependent children and their siblings.
- ❑ Superior in Pima County Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Patricia Escher proposed and the Arizona Judicial Council requested HB2212 be introduced during the 2007 Legislative Session.
- ❑ HB 2212 signed by Governor Napolitano on April 16 2007.
- ❑ Created Arizona Revised Statute § 8-543 (SIX).
- ❑ Effective January 1, 2008.



# Overview

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- ❑ Former dependent children can hire a CI to locate siblings.
- ❑ Request for Appointment form has been eliminated.
- ❑ Finalization Reports are filed with the Certification and Licensing Division only.



# SIX Statutes

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- ❑ ARS § 8-543(C) – A person participating in the program shall use a Confidential Intermediary.
- ❑ ARS § 8-543(E) - The Supreme Court shall adopt rules necessary to implement the Sibling Information Exchange Program.
- ❑ ARS § 8-847(D) – Court shall provide notice of SIX at Periodic Review Hearings dismissing dependency.
- ❑ ARS 8-872 (K) – Court shall provide notice of SIX at Permanent Guardianship Hearing.



# SIX - Codes

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- ❑ SIX extends authority of certified CIs to access confidential information for the purpose of reuniting siblings separated during dependency proceedings.
- ❑ ACJA § 7-201 General Requirements applicable to all certification programs within Certification and Licensing Division. Reference to A.R.S. Section 8-543 added.
- ❑ ACJA § 7-203 Confidential Intermediary specific code. Amended to include SIX searches by CIs.



# Who Can Participate in SIX

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- ❑ Person 18 or older and a former dependent child.
- ❑ Adoptive or biological parent or guardian of a former dependent child under the age of 18.
- ❑ Person 18 or older and the sibling of a former dependent child.



# Requesting a Search

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- ❑ List of certified CIs available on the Confidential Intermediary Program website.
  - ❑ [www.supreme.state.az.us/cip](http://www.supreme.state.az.us/cip)
- ❑ Individual hires the CI of his choice.
- ❑ CI first reviews file in the county in which the action took place to obtain information necessary to locate the sought after siblings.
- ❑ Brochures in .pdf available on website



# Reviewing a Court File

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- ❑ CI badge presented for file review
- ❑ CI is encouraged to obtain signed authorization from client for search
  - ❑ Contract for Services
  - ❑ Authorization and fee agreement
- ❑ File Review Statement still required by the courts.



# NO CONTACT

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**AN AFFIDAVIT  
OF NO  
CONTACT  
STOPS THE  
SEARCH!**





## How it Works (Cont.)

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- CI may review agency records to obtain needed information.
- Exchange of contact information provided if consents are signed by both parties or adult responsible for minor former dependent child.



# Concluded Searches

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- ❑ Finalization Report summarizing the steps and outcome of a search filed with the Certification and Licensing Division.
- ❑ Finalization Reports are NOT filed with the county court.
- ❑ Available to CIs and court staff.



# Finalization Reports

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- ❑ Filed with CLD within 45 days of concluded or withdrawn search ACJA 7-203(F)(6)
- ❑ Finalization Reports include:
  - ❑ Copy of consent or refusal documents
  - ❑ Consultation or Mentoring Agreements
  - ❑ Copy of File Review Statement
  - ❑ Summary report of search process and outcome
  - ❑ Original documents can be included



# Program Office

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1501 W. Washington, Suite 104

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Phone: (602) 452-3957

Fax: (602) 452-3958

Email: [cip@courts.arizona.gov](mailto:cip@courts.arizona.gov)

Website: [www.supreme.state.az.us/cip](http://www.supreme.state.az.us/cip)



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Questions?