

State of Arizona  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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Disposition of Complaint 25-130

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Judge:

Complainant:

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**ORDER**

July 10, 2025

The Complainant alleged improper rulings in a support enforcement 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 allegations of the complaint in this matter solely raised disagreements with legal rulings. The Commission does not have jurisdiction to overturn, amend, or remand a judicial officer's legal rulings. "A good faith error of fact or law does not violate this rule. However, a pattern of legal error or an intentional disregard of the law may constitute misconduct." *See* comment 3 to Rule 2.2 of the Code of Judicial conduct. Any violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct must be proven by clear and convincing evidence.

A mistake in a ruling does not automatically mean that the judicial officer has engaged in judicial misconduct. Judicial officers are required to exercise their discretion in making their decisions. Even if a judicial officer's decision is legally or factually incorrect, the ruling is generally considered to be "legal error" and not "ethical misconduct" that the Commission can address. When a complaint to the Commission solely relates to the correctness of a judicial officer's legal decisions, the Complainant is seeking the Commission to function in the capacity of an appellate court. Correcting legal errors is the role of the appellate courts, not the Commission.

The Commission is a regulatory body with limited jurisdiction. The Commission is not a court, and as such, it does not have any authority to overturn a judicial officer's rulings, intervene in a case, assign a new judge to hear a case, or award any monetary or other relief. The Commission process cannot be a substitute for seeking appellate review.

The Commission reviewed all information submitted by the Complainant 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).

A Duty Panel comprised of Commission members Regina L. Nassen, Scott H. O'Connor, and Christopher P. Staring considered this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on July 10, 2025.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

2025 - 130

**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.

Your Name: Case Number: Date of Complaint:  
Recipient: Arizona Commission on Judicial Court Subject:  
  
Formal Complaint Against Judge  
  
Dear Arizona Commission on Judicial Court Subject:  
  
I am writing to formally file a complaint against Judge [ ] who has been overseeing my case ( [ ] ) for the past year and a half in [ ] Facility. My case has been in the court system for [ ] years, during which I have experienced a troubling pattern of judicial inaction across [ ] different judges and commissioners.  
  
Despite clear and repeated violations of court orders by my ex-spouse, none of the presiding judges or commissioners, including Judge [ ], have held my ex-spouse in contempt of court. This lack of enforcement has prolonged an already arduous process and caused significant emotional, financial, and personal hardship.  
  
The first court date [ ], Judge [ ] ruled against holding my ex-spouse in contempt of court despite his noncompliance with spousal support obligations and the LOC [ ] account. She justified this decision by citing the fact that our [ ] year-old son had moved back in with my ex-spouse and he was running a small business, which allegedly affected his ability to fulfill his financial responsibilities.  
  
Specifically, from [ ] to [ ], my ex-spouse failed to pay spousal support as required. During this time, I filed four affidavits of non-compliance, all of which Judge [ ] ignored.  
  
During the [ ] Zoom hearing, Judge [ ] berated me throughout the session and dismissed my efforts to address the affidavits I had filed. When I brought them up, she simply remarked, "[ ]" and took no further action to address or enforce compliance. This disregard for documented evidence, paired with her treatment of me during the hearing, left me feeling belittled, ignored, and deeply disheartened by the judicial process.  
  
Most recently, on [ ] I appeared in court for yet another hearing on contempt of court charges against my ex-spouse. Despite the evidence of noncompliance, Judge [ ] ruled, "[ ]"  
  
" This decision left me deeply frustrated, as I strongly believe that with court orders, compliance must be absolute—partial adherence cannot excuse violations.

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This lack of enforcement continues to perpetuate my prolonged and difficult experience in the court system.

This decision followed Judge \_\_\_\_\_ pattern of siding with my ex-spouse without requiring appropriate documentation. Judge \_\_\_\_\_ accepted my ex-spouse's claims about surgeries, a possible stroke, loss of customers, and reduced wages without any supporting evidence.

