

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 24-511

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

May 23, 2025

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge (now retired) made improper and delayed rulings in a family law case.

The role of the Commission on Judicial Conduct is to impartially determine whether a judicial officer has engaged in conduct that violates the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct or Article 6.1 of the Arizona Constitution. There must be clear and convincing evidence of such a violation in order for the Commission to take disciplinary action against a judicial officer.

The Commission does not have jurisdiction to overturn, amend, or remand a judicial officer's legal rulings. The Commission reviewed all relevant available information and concluded there was not clear and convincing evidence of ethical misconduct in this matter. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(a) and 23(a).

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on May 23, 2025.

CONFIDENTIAL

Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2024-511

COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE

Name:

Judge's Name:

Instructions: Use this form or plain paper of the same size to file a complaint. Describe in your own words what you believe the judge did that constitutes judicial misconduct. Be specific and list all of the names, dates, times, and places that will help the commission understand your concerns. Additional pages may be attached along with copies (not originals) of relevant court documents. Please complete one side of the paper only, and keep a copy of the complaint for your records.

Please see attached letter and relevant court documents.

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Dear Commission on Judicial Conduct,

Since _____, the Honorable _____ has presided over my family court case number _____ in _____ County District Court _____ in which I am the Respondent. Given Judge _____ behavior and failure to be impartial, objective, and keep an open mind, I am concerned she may retaliate against me for filing this complaint, which is why I have waited to file one until her retirement date.

During this time, Judge _____ has: failed to provide minute entries in a timely manner, sometimes taking as many as _____ days; displayed bias based on my sex by conflating her own anger and resentment of her father's use of physical discipline against her with my case and falsely insinuating that I also use such discipline with my children; shared information about another case in a way that felt unfair and unbecoming of a judge; repeated baseless accusations levied by the Petitioner and told me I need to apologize to my child for abuse that never occurred; and denigrated and shown hostility toward me in her courtroom, including making irrelevant comments about my face. Judge _____ also appears to have memory problems: she has difficulty remembering her own orders, and even remembering what was said in a status conference 40 minutes earlier. She has failed to be courteous, impartial, objective, and fair. My concerns are described below.

Not providing minute entries in a timely manner.

On _____, Judge _____ presided over a status conference in my custody case number _____ in _____ County District Court

After the _____ status conference, I returned to the Clerk's Office at the _____ County Courthouse in _____ in person several times over the next month to try to get the minute entry, which contained important information related to my case. I am representing myself because I cannot afford an attorney; I need to see the orders contained in the minute entries to be able to understand and remember what I need to do to prepare for the next status conference.

Another status conference was scheduled for _____ at _____. As of the _____ status conference, the minute entry for the _____ status conference still had not been provided.

I emailed _____, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable _____ on _____ (See attachment 1) asking for the _____ minute entry.

On _____, _____ replied, “

.” (See attachment 1).

I again emailed the Judge's Clerk, _____, on _____ asking for the minute entry from the _____ status conference.

The minute entry for the _____ conference, dated _____ at _____ was not emailed to me by the Court until _____, _____ days after the status conference, and 1 day before our final trial was scheduled to take place on _____, _____, and, importantly, after the date by which I was allowed to submit exhibits. (See attachment 2.) It contained a statement from the Court that was very important and would have changed what I submitted as exhibits for _____.

Late minute entries is a pattern. For example, at the time of the _____ status conference, the Court still had not provided a minute entry for the _____ hearing. That _____ minute entry was not sent until _____ at _____ after the _____ status conference. (See attachments 3,4).

On _____ I received the _____ status conference minute entry, _____ days after the status conference.

Not having the minute entries has made it very difficult for me to understand what I needed to do next in my case. At times it made it impossible to prove Judge _____ own past orders to her. On multiple occasions, Judge _____ has disputed my statements about her own orders.

**THE COMMISSION'S POLICY IS
TO POST ONLY THE FIRST FIVE
PAGES OF ANY DISMISSED
COMPLAINT ON ITS WEBSITE.**

**FOR ACCESS TO THE
REMAINDER OF THE
COMPLAINT IN THIS MATTER,
PLEASE MAKE YOUR REQUEST
IN WRITING TO THE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL
CONDUCT AND REFERENCE
THE COMMISSION CASE
NUMBER IN YOUR REQUEST.**