

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-603

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

April 7, 2026

The Complainant alleged a city court judge became frustrated with a 7-year-old autistic child who was present and making noise during a protective order hearing and had trouble concentrating during the hearing.

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).

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on April 7, 2026.

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2025-603

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.

Please see attached PDF

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Hearing Date: (approx. –)

To the Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct,

I am filing this complaint regarding Judge conduct during my protective-order petition hearing on . I believe her behavior demonstrated bias, impatience, and a lack of fairness, particularly regarding disability accommodation and my ability to meaningfully participate in the hearing.

I attended the hearing with my partner's -year-old daughter. When she made disability-related noises or movements, I explained multiple times that she has and does not understand courtroom expectations. Despite this, Judge repeatedly stated the child “ ,” was “ ,” needed to sit still “ ,” and told me I needed to “ ” and make her behave “ .” Her irritation and frustration were clear from her tone and facial expressions.

Judge also stated she was “ ,” and it was evident that her frustration with the child affected her ability to listen to my testimony. She skipped over an entire section of my petition, required me to repeat myself multiple times, and appeared not to be tracking what I was saying. All of this is on the record, including my explanations about the child's and the judge's responses.

It is also concerning that Judge , as a judicial officer who frequently has children present during protective-order proceedings, appeared unable to focus on my testimony despite the fact that the child in my care was simply using an iPad and occasionally engaging in disability-related stimming. Instead of allowing her to sit near me, where I could quietly provide support and prevent escalation, the judge required her to sit alone in the back of the courtroom. This placement made it impossible for her to remain seated or regulated, which led to additional frustration from the judge. It was clear that the judge's own decision contributed to the behavior she was reacting to, and her frustration with the child's disability significantly affected the fairness of the hearing.

During the hearing, Judge stated that she only saw two incidents in my petition. The judge who reviewed my petition the previous day informed me that two qualifying incidents are sufficient to meet the statutory threshold for a protective order. Despite Judge acknowledging that two incidents were clearly present, she still declined to grant the order. It appeared that her decision was influenced more by the distraction and frustration she expressed regarding the child in my care than by the legal criteria she was required to apply.

Although she ultimately decided to set a hearing to review evidence, I felt unable to continue under those circumstances and withdrew. I left the courtroom distressed — not only because I left without protection from ongoing harassment, but because I had no alternative childcare and felt I had put a disabled child in a situation where she was treated harshly by a judicial officer. The judge's conduct made it impossible for me to meaningfully participate in the process or feel that my concerns were taken seriously.

Given the circumstances, it would have been more fair and reasonable for Judge _____ to acknowledge that the disability-related behaviors in the courtroom were affecting her ability to focus and to offer the option to continue or reschedule the hearing. Instead, I felt pressured to proceed while managing a disabled child, correcting the judge's misunderstandings, and repeating information she had overlooked. This significantly impacted my ability to participate in my own hearing.

I am not requesting any change to the outcome of my case. I am reporting conduct that I believe reflects bias toward a disabled child, a lack of judicial patience and courtesy, and an impairment of my right to be heard, in violation of the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct.

Thank you for your time and review.

Best Regards,