On \_\_\_\_\_, I filed a notice of non-compliance for the month of \_\_\_\_\_ which Judge \_\_\_\_\_ ignored. Instead of addressing this notice, she set a hearing for \_\_\_\_\_ to assess how my ex-spouse was performing in making his payments—an unnecessary delay that has further prolonged the resolution of this case.

Furthermore, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, I was representing myself because I could not afford legal representation. During this time, I felt disadvantaged as my ex-spouse retained an attorney starting in \_\_\_\_\_ and has continued to be represented to this day. The lack of enforcement of court orders and unequal representation has exacerbated my emotion and financial hardships, prolonging an already difficult process.

I believe this ongoing pattern undermines the principles of fairness and accountability that the judicial system is meant to uphold. I am requesting a thorough review of Judge \_\_\_\_\_ handling of my case and the overall circumstances that have led to this prolonged lack of resolution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am hopeful that my concerns will be addressed and that steps will be taken to ensure justice is served. Enclosed please find copies of all the court documents pertaining to Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

*Handwritten signature*

Deputy

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Telephone:  
Bar Number (ID# )

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF**

*In Re the Matter of:*  
  
Petitioner,  
and  
  
Respondent.

Case No.  
  
**STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR  
MODIFICATION OF LEGAL  
DECISION MAKING, PARENTING  
TIME, AND CHILD SUPPORT**  
  
(Assigned to Commissioner )

Petitioner, ("Mother"), individually and by her  
undersigned counsel, and Respondent, ("Father"),  
individually, hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Both parties understand that they have the right to be represented by an attorney. Petitioner is represented by \_\_\_\_\_, Esq. of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Respondent is pro per.

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2. Both parties have read this Stipulation and Order for Modification of Legal Decision Making, Parenting Time, and Child Support (herein after "Stipulation and Order"). Each party understands and agrees with what is written in this Stipulation and Order. Each party agrees to the Court entering orders in accordance with the Order which has been reviewed, approved, and signed by both parties

3. The parties have one (1) minor child in common, namely:  
born (hereinafter "child").

4. On , the Court entered the parties' Stipulation and Order for Modification of Legal Decision Making, Parenting Time and Child Support which included orders relating to legal decision-making, parenting time, and child support.

5. Mother and Father agree that it is in the best interests of the minor child to modify legal decision making, parenting time and child support as follows:

**LEGAL DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY**

1. The parties shall share joint legal decision making authority of the minor child with Mother having the final say.

**PARENTING TIME**

1. Effective immediately, the child shall remain in Arizona. Mother shall be designated as the primary residential parent and Father shall have parenting time every other weekend from after school (or if no school) until at

1 **CHILD SUPPORT**

2 1. The parents agree that in consideration of the agreements they have  
3 reached that beginning \_\_\_\_\_, Father shall pay child support to Mother in the  
4 amount of \_\_\_\_\_ per month. The parties agree to deviate to \_\_\_\_\_ as it is in the  
5 best interests of the minor child. See attached Child Support Worksheet.  
6

7 2. Father claim as a tax dependency exemption in all years.

8 **SPOUSAL MAINTENANCE**

9 1. The parties agree to affirm the current order of spousal maintenance paid by  
10 Father to Mother in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ per month.

*Judge ignored my filings*

12 2. The parties agree that Mother shall be allowed to file an Affidavit of Non-  
13 Compliance if Father fails to pay spousal maintenance. Mother shall be allowed to file  
14 the Affidavit if Father misses two (2) consecutive months of payment. Father will be  
15 responsible for Mother's fees and costs incurred.

*I was not awarded my Attorney fees*

17 **ATTORNEY FEES**

18 1. Father shall pay to Mother a portion of her attorney's fees in the amount of  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Father shall make the check payable to Mother and send directly to  
21 \_\_\_\_\_ office by no later than \_\_\_\_\_

22 **THE COURT FINDS:**

23 1. This case has come before this Court for a final Order based upon the  
24 Stipulation of the parties.  
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**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.**