

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-649

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

April 21, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge prejudged the case and was dismissive of evidence of autism for the child in a family law case. Complainant also alleges the judge singled out the mother, was biased towards the father, and minimalized the need for truthful testimony.

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 members Joseph C. Kreamer and Delia R. Neal did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on April 21, 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2025-649

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.

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ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMPLAINT

Complainant:

Judge Complained Of:

The Honorable

Court of Arizona

County

Underlying Case Number:

COMPLAINT OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

I respectfully submit this complaint regarding the conduct of the Honorable
during and following an evidentiary hearing in the above-referenced family
court matter involving legal decision-making and parenting time for my minor child,
, a year-old child diagnosed with .

This complaint is not based on disagreement with the Court's ruling. I am pursuing
appellate review separately. Rather, this complaint concerns the manner in which
the proceedings were conducted, including statements made on the record and in
open court, the treatment of disability-related and safety evidence, and the post-
judgment handling of motions. Taken together, these actions raise serious concerns

regarding impartiality, the right to be meaningfully heard, and adherence to the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct—particularly in a case involving a vulnerable, disabled child.

I. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This matter involved a highly contested evidentiary hearing concerning the best interests of a young child with limited expressive communication, significant difficulty with transitions, and no established relationship with the father.

During the proceedings, I presented testimony and exhibits addressing:

- My child's diagnosis and developmental needs;
- His documented difficulty with transitions and unfamiliar caregivers;
- Behavioral incidents at school and communications from educators;
- Safety and parental judgment concerns related to the father's past conduct;
- The need for a gradual, structured step-up or reunification parenting plan tailored to a child with special needs.

A Best Interest Attorney was appointed and participated in the hearing.

II. CONDUCT GIVING RISE TO THIS COMPLAINT

A. Appearance of Prejudgment and Minimization of -Related Evidence

(Rules 2.2, 2.3, and 2.8)

During the evidentiary hearing, while -related evidence was being presented, the Court stated, in substance, that the child “ ” and that concerns related to and transitions were not meaningfully different from those encountered by other children.

These statements were made before all evidence had been fully presented and conveyed an appearance that disability-specific concerns would not materially affect the Court’s analysis. Although the diagnosis was later acknowledged in the written order, the manner in which the evidence was treated during the hearing created an appearance of prejudgment, rather than open and neutral fact-finding.

B. Curtailment and Exclusion of Relevant Safety-Related Evidence

(Rules 2.2 and 2.8)

The Court initially permitted testimony and evidence concerning a incident involving the father’s parental decision-making and judgment. The evidence was offered not to attribute blame for third-party conduct, but to demonstrate concerns regarding judgment, safety awareness, and foreseeable risk—factors directly relevant under Arizona law.

**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.**