

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-382

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

November 21, 2025

The Complainant alleged a superior court commissioner was biased and failed to follow the law in a family law matter.

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 November 21, 2025.

Attachments: [Gmail - pdf](#)

From:

Sent:

To: Commission on Judicial Conduct <CommissionJudicialCo@courts.az.gov>

Subject: Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct – Complaint Form

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Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct – Complaint Form

1. Name:

2. Mailing Address:

3. Telephone:

Email:

4. Judge's Name:

Commissioner

Location:

County Court –

5. Court:

Court

6. Did you have a case before this judge?

Yes

a. Is the case still pending?

Unclear – I was informed it may have been dismissed due to my absence at a hearing, despite

my prior communication of non-opposition.

b. Case Name and Number:

c. List any attorneys who appeared in the case:

None – I am self-represented.

d. List names and phone numbers of any witnesses who observed the judge's conduct:

Statement of Complaint:

I am filing this complaint against Commissioner _____ for conduct that placed me, a protected party in a domestic violence order, in danger due to rigid procedure, lack of trauma-informed practices, and a blatant disregard for due process and victim safety.

I currently have a valid protection order against _____. He filed a **motion to modify** the order to allow limited communication regarding our shared children. I did **not object** to this modification and stated so clearly in multiple written communications to the court. I was told by staff that the matter would be heard at a contested hearing, and I submitted a formal request to appear **virtually** due to emotional distress from facing my abuser and work constraints as a physician and single mother of twins.

Instead of being met with a fair and trauma-informed response, I was:

- **Denied virtual appearance** with no meaningful explanation beyond “no good cause found,” despite citing trauma and professional barriers.
- Told I must **go in person** to the Order of Protection center to request a reschedule—after already spending hours at court earlier that week on another modification _____ filed that went nowhere.
- Warned by court staff via email that **if I did not attend the hearing, the entire protection order could be dismissed:**

“

.”

This was an outrageous threat. The defendant **did not request to terminate** the order—he requested only a **modification**. I had **no reason to believe** my safety would be placed at risk or that my legal protection could be stripped simply because I didn't show up to agree to something I had already agreed to in writing.

Even _____ told me after the hearing that the judge **stated the entire order could be**

dropped, and that **he was surprised by that possibility**, as he had only asked for modifications—not termination. This confirms that the court improperly escalated the issue and punished me for a nonappearance caused by denied accommodations.

This experience was not just distressing—it was **retraumatizing**. It made me feel that as a victim, I have to beg the court to protect me while the person who filed to loosen the order was handed an opportunity to eliminate it entirely. The way this was handled by Commissioner _____ reflects **a total lack of trauma awareness**, a failure to prioritize victim safety, and a system that bends over backward to accommodate the restrained party but imposes inflexible burdens on the person seeking protection.

This behavior is unacceptable, and unless called out, it will continue to cause harm to others. I demand that the Commission investigate:

- Why virtual or trauma-accommodating appearances are denied without clear justification
- Why protected parties are threatened with dismissal of their order during non-
oppositional modification requests
- Whether Commissioner _____ is applying fair and legally sound discretion, or operating in a way that intimidates and punishes victims

The system is broken when a judge can do this without consequence. I am requesting accountability, transparency, and urgent review of this conduct in light of the **Code of Judicial Conduct**, specifically:

- **Canon 1:** A judge shall uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary
- **Canon 2:** A judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety
- **Canon 3:** A judge shall perform the duties of judicial office impartially, competently, and diligently—including ensuring fairness and access to justice

Victims should not have to fight harder for safety than their abusers do for access. The Commission has an obligation to prevent this from happening again.

Sincerely,

From:

Sent:

To: Commission on Judicial Conduct <CommissionJudicialCo@courts.az.gov>

Subject: Re: Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct – Complaint Form

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Dear Commission on Judicial Conduct,

I am submitting this addendum to supplement my original complaint regarding my protective order case.

I wish to provide additional details and clarify the specific ethical concerns I believe were violated under the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct.

Overview of Events:

I was the petitioner in a protective order case where the respondent (my ex) filed a motion to modify, not dismiss, the existing order.

I formally requested a virtual appearance due to mental health distress related to the case. This request was denied.

I also attempted to reschedule the hearing, but was informed by the court clerk that I could only do so in person, which I was not able to do because of my emotional state.

As a result, I was completely blocked from participating in the hearing in any form.

During the hearing, while I was not present, the judge offered to dismiss the entire protective order — despite the fact that:

Dismissal was not requested in the respondent's motion, and

The respondent stated he did not want the order dismissed and wanted it to remain in place.

This occurred without notice to me that the full order might be dismissed, and without my opportunity to be heard, even though I had made every effort to appear in a way that was safe for me.

Alleged Violations of Judicial Ethics:

1. Rule 2.6 – Ensuring the Right to Be Heard

> “A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding... the right to be heard according to law.”

I made a good-faith effort to appear virtually and asked to reschedule due to emotional distress.

I was denied any safe, accessible way to participate.

The hearing proceeded, and major decisions were made that directly impacted my safety and rights.

2. Rule 2.2 – Impartiality and Fairness

> “A judge shall perform all duties of judicial office fairly and impartially.”

The judge introduced the option to dismiss the entire order — an action neither party requested.

Offering such a drastic option in my absence, and without legal basis in the respondent’s motion, calls into question the impartiality of the decision.

**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.**