

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 26-084

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

April 21, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court commissioner was not impartial or fair in a probate matter.

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 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

2026-084

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 details for Complaint

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Complaint to the Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct

Complainant:

Address: _____, Arizona

Phone:

Email:

Judge Complained About: Commissioner

Court: _____ County _____ Court – Probate Division

Case Name: In the Matter of _____

Case Number:

Nature of the Complaint

I respectfully submit this complaint regarding the handling of a probate guardianship and conservatorship case involving my mother, _____.

My concerns relate to:

- The fairness of proceedings
- Failure to consider material evidence
- Disregard of the ward's expressed wishes
- Conduct during hearings that appeared dismissive, aggressive, or biased
- Reliance on irrelevant or prejudicial information

This complaint is not intended to appeal a legal ruling. Rather, it concerns the conduct of proceedings and the manner in which decisions were reached.

Background

The petition for guardianship and conservatorship was filed due to legitimate concerns regarding mental capacity and her ability to manage her finances safely.

Prior to filing:

- Medical professionals evaluated her and advised that she should not independently manage finances.
- There were documented concerns over approximately years regarding financial exploitation and rapid depletion of assets by a family member.

The petition was filed in good faith and solely for the protection and best interests of the ward.

Concerns Regarding Proceedings

During the initial hearing and subsequent hearings:

- The court declined to fully hear or meaningfully consider evidence relating to the ward's best interests.
- The ward's expressed wishes and estate planning documents were not given appropriate weight.
- A third-party fiduciary was appointed despite family members being willing and able to serve and despite written documentation of the ward's preferences.

Concerns Regarding Impartiality

Irrelevant personal matters were raised during proceedings, including:

- A bankruptcy from more than years ago
- Unrelated probate matters involving my children following the death of their father

These matters were not relevant to my present ability to serve or to the ward's best interests but appeared to influence the court's perception. Multiple FTR recordings exist documenting the proceedings.

Harm to the Ward

As a result of the court's decisions:

- The ward was placed under fiduciary and caregiver arrangements in which she experienced mistreatment by a caregiver.

- Financial resources continued to be depleted.
- The ward has become isolated from grandchildren and family members.
- The ward's longstanding expressed wishes have not been followed.

Procedural Concerns

I am concerned that:

- Proper evidentiary hearings were not consistently conducted before significant decisions were made.
- Recommendations from fiduciaries were not meaningfully considered.
- Decisions affecting guardianship and care arrangements were made without full review of evidence.

Request for Review

I respectfully request that the Commission:

1. Review the conduct of proceedings in this case.
2. Review FTR recordings of hearings.
3. Determine whether relevant evidence was excluded or disregarded, irrelevant or prejudicial matters were introduced, and whether judicial conduct met standards of impartiality and fairness.

Statement

This complaint is submitted in good faith and solely out of concern for the welfare and protection of
and the integrity and fairness of judicial proceedings.

Signature: _ _____

Date: _ _____