

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-446

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

December 16, 2025

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge was biased in a family law 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 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.

Concern Regarding Judicial Conduct in Family Court Case (Judge

My name is _____ and I am the father and respondent in a custody matter overseen by Judge _____ under Case No. _____ in the _____ County Court. I am submitting this formal communication to respectfully raise concerns regarding the fairness, procedural conduct, and potential gender bias that occurred throughout the handling and final determination of this case.

Although the ruling is labeled as "50/50 joint custody," in practice it functions more like sole custody in favor of the Petitioner. The decision fails to reflect a balanced or impartial consideration of the facts, prior history, or financial realities and has created long-term consequences that are neither sustainable nor in the best interests of the children. For context, prior to this ruling, the custody arrangement was genuinely 50/50, with both parties equally responsible for the children's medical costs and no child support obligations for _____ years—a structure that was formally established in the _____ family court.

The following timeline is based on the official records uploaded to the electronic court document system by the Clerk of the Court.

The case was initiated on _____, and involved matters of child support, legal decision-making, and a request for modification of parenting time. The initial hearing was held via Zoom on _____, during which the case was placed on the inactive/dismissal calendar set for _____.

On _____, the Petitioner filed a request to extend the deadline by _____ days. On _____, Judge _____ granted the extension, moving the dismissal date to _____.

On _____, the petition for custody, child support, legal decision-making, and modification of parenting time was dismissed. However, the dismissal order signed by Judge _____ inaccurately stated that the petition was "_____." This is factually incorrect, as case records clearly show that the petition was filed on _____, and various documents had been submitted and rulings issued prior to that date.

On _____, the Petitioner filed a motion to reinstate the dismissed petition. Judge _____ granted the reinstatement on _____, and extended the dismissal deadline to _____. In response, on _____, I, the Respondent, submitted a motion opposing reinstatement, citing valid and factual grounds. However, on _____, Judge _____ issued a ruling stating that "_____," thereby dismissing my objection without further consideration. A legal library representative inaccurately informed me that I would have one to two weeks to file a response.

Subsequently, on _____, the Petitioner filed a motion for temporary orders regarding child support and implementation of the Court-Appointed Advisor (CAA) recommendations. This motion included requests for:

- Child support from the Respondent,

- Sole authority for the Petitioner to provide health insurance for the children,
- A court order requiring the Respondent to comply with the CAA recommendations, and
- An order for the Respondent to temporarily pay the Petitioner's attorney fees.

On _____, Judge _____ denied the temporary motion request made by the Petitioner, stating that “
”

On _____, Judge _____ dismissed the Petitioner's motion in full for child support, legal decision-making, and modification of parenting time, for a second time.

Four days later, on _____, the Petitioner filed another motion to reinstate the dismissed petition. In the motion, under bullet point number four, the Petitioner stated:

“

On the same day, the Petitioner also filed a motion to set the matter for trial, asserting that “
” and noting that she was no longer pursuing a modification of parenting time in her final position.

On _____, Judge _____ granted the motion to reinstate the case once again, and trial was scheduled for _____.

On _____, it was indicated that the case was under advisement. During this hearing, Judge _____ stated that “

’ This decision was based on the Petitioner's false representation to the Court that a current child support order existed in _____ – an assertion later proven untrue.

Judge _____ also ordered that “

’ Additionally, both parents were required to complete the Families in Transition (FIT) Program on or before _____. I completed the FIT Program on _____, and submitted proof of completion to the Court on _____.

On _____, at _____, I provided my list of _____ therapists to the Petitioner through Our Family Wizard. Each therapist on my list accepted my insurance plan and would have provided _____ free sessions per child. Later that same evening, at _____, the Petitioner responded, stating:

“

However, when the blind list was submitted to the Court, it included only _____ of the therapists I had provided. There was no discussion between the parties to reach an agreement, nor did I approve or authorize the list submitted by the Petitioner's attorney.

On _____, two key filings were made by the Petitioner:

1. The Petitioner filed a motion for reconsideration of child support, citing "_____." On page 4, bullet point 8, the Petitioner clearly admits:

"_____,"

This statement directly contradicts what the Petitioner claimed during the evidentiary hearing, where she falsely informed Judge _____ that a valid child support order was in place in _____. If the digital recording of that hearing were reviewed, it would confirm this misrepresentation. Despite this contradiction, there is no indication that the Court investigated or held the Petitioner accountable for the false information, which had direct influence on prior rulings.

Additionally, during her oral ruling, Judge _____ stated that granting either party sole legal decision-making authority would not benefit the co-parenting relationship. However, in the subsequent ruling dated _____, the Court contradicted that earlier position by awarding final decision-making authority to the mother (_____) if the parties were unable to reach agreement after a good faith effort. This inconsistency is troubling and suggests a lack of alignment in the Court's rationale.

