

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA  
MARICOPA COUNTY

CV 2025-038890

01/20/2026

HONORABLE DAVID MCDOWELL

CLERK OF THE COURT  
C. Nasui  
Deputy

JEFF CONNELL, et al.

TIMOTHY A LASOTA

v.

CASA DEL MONTE INC

NIKOLAS T THOMPSON

FLORENCE BRUEMMER  
SOLOMON SCOTT KROTZER  
JUDGE MCDOWELL

MINUTE ENTRY

There is an important LATER below.

East Court Building – Courtroom 511-VC-CV

9:08 a.m. This is the time set for a Return Hearing regarding Plaintiff, Tamara Block's *Application for Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction, and Request for Order to Show Cause to Enforce A.R.S. §33-1243*, filed December 15, 2025. Plaintiffs, Jeff Connell, and John Macy, who is present, is represented by counsel, Timothy A. Lasota. Consolidated Plaintiff, Tamara Block, who is present, is represented by counsel, Florence Bruemer. Defendants, Casa Del Monte Inc, and Barbara Whyte, who is present, are represented by counsel, Solomon Scott Krotzer, and Nikolas T. Thompson. All parties are present telephonically/virtually via Court Connect.

A record of the proceedings is made digitally in lieu of a court reporter.

Discussion is held regarding the Plaintiff, Tamara Block's *Application for Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction, and Request for Order to Show Cause to Enforce A.R.S. §33-1243*, filed December 15, 2025.

Based on the discussion held on the record, and by agreement of the parties,

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**IT IS ORDERED** setting this matter for an in-person **Evidentiary Hearing** regarding Plaintiff, Tamara Block's *Application for Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction, and Request for Order to Show Cause to Enforce A.R.S. §33-1243* on **February 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** (time allotted: 3 hours) before:

**THE HONORABLE DAVID MCDOWELL  
MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
EAST COURT BUILDING  
101 W JEFFERSON 5TH FLOOR, COURTROOM 511  
PHOENIX, AZ 85003**

All counsel must appear in person and cannot appear virtually/telephonically.

**The parties/attorneys are advised that the failure to appear for the hearing may result in sanctions, including dismissal of the action per Rule 16(F) of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure.**

**IT IS ORDERED** counsel shall file no later than **February 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**, a Prehearing Statement.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the parties shall indicate in the Pretrial Statement which exhibits they have agreed will be admissible at trial as well as any specific objections that will be made to any exhibit if offered at trial which is not agreed to be admitted. Reserving all objections to the time of trial will not be permitted.

**IT IS ORDERED** disclosure of exhibits and witnesses must be made as soon as practicable but in any event no later than five business days prior to the hearing.

Continuances, postponements, and schedule changes will not ordinarily be granted. Any postponement or change will be granted only in accordance with appropriate rules, based on a showing of good cause, and requires the express written approval of the Court.

9:21 a.m. Matter concludes.

**EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the parties submit any proposed hearing exhibits as follows:

1. **Submit Hearing Exhibits through Case Center.** This division is using Case Center (also known as Case Lines), a statewide electronic exhibit portal. Attorneys must submit exhibits through Case Center; Self-Represented Litigants can request to opt-out of Case Center by contacting the judge's division at [cvj05@jbazmc.maricopa.gov](mailto:cvj05@jbazmc.maricopa.gov). Unless otherwise ordered, Exhibits must be submitted at least **5 business days (not including weekends)** before the hearing as provided below.

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2. **Opting Out of Case Center (Self-Represented Litigants only).** A Self-Represented Litigant may opt out of Case Center no less than **10 calendar days** before the trial/evidentiary hearing (or within 24 hours of being served with notice if the party is served less than **10 calendar days** before the evidentiary hearing). The Self-Represented Litigant must email the other Self-Represented Litigants or counsel and the assigned judicial division to notify the court that they are opting out and to request instructions for submitting exhibits. Self-Represented Litigants must comply with the deadline for submitting Exhibits. Each party must make sure the Court has the party's valid current email address. If you do not have an email address, you can obtain a free one through [accounts.google.com](https://accounts.google.com). Each party must register for Case Center at [www.azcourts.gov/digitalevidence](http://www.azcourts.gov/digitalevidence). The website has links to training resources that will guide you through uploading exhibits and navigating Case Center. The Clerk of Court will send an email invitation to each party (or their attorney of record) with a case-specific Case Center link for uploading exhibits before the first hearing. For subsequent hearings in the same case, parties will not receive another email and should access the case on the Case List page. For instructions, See [azcourts.gov/Portals/0/222/TrainingVideos/Invitation-CaseList-CaseFilter-3-2-2022.mp4](http://azcourts.gov/Portals/0/222/TrainingVideos/Invitation-CaseList-CaseFilter-3-2-2022.mp4) **For assistance with Case Center invitations only**, email the Clerk of Court at [COCEXhibitQuestions@maricopa.gov](mailto:COCEXhibitQuestions@maricopa.gov). The email subject line should include the case number. The body of the email should include the parties' names, the assigned judge's name and explain that the sender is requesting help with a Case Center invitation.
3. **Exhibit Format.** Case Center accepts most digital formats (including photographs, PDFs, Word files, audio files, and video files). Case Center automatically numbers the exhibits. Plaintiff/Petitioner's exhibits have a P- prefix (Exhibit P1, P2, etc.) and Defendant/Respondent's exhibits have a D- prefix (Exhibit D1, D2, etc.). During the hearing, the parties must refer to exhibits using the Case Center exhibit numbers. For assistance with Case Center, contact AOC Support Services at (602) 452-3519 (option 5) or [pasupport@courts.az.gov](mailto:pasupport@courts.az.gov), Monday – Friday 7 AM – 6 PM, excluding State holidays.
4. **Exhibit Upload Assistance.** Scanners are available at each of the regional court Law Library Resource Centers. Each scanner has an attached computer and instructions on how to upload exhibits into Case Center.
5. **Exchange Exhibits.** At least **5 business days** before the Prehearing Statements are due, you must give the other party copies of all exhibits you submitted for use at the hearing.
6. **Physical Exhibits.** Objects and very large audio-video files cannot be uploaded to Case Center and must be submitted to the Division as a physical exhibit. The Courtroom Clerk will handle marking physical exhibits for Self-Represented Litigants who opt out of Case Center. Attorneys who submit physical exhibits must create a placeholder in Case Center and include "Physical Exhibit" in the name of the exhibit prior to submitting the physical exhibit(s) to the judge's division. The collection of physical exhibits must have a Physical Exhibit Case Coversheet that includes the following: (1) the name of the party submitting the exhibit(s); (2) the case number; (3) the date of hearing; and (4) the exhibit number(s)

