

State of Arizona  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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Disposition of Complaint 11-130

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Complainant: No. 0192210610A

Judge: No. 0192210610B

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**ORDER**

An anonymous source alleged that a justice of the peace allowed a court clerk who is a minister on the side to perform a marriage ceremony for an atheist who sought a court official to perform her marriage to specifically avoid any religious involvement in the ceremony. The anonymous complainant further contended that a complaint to the court about the incident would not have been worthwhile because the judge's wife was the court administrator.

After considering the allegations and the response from the judge, the commission found no evidence of ethical misconduct. To the extent that court staff may have referred the wedding to the court clerk, the judge has implemented a court policy that all wedding requests will come to him. The judge's wife is a court administrator in another court. Accordingly, the complaint is dismissed in its entirety pursuant to Rules 16(a) and 23.

Dated: July 21, 2011.

FOR THE COMMISSION

/s/ George Riemer

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Executive Director

Copies of this order were mailed to the complainant and the judge on July 21, 2011.

*This order may not be used as a basis for disqualification of a judge.*

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

**MAY 05 2011**

April 21, 2011

Dear Commission,

Some months back my daughter who is an atheist called the Justice Court to schedule her marriage. She spoke with who came out on a Sunday to perform the marriage to which we paid a fee.

Later I saw an advertisement from this same indicating that she performs marriages and that she is some sort of minister. Upon calling the county seat, they have no record that has been appointed by the court as any type of judicial officer to perform weddings on the court's behalf.

When I called the Justice Court and inquired, it was explained to me that Judge allows who is a court clerk to perform marriages since she has a side business doing just that.

I have a problem with this on so many levels.

1. My daughter is an atheist and specifically called the court to avoid any religion in her union.
2. Why was my daughter not told that someone other than a court appointed officer was going to perform her wedding?
3. What business does a judge have showing preferential treatment to one business over another? Is it because it is an employee of his? Does the Judge get a kick-back or a percentage of the fee?
4. As a tax payer, why am I paying this employee to be a clerk while she runs her "side business" out of the courtroom?

I could go on and on.

I did attempt to call the local court headquarters but once I found out that the Judge's wife is the court administrator, I didn't see the point. What would come of it?

I have elected not to give you my contact information because I run a small business in this area. I have been told that if you cross this judge or his wife, that you might as well kiss your business goodbye.