IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

FILED
JAN 24 2003
NOEL K. DESSAINT
CLERK SUPREME COURT
BY

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	Administrative Order
Standard Certification of Court Reporters	)	No. 2003-16
	)	Replacing Administrative
	)	Order No. 2000-38
	)	

Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 32, Chapter 40, specifies that the Board of Certified Court Reporters will recommend and the Supreme Court will adopt rules to implement and enforce the statutory provisions regulating the certification and conduct of court reporters. Accordingly, on March 29, 2001, by Administrative Order No. 2001-39, the Court adopted Arizona Code of Judicial Administration §7-206, Court Reporter Standard Certification. The order specified that court reporters must apply for standard certification and these persons may not serve as court reporters unless they are in compliance with §7-206.

In accordance with these provisions, court reporters have applied for, and the Board of Certified Court Reporters has granted standard certification to those individuals who meet the certification criteria. However, there are some individuals who have applied for and meet all requirements for certification except for the criminal background check. At the present time the program has observed it generally takes two to three months for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) background results to be returned. In some cases, the fingerprints are not discernable and a new set is required, causing further delay in the certification process. Court reporting is integrally related to the prompt, effective and impartial operation of the judicial system and it is necessary to ensure that there is an adequate pool of court reporters, thus, the need for this Order.

The Court has previously addressed this issue. Administrative Order No. 2000-38, signed June 28, 2000, allowed the Board of Certified Court Reporters to grant Provisional Temporary Certification to a reporter while awaiting the FBI results. Pursuant to Laws 2000, Chapter 41, Senate Bill 1249, Section 13, all temporary certificates expired on December 31, 2002 and absent extenuating circumstances may not be renewed after that date. Accordingly, reporters must now apply for standard certification in order to practice.

Now, therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 32, Chapter 40,

IT IS ORDERED the Board of Certified Court Reporters may issue provisional standard certificates to court reporters who apply for and meet all requirements for certification except for completion of the criminal background check. These reporters must submit a signed and notarized statement attesting they have not been arrested, charged, indicted, convicted of or pled guilty to any felony or misdemeanor, except as disclosed in their application. Upon completion of the criminal background check the Board shall review the application and either grant the individual a standard certificate or deny certification, in accordance with §7-206.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2003.

RUTH V. McGREGOR
Vice Chief Justice