

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-222

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

August 22, 2025

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge committed ethical misconduct after reading in the newspaper that the judge allowed a criminal defendant to go on vacation with the remainder of his family when he had a trial pending related to the death of another family member.

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 August 22, 2025.

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2025-222

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.

According to the newspaper article (enclosed), Judge _____ granted permission for
to take a vacation with his remaining family members, to _____ from _____ while he awaits trial.
_____ is not incarcerated, is charged with 1st degree murder, domestic violence, and child
abuse. This action was done over the objections of the _____ County Attorney's office.

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the judge engaged in willful misconduct and unethical behavior by
GRANTING PERMISSION FOR A DEFENDENT WHO IS CHARGED WITH
FIRST DEGREE MURDER, DOMESTICE VIOLENCE, AND CHILD ABUSE
TO VACAY IN with remaining family members while he awaits
trial in Arizona over the objections of the County Attorney's Office.

Dad charged in daughter's hot-car death OK'd for trip

A man accused in his daughter's hot-car death was given permission by a judge to accompany his family on a trip to this month, records show.

has been free while awaiting trial on charges of first-degree murder, domestic violence and child abuse after being accused of leaving his daughter, in a hot car parked for hours in the family's driveway in

died of heat exhaustion, according to her autopsy.

Court records show that requested to travel to from The family said would be staying with friends on the island.

County Judge

granted permission to travel out of state for the family vacation.

Prosecutors vehemently objected to the family vacation.

"

," County Attorney

Following his arrest, was released on his own recognizance under the supervision of the court's pretrial services. He was instructed to contact his defense counsel and a pretrial services officer upon his scheduled return to Arizona.

On the day died, took her with

him to run errands. Police have said he shoplifted alcohol from two different locations before returning home. He left the girl in the car for hours while he played video games, court documents say.

was pulled from the car when her mom came home from work and realized the girl was not in the house, records show.

In the former stay-at-home dad, who has been ordered to be supervised around his remaining children, rejected a plea deal, offering him a sentence of between and years if he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

faces up to life in prison if he's convicted at trial.

next appearance in County Superior Court is scheduled for