

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-443

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

A Commission initiated complaint alleged a justice of the peace failed to use a proper interpreter in a civil 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.

After review, the Commission found the judge failed to provide an interpreter for a litigant, and only spoke to a family member rather than address the actual party in the case. While this was improper under Rules 1.2, 2.5(A) and 2.6(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Scope Section of the Code provides that not every transgression will result in the imposition of discipline. The Commission decided, after considering all the facts and circumstances, to dismiss the Complaint pursuant to Commission Rules 16(b) and 23(a), but to issue a warning letter to the judicial officer to ensure proper procedure and due process is followed by addressing the party in the case and provide proper interpretation services when appropriate.

Commission members Roger D. Barton and Michael J. Brown did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Dated: January 28, 2026

FOR THE COMMISSION

/s/ Christopher P. Staring
Hon. Christopher P. Staring
Commission Chair

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on January 28, 2026.

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IN THE
COUNTY OF

MAGISTRATE COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

Plaintiff, vs. Defendant (DOB _____)	Case No.: PLEA AGREEMENT
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The defendant agrees to Admit (civil) or plead guilty / no contest (criminal) to the following offense(s):

- Count C, _____ [] class misdemeanor [] petty/civil traffic offense [] civil
Count J, _____ [] class misdemeanor [] petty/civil traffic offense [] civil
Count _____ [] class misdemeanor [] petty/civil traffic offense [] civil

On the following understandings, terms and conditions:

1. The Defendant agrees to a sentence of:

Pay fine plus any applicable fees

2. The following charges are dismissed, or if not yet filed, shall not be brought against the defendant.

Remaining charges

3. This agreement, serves to amend the complaint, indictment, or information to charge the offense to which the defendant pleads, without the filing of any additional pleading. However, if the plea is rejected by the court or withdrawn by either party, or if the conviction is subsequently reversed, the original charges and any charges that are dismissed by reason of this plea agreement are automatically reinstated.

4. Unless this plea is rejected by the court or withdrawn by either party, the defendant hereby waives and gives up any and all motions, defenses, objections or requests which he or she has made or raised, or could assert hereafter, to the court's entry of judgment against him or her and imposition of a sentence upon him or her consistent with this agreement. The defendant acknowledges by entering this agreement he or she will have no right to direct appeal (ARS § 13-4033) and the only available review is pursuant to Rule 33, Rules of Criminal Procedure.

5. If the court decides to reject the proposed sentencing in the plea agreement after accepting the defendant's plea, it must give each party an opportunity to withdraw from the plea.

6. If the court decides to reject the plea agreement provisions regarding sentencing and neither the State nor the Defendant elects to withdraw the plea agreement, then any sentence either stipulated to or recommended herein is not binding upon the court, and the court is bound only by the sentencing limits set forth in the applicable statutes.

7. I understand that if I am not a citizen of the United States, my decision to go to trial or enter into a plea agreement may have immigration consequences. Specifically, I understand that pleading guilty or no contest to a crime may affect my immigration status. Admitting guilt may result in deportation even if the charge is later dismissed. My plea or admission of guilt could result in my deportation or removal, could prevent me from ever being able to get legal status in the United States, or could prevent me from becoming a United States citizen. I understand that I am not required to disclose my legal status in the United States to the court.

8. I have read and understand the provisions of all pages of this agreement. I have discussed the case and my constitutional rights with my attorney. I understand that by pleading (guilty) (no contest) I will be giving up my right to a determination of probable cause, to a trial [] by jury [] by a judge, to confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses, to present witnesses on my behalf; my right to remain silent, my privilege against self-incrimination, the presumption of innocence and right to direct appeal. I agree to enter my plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions set forth herein. I fully understand that, as part of this plea agreement, if I am granted probation by the court, the terms and conditions thereof are subject to modification at