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and description(s). In addition, each individual exhibit must have an Exhibit Coversheet printed on color paper indicating the physical exhibit's exhibit number in Case Center. For Self-Represented Litigants, if any individual exhibit is a document that is longer than ten (10) pages, each page of the exhibit should be numbered. Division staff will provide the exhibits to the Courtroom Clerk for marking. The Courtroom Clerk will mark physical exhibit(s) with the same exhibit number used in Case Center. Physical exhibits must be submitted to the Division five calendar days in advance of the hearing.

7. **Devices and WiFi.** If needed, hearing participants may request to use a court-provided device to view and present exhibits during an evidentiary hearing. All requests for access to a court-provided device must be submitted to the division via email **5 calendar days** before the Hearing. Hearing participants can connect to the court's free MCPUBLIC WiFi for up to 90 minutes. For evidentiary hearings/trials longer than 90 minutes, WiFi users, the parties may request access to MCSponsored WiFi which will allow access to WiFi without the need to reconnect after 90 minutes by emailing the assigned division **10 calendar days** in advance of any Hearing. Self-Represented Litigant access will be valid for 60 days; lawyer and nonlawyer representative access will be valid for 365 days.
8. **Remote Witnesses.** Any party who calls a witness who is appearing remotely (i.e., by telephone or videoconference) should either (1) provide the witness with a copy of all exhibits or (2) ensure that the remote witness has an electronic device available that allows them to view exhibits displayed on a screen through either Case Center or Teams.
9. **Exhibit Presentation During Hearings.** *Unless indicated otherwise in any hearing-specific court minute entry or order,* offerors may, but are not required to, use Case Center to present (e.g., show to the court, a witness, or the jury) evidence during a Hearing. Options for presentation of evidence include but are not limited to the following: (1) use of paper copies of the exhibits that have been uploaded to Case Center; (2) use of evidence presentation software and/or PDF viewers to display PDFs of exhibits that have been uploaded to Case Center; (3) screen sharing of Case Center through Court Connect (Teams); and (4) use of Case Center "Presentation" mode to share exhibits. Parties are strongly encouraged to download PDFs of their Case Center exhibits and/or have paper copies available in the event there are technological difficulties in the courtroom.
10. **Additional resources.** For Case Center related training and questions, the parties may wish to visit the Arizona Courts Digital Evidence Training Resources Website at: <https://www.azcourts.gov/digitalevidence/Training/AttorneyandSelf-RepresentedLitigants>. For technical issues with Case Center, parties may contact AOC Support Services Monday – Friday from 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM, excluding State holidays, at (602) 452-3519, 1-800-720-7743 (toll free), or [pasupport@courts.az.gov](mailto:pasupport@courts.az.gov). The parties may also wish to review A.O. 2024-080 at <https://www.azcourts.gov/digitalevidence.com> for additional information regarding Case Center.

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**NOTE: Depositions will not be marked as exhibits. If you plan to read from a deposition or use the deposition for impeachment purposes, you will need to supply an ORIGINAL transcript to the courtroom clerk for filing. Copies will not be filed with the clerk.**

**NOTE:** All court proceedings are recorded digitally and not by a court reporter. Pursuant to Local Rule 2.22, if a party desires a court reporter for any proceeding in which a court reporter is not mandated by Arizona Supreme Court Rule 30, the party must submit a written request to the assigned judicial officer at least ten (10) judicial days in advance of the hearing and must pay the authorized fee to the Clerk of the Court at least two (2) judicial days before the proceeding. The fee is \$140 for a half-day and \$280 for a full day.

**LATER**

If it was not clear, the Court declines to enter a temporary restraining order prior to holding an evidentiary hearing to address the request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.