

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 25-652

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

May 26, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge was dismissive of mother's evidence and minimized the previous domestic violence allegations in a child custody 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 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 Delia R. Neal did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on May 26, 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2025-652

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.

I am submitting this complaint as a courtroom observer and witness. I was present during court proceedings involving my mother, concerning custody and parental rights involving her ex-husband,

During a custody and parental rights hearing on or about _____ Judge _____ issued a ruling granting parental rights to _____. This ruling was made despite my mother presenting documentation and information related to domestic violence, including police reports, involvement, and other safety-related evidence. At the hearing, my mother presented information and documentation regarding domestic violence, _____ involvement, financial dependence, and the sequence of events leading up to the custody dispute. Based on my observations, the court did not meaningfully consider this information, and important context was overlooked. Prior to court involvement, when my mother was able to leave the abusive relationship, _____ look the children at a time when he did not have legal custody. My mother was not notified in advance, and the children did not wish to return with him. After taking the children, he did not allow her to see them for an extended period of time. This occurred before court proceedings began and while my mother was attempting to regain safety and stability following domestic abuse. Throughout the proceedings, Judge _____ asked questions and made comments that appeared dismissive of my mother's experiences. He said, "_____ and "_____ These remarks minimized the

impact of domestic violence and financial dependence on my mother's circumstances and decision-making. They also created the appearance of bias against her as an abuse victim. The judge did not appear to consider that my mother had been prevented from seeing the children prior to the court proceedings. When my mother attempted to explain her circumstances and reasoning, including safety concerns, the judge would silence her, and her explanations were not fully acknowledged or considered.

_____ involvement and documentation related to the abusive environment were also raised during the proceedings. Based on the statements and handling observed in court, it appeared that because my mother had previously returned to the relationship, the _____ reports and related safety concerns were discounted and not taken seriously. Additionally, during the proceedings, a recorded statement was raised in open court in which _____ stated that he would "_____

" This recording was discussed but dismissed because another party needed to be present. As a courtroom observer, I was concerned that a recorded threat of serious violence was not addressed or considered from a safety or conduct standpoint. I would also like to include that during mid-summer vacation with my mother, my sister, _____ expressed that she did not want to return to _____ because she was scared due to his previous threats and abusive behavior. During the visitation, _____ repeatedly called _____ and became upset when she did not answer promptly. He discussed court proceedings with _____ a minor, rather than communicating with my mother, and told _____ that he was going to have her mother put in jail and that he was going to make their lives a living hell. After the visitation, when my mother was unavailable because she was at work, she suggested that _____ pick up the children at a different time. He became upset and left. When my mother returned from work, _____ expressed that she did not want to go back with him, and my mother did not want to force her to leave against her will, acting in the child's best interest. and does not have a car.

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. Despite this, later traveled to Arizona to file a motion claiming that my mother had kidnapped the children. The judge stated that the situation was my mother's fault because she did not file a motion as did, despite my mother having previously informed the court that transportation was an ongoing issue, as she lives in and does not have a car. When my mother attempted to explain these circumstances, the judge again silenced her, and her explanations were not fully acknowledged or considered. The judge also threatened my mother with jail if she did not return despite expressing fear about returning. As a courtroom observer, I am concerned by the manner in which domestic violence evidence, involvement, a recorded violent threat, a child's expressed fear, financial dependence, and my mother's attempts to explain her circumstances were minimized or dismissed. The handling of these proceedings created an appearance that relevant evidence and safety concerns were not being fairly or fully considered.

Any supporting documentation related to this case, including court records or other evidence, may be provided by my mother, if requested by the Commission.

This complaint is not submitted to challenge the legal rulings made by the court, but rather to request review of judicial conduct, based on statements made and the treatment of evidence and safety concerns during the proceedings, as personally observed.

I declare that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and based on my firsthand observations.