

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 26-009

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge failed to follow the law and delayed handling court business.

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.

After review, the Commission found the judicial officer delayed issuing a ruling in a family law matter. While this was improper under both the Code and the Arizona Constitution, the Scope Section of the Code provides that not every transgression will result in the imposition of discipline. The Commission decided, after considering all the facts and circumstances, to dismiss the Complaint pursuant to Commission Rules 16(b) and 23(a), but to issue a confidential warning letter to the judicial officer reminding the judge of the duty to issue rulings timely under Rules 1.1 and 2.5(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, along with Art. 2, § 11, and Art. 6, § 21 of the Arizona Constitution

Dated: June 9, 2026

FOR THE COMMISSION

/s/ Christopher P. Staring

Hon. Christopher P. Staring
Commission Chair

Copies of this order were distributed to all
appropriate persons on June 9, 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2026-009

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 FORM****

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Re: The Honorable

To the Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct:

I am writing to submit a formal complaint regarding the conduct of the Honorable
Judge of the County Superior Court, arising from his handling of
v.).

I am counsel of record for Respondent, .

This complaint concerns repeated failures to rule within the time required by law, inconsistent and improper extensions granted without legal basis, and prolonged inaction that materially prejudiced my client in a matter involving fundamental parental rights.

Background and Timeline

1. Final Evidentiary Hearing

- A final evidentiary hearing occurred on , before Judge
- The matter concerned legal decision-making and parenting time involving minor children.

2. Final Orders Issued

- The Court issued its Final Orders on ,) days after the hearing.

3. Motion for Relief from Judgment

- On , I filed a Motion for Relief from Judgment pursuant to Rule 85, Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure.

4. Improper Extensions Granted

- On , opposing counsel filed an “ ” to respond.
- I filed a formal response on , citing ARFLP 4 and 35, and explaining that the requested extension was not permitted under the rules.
- Despite this, on , the Court granted the extension, allowing a response deadline of .

5. Failure to Respond & Additional Unauthorized Extensions

- Opposing counsel failed to file any response by _____.
- Instead, opposing counsel filed another “_____” on _____, followed by an amended version on _____, again without legal basis under the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure.
- The Court did not rule on these motions at the time.

6. Judicial Inaction

- After weeks of silence, I contacted the Court on _____, respectfully inquiring whether the matter had been overlooked due to judicial transition.
- On _____, the Court issued an order granting opposing counsel until _____ to respond—nearly _____ after my motion was filed and well outside the timeframes contemplated by the rules.
- As of today, _____, we still do not have a ruling.

The repeated granting of extensions without legal authority, failure to rule within mandated timeframes, and prolonged inaction—particularly in a case affecting a parent’s fundamental rights—undermines confidence in the fairness and efficiency of the judicial process.

This matter involves custody and parenting time, where delays have real and ongoing consequences. The cumulative effect of the Court’s inaction and inconsistent procedural rulings has caused substantial prejudice to my client.

I respectfully request that the Commission review Judge _____ handling of this matter to determine whether his conduct complies with the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct and to take whatever action the Commission deems appropriate.

I am prepared to provide copies of all relevant filings, orders, and correspondence upon request.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney at Law

No.