

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 26-100

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

April 24, 2026

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge was biased, made improper decisions, and had a conflict of interest in a family law 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 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 Regina L. Nassen did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on April 24, 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2026-100

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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.

1
2
3 (Bar No.)
4 Email:
5 *Attorney for Respondent*

6 **COURT OF ARIZONA**
7 **COUNTY OF**

8 In re the Matter of

Case No.

9 ,
10 Petitioner,

OBJECTION TO FEE APPLICATION

11 and

(Assigned to the Hon.)

12 ,
13 Respondent.

14 Respondent, (“Father”), by and through counsel undersigned, hereby
15 files his Objection to Mother’s Fee Application. In support of his position, Father provides
16 the following:

17 The Court’s , Under Advisement Ruling provided the following
18 Order:
19
20
21
22
23

24 This Court used “portion” to define the reasonable attorney’s fees to be awarded to
25 Mother. The Court’s use of “portion” means that the amount to be awarded to Mother must
26 be less than one-half of the total reasonable attorney’s fees incurred by her in this litigation.

1 The Court awarded this based on its presumption that Father has more financial
2 resources than Mother. However, this is untrue. Mother has access to financial resources
3 through her Father, whom she lives with and who had paid her attorney fees. Maternal
4 grandfather has financially supported and supplied Mother with free housing since she became
5 pregnant with the minor child. Maternal grandfather has funded all of Mother's litigation
6 and attorney's fees since she initiated the paternity action in . Father does not have more
7 resources than Mother. Father does not make a significant amount of money. However,
8 Father has expenses that he is solely responsible for. He does not live with anyone and does
9 not have anyone contributing to his expenses. Father is also solely responsible for his own
10 attorney's fees. Father does not have the financial ability to cover all of his living expenses,
11 and pay an unreasonable amount toward Mother's attorney fees. Mother, however, does not
12 have to pay for any expenses, nor will she have to pay her own attorney's fees because
13 Maternal Grandfather pays them. Therefore, ordering Father to pay any more than
14 toward Mother's attorney's fees would be unreasonable and contrary to what the attorney fee
15 award is meant for. Father should not be punished three times, by spending his own money
16 on attorney fees and not receiving a positive outcome in the litigation, having all of his claims
17 denied, and having to pay Mother an unreasonable amount for it. That is strictly punitive
18 and Father filed his Petition in good faith, based on the belief that he was acting in his
19 daughter's best interest.

20
21
22 Additionally, the amount of fees Mother is requesting is not reasonable. The last block
23 of billing that is included on Mother's invoice was prepared after Mother was awarded

1 attorney's fees. The fee application does not provide any proof that these substantial amounts
2 were actually paid or when they were paid, besides one confirmation in a fee agreement that
3 counsel for Mother received a check on .

4
5 Second, in Mother's Affidavit of Financial Information, she stated that as of
6 , when she signed the affidavit and swore the information contained was true, that
7 **she had only paid for attorney's fees.** Which was provided to her by her family.
8 Based on the invoice provided with the fee application, that would correctly track with all of
9 the hourly billing, if you subtracted the flat fees. It appears that counsel is double
10 billing, for both the flat fee and the hourly. However, it is questionable, at best, why counsel
11 stopped invoicing Mother after the trial was set in . Counsel for Mother did not
12 provide another block of billing until , *after* he was aware that Mother was
13 awarded fees. The additional counsel for Mother claims that was paid after
14 receiving the Court's order awarding Mother attorney's fees, which would not have been
15 included in Mother's AFI, contains extremely unreasonable billing entries

16
17
18 Father specifically objects to the following fees:

19
20 On , counsel for Mother included flat fee billing for .
21 Pursuant to the fee agreement attached for the flat fee, the was to pay for counsel
22 drafting a Response to Father's Petition, and drafting an RMC statement. was to
23 be paid immediately, and the other on . Based on Counsel's
24 affidavit, work performed based on this limited scope representation would be billed at
25 per hour. The reasonable amount of time it would take to prepare a Response to a
26

**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.**