

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-444

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

December 16, 2025

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge failed to follow the law and made improper rulings.

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).

Commission member Michael J. Brown did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on December 16, 2025.

Attachments: _____ pdf

From:

Sent

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

Subject: (Dissolution of Marriage:

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1. Nature of the Complaint

I submit this complaint regarding Judge _____ handling of post-decree matters in the above-captioned case. His conduct raises serious concerns regarding due process, docket integrity, and compliance with the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure, particularly in relation to the dissolution of marriage decree and subsequent proceedings.

2. Specific Examples of Misconduct

a. Backdated and Undocketed Order (_____):

- Judge _____ issued an omnibus order dated _____, but did not sign it until _____.
- As of _____, the order was not filed or stamped by the Clerk of the Court, leaving its legal effect uncertain.
- Despite this, the order was circulated as though valid, while later-filed motions were already on the docket. This creates the false appearance that the order controls those filings.

b. Mass Denials Without Findings:

- The _____ order denied more than _____ motions at once, including motions raising

separate issues of fraud, jurisdiction, due process, and best interests of children.

- The order contains no case law citations or individualized analysis, relying only on conclusory phrases such as “_____.”
- Arizona appellate courts have held that trial judges must provide sufficient findings to allow appellate review (*Miller v. Board of Supervisors*, 175 Ariz. 296; *Logan B. v. DCS*, 244 Ariz. 532). This standard was not met.

c. Inconsistent Judicial Signatures:

- Prior orders in this matter were uploaded as clerk-entered minute entries without judicial signatures.
- By contrast, the _____ omnibus order was judicially signed but not filed with the Clerk.
- The inconsistency raises questions about selective enforcement of filing rules and creates confusion for parties.

d. Violation of 20-Day Rule:

- Several of my motions were past the 20-day response deadline under ARFLP 35(a)(4).
- No responses were filed by the opposing party.
- Despite this, Judge _____ denied the motions wholesale rather than treating them as confessed or issuing proper findings, contrary to *Bollermann v. Nowlis*, 234 Ariz. 340 (2014).

e. Failure to Incorporate Dissolution Case and Hold Counsel Accountable:

- The divorce decree entered on _____ has never been updated to reflect compliance with court-ordered programs or changed circumstances, despite motions filed in good faith.
- Judge _____ failed to incorporate these updates into the record, leaving the decree outdated and inaccurate.
- Petitioner _____ and her attorney, _____, repeatedly failed to respond to motions within the 20-day deadline. Instead of enforcing the rules or holding counsel accountable, Judge _____ denied the motions in bulk, selectively applying the rules to the prejudice of one party.

3. Why This Matters

These practices undermine confidence in the judiciary by:

- Creating uncertainty about when orders are effective.
- Distorting the docket sequence, making it appear that the court ruled before filings were made.

- Denying parties the right to meaningful appellate review through conclusory denials.
 - Failing to hold counsel to the same procedural standards as self-represented parties.
 - Ignoring updates necessary to protect the best interests of children in a dissolution case.
-

4. Relief Requested

I respectfully request that the Commission investigate whether Judge _____ actions comply with the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct, particularly the duties of fairness, impartiality, and compliance with the law.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

COURT OF ARIZONA
COUNTY

CLERK OF THE COURT

HONORABLE

Deputy

IN RE THE MATTER OF

AND

DOCKET FC
JUDGE

MINUTE ENTRY

Petitioner (‘‘Mother’’) and Respondent (‘‘Father’’) have two minor children in common, born , and born , . The Court dissolved the marriage between Mother and Father (referred to individually as ‘‘Party’’ and collectively as the ‘‘Parties’’) in the Decree of Dissolution of Marriage filed on (the ‘‘Divorce Decree’’). The Court also entered judgments in favor of Mother and against Father for attorneys’ fees (*see* Judgment for Award of Attorney Fees filed on (the ‘‘Attorneys’ Fees Judgment’’) and child support arrears (*see* Order Re: Child Support Arrears Judgment filed on (the ‘‘Child Support Arrears Judgment’’)). Father did not timely appeal from the Divorce Decree, Attorneys’ Fees Judgment, or the Child Support Arrears Judgment.

On , Father’s attorney filed a Post Decree Petition to Modify Spousal Maintenance and Child Support on behalf of Father (‘‘Father’s Petition to Modify’’). The Court issued an order to appear for a Resolution Management Conference set for . On , Father began to file documents himself without the assistance of counsel. Shortly

COURT OF ARIZONA
COUNTY

thereafter, Father’s counsel requested to be permitted to withdraw from his representation of Father (see Motion to Withdraw as Counsel of Record for Respondent filed on _____) which the Court granted on _____ (the “Withdrawal Order”). In the Minute Entry dated _____, filed _____, the Court identified and ruled on approximately _____ separate filings from Father (the “_____ Ruling”). Since the Court’s _____ Ruling and as of the date of this ruling Father has filed more than _____ additional documents. The Court has received, reviewed, and carefully considered the documents filed by Father. The Court rules on those documents below.

As a general matter, Father’s filings are repetitive, raise the same issues over and over and over, fail to recognize and/or differentiate between the various legal proceedings in which Father is a party, and seek to relitigate matters finalized in the Divorce Decree and/or other court orders and judgments. Further, many of Father’s filings complain about and/or seek reconsideration of the Court’s _____ Ruling. The Court finds that there is no basis for reconsideration of the _____ Ruling, and the Court declines to grant such relief. If appropriate, Father may seek appellate review of the Court’s rulings as provided for by law if he disagrees with a decision this Court has made. The Court rules on Father’s pending filings as follows.

Dkt. #	Filing Date	Title	Disposition
270		Clarification Regarding Family Court Communications and Cross-Jurisdictional Conduct	Denied because the operative no-contact orders were issued by a Division of this Court’s Criminal Department. Whether the operative no-contact orders have been violated should be resolved by a judicial officer in the Criminal Department upon the filing of petition to revoke probation.
272		Motion to Strike Order(s) of Protection and Filed Communications as Prejudicial and Improper	Denied because there is no basis in law and/or fact for the relief requested.
273		Motion for Post-Ruling Clarification, Corrective Review, and Preservation of Due Process Rights	Denied because there is no basis in law and/or fact for the relief requested.

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COMPLAINT ON ITS WEBSITE.**

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COMPLAINT IN THIS MATTER,
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IN WRITING TO THE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL
CONDUCT AND REFERENCE
THE COMMISSION CASE
NUMBER IN YOUR REQUEST.**