2. The Petitioner also filed a Notice of Filing Blind List of Potential Child Therapists, asserting that it was a joint list from both parties. However, the list only included _____ of the therapists I had submitted through Our Family Wizard. This again misrepresented the scope of my original list and was submitted without any agreement or consent from me.

On _____, I submitted my own blind list to the Court, which included the original therapists I provided, along with the _____ submitted by the Petitioner, in an effort to ensure full transparency and fairness.

On _____, the Petitioner filed a Notice of Objection to my blind list. She claimed:

"_____,"

To be clear, I never gave permission for the Petitioner or her attorney to submit a blind list on my behalf. No agreement was reached, and no formal communication from me authorized her or her counsel to act on my behalf in this matter.

On _____, Judge _____ issued a minute entry indicating that I was permitted to file a response by _____ to the Petitioner's Motion for Reconsideration for the child support. On _____, I submitted a response to the Petitioner's Motion for Reconsideration, specifically highlighting that the Petitioner had misrepresented key facts in court—most notably, falsely claiming that I had an active child support order in _____. In my motion, I respectfully asked the Court to hold the Petitioner accountable for perjury, given the direct contradiction between her statements made under oath and those documented in her later filings. However, no response was ever issued by the Court regarding this motion.

On _____, Judge _____ appointed _____ as the therapist for the minor children. _____ was included in my original list of providers and was covered by my health insurance.

On _____, the Petitioner filed a second list of therapists. In that filing, on page 2, line 7, she stated:

“

This statement was false. The parties never discussed _____ nor did I receive any communication or confirmation from the Petitioner about such contact being made. I was not informed of this filing until _____, when I received notice from the Petitioner's attorney.

On _____, I filed a formal objection to the Petitioner's second blind list. In that notice, I reiterated that the parties had not discussed _____ and that the Petitioner was once again submitting inaccurate and misleading information to the Court. Despite this, on the same day, Judge _____ selected a new therapist from the Petitioner's list without further investigation.

On _____, Judge _____ issued a minute entry denying my objection to the Petitioner's second blind list. I find this deeply concerning, as the Family Court has access to Our Family Wizard, a platform explicitly designed to monitor communication between parties. Despite this, there was no apparent investigation to determine whether a legitimate, good faith conversation regarding therapist selection ever occurred, or whether the information submitted by the Petitioner was accurate, even though I brought this up as a concern in my response.

On _____, Judge _____ also issued a ruling stating that I had not completed the required education provisions and warned that I could be held in contempt of court if I failed to complete them. This determination was made based on unverified information provided by the Petitioner and was not confirmed for accuracy prior to the ruling. In the same order, the Judge granted the mother final legal decision-making authority in the event the parties were unable to agree after a “_____.” This was deeply concerning, as it was not only based on a false premise regarding my compliance, but it also failed to consider the documented pattern of dishonesty and manipulation by the Petitioner throughout the proceedings. It also contradicts what Judge _____ stated in the _____ hearing, where she indicated that “

In response, on _____, I submitted a motion for clarification, explaining that I had in fact completed the required 4-hour class and had already provided proof of completion to the Court. In the same motion, I also sought clarity regarding:

- Whether there were additional classes I was required to complete,
- Who would be responsible for evaluating whether a “_____” was made by both parties, particularly given the Petitioner’s well-documented history of misrepresentation and lack of cooperation.
- I also explained that I had participated in the Discovery and Disclosure process, and had documentation to prove this.

On _____, Judge _____ amended the decree to acknowledge that I was in compliance with the required education provisions. However, my motion for clarification was denied.

Between _____ and _____, there was no mention, minute entry, or record indicating any delay caused by me regarding discovery. This accusation was unfounded, and no evidence was presented to support it—just a broad assertion that further contributed to the appearance of bias or an unfair characterization of my role in the proceedings.

On _____, the matter was placed under advisement.

Then, on _____, Judge _____ issued a final ruling that:

- Granted the Petitioner child support,
- Ordered me to reimburse a portion of her attorney fees,
- Required the removal of my health insurance coverage from the children, and
- Ordered that I must pay for the children’s therapy bills within 15 days of receiving each invoice.

I find this ruling to be deeply one-sided, and it reflects a broader concern that the entire duration of the court process lacked a fair and balanced review. Despite my consistent efforts to comply with every Court-ordered requirement, appear at all hearings, provide documentation in good faith, and actively participate in discovery with full transparency and integrity, my position as the Respondent appears to have been minimized or disregarded.

The outcome does not reflect the factual record, the evidence I presented, or the steps I took to comply with the Court’s expectations. Instead, it appears that unverified claims by the Petitioner were repeatedly accepted without scrutiny, while my concerns, motions, and clarifications were delayed, dismissed, or ignored, despite providing documentation to support my claims. This has

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CONDUCT AND REFERENCE
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NUMBER IN YOUR REQUEST.**