

REFERENCE TITLE: DCS cases; attorney appearances

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

# SB 1081

Introduced by  
Senator Finchem

## AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 8-469.03; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 8, chapter 4, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
3 is amended by adding section 8-469.03, to read:

4 8-469.03. Department cases; attorney appearances

5 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, IN A DEPARTMENT CASE INVOLVING  
6 DEPENDENCY, ADOPTION, TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OR GUARDIANSHIP, AN  
7 INDIVIDUAL ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTS THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT APPEAR BEFORE A  
8 JUDGE IF THE INDIVIDUAL ATTORNEY HAS APPEARED BEFORE THAT SAME JUDGE  
9 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S PREVIOUS FIVE CASES.

10 Sec. 2. Legislative intent and findings

11 A. The legislature intends to promote the interests of biological  
12 families and avoid removal and placement of minors in foster care when  
13 possible, even to the extent of kinship promotion. Removal of a minor  
14 must be the last viable option.

15 B. The legislature finds that the potential for bias is inherently  
16 countered and undue influence through familiarity is minimized by ensuring  
17 the rotation of attorneys who appear in front of various judges and  
18 courtrooms.