

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 23-102

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

November 17, 2023

The Complainant alleged improper legal rulings and poor demeanor by a superior court judge hearing a family 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).

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on November 17, 2023.

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject: formal ruling investigation request

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Hello, My name is _____ (previously _____). I have worked in behavioral health for almost _____ years, and work primarily with High-needs youth in _____ and _____ County. I am a mother of _____, and had the traumatic

experience of being in courtroom for family court for of my children. The first time was when I moved back to , maybe years ago. I stayed away from the court room because my children's father was a registered sex offender for raping my sister (of course plead down to sexual misconduct with a minor and was on sex offender probation until last year). I also feared the horror stories that I had heard about , even back then. When we ended up in her courtroom, she bluntly shared with me that Arizona is a 50/50 state and that I can not use his offense against him in the courtroom, nor did she listen to me when I shared with her the years of abuse the man put me through, documented by an arrest and reports from when I was in the independent living program, noting the case worker's concerns of abuse from him onto me. He got 50/50 for parenting time. About a year in to this arrangement, the father started punching holes in his walls, throwing heavy items at the kids, and then holding a knife to his own throat in the kitchen, threatening to kill himself in front of my children. I filed for emergency custody again, and when it was time for the two of us to show up in court, she immediately gave him back full 50/50 parenting time. I told her I did not feel this was safe, she disregarded me. He admitted in court to his anger issues, yet she proceeded to verbally attack me for filing the motion. A few months later my daughter came out about her father molesting her for months (she at the time did not know details in regards to her father's previous convictions). I called the police, made a hotline report, filed for emergency custody. could not do anything, since I was found to be a more than fit parent, however they left my home with pages of information that my kids gave them about the abuse, but since the kids were safe, they had to close the investigation. Law enforcement could not do anything because there was not any hard evidence, so they decided to " ". My last hope was family court. Which was a joke. It was postponed many times due to " and when I was in front of her she would put me down saying that my daughter was the " " and that she "

" . I put up a and got the money for an attorney. I feared this lady, for the sake of my children's safety. When we showed for trial, little did I know that I had an extreme that went septic. I was fevering and delusional, but so feared that if I did not stay in that courtroom that she would hand my kids over to him out of resentment. She was emotionally all over the place, and rude. To the point that my attorney felt the need to stop her in her tracks during the courtroom mediation (I don't recall the name of the type of hearing that took place instead of the trial that day). She told me that day that if I didn't agree to him having my son 50/50 and the father not seeing my daughter at all, and I'll made her go to trial, that she would rule so far against me and what I was wanting for my children. I was strong armed. The reasons his parenting time with my daughter would be nothing is because

" . I expressed my concern about his physical and mental abuse, evident by the times I have had to file for emergency custody, him admitting it to her, and other things, in regards to my fears for my son. She just got angry with me. Judge made many judgements in court that supported a registered sex offender, being accused of molesting his daughter for months, in continued parenting time with his son. I understand that she did not feel that there was a concern because "

" , yet completely dismissing the extreme anger issues, physical and mental abuse. I still

fear for my son's safety, especially since he is alone over there every other week.

I knew about her _____ and asked my attorney for a new judge. He shared with me that this process was that I would have to request this through her, and she would approve or deny it. He strongly advised against this because she already disliked me and would hold it against me even more when making a ruling. It is not just civilians that see it, it is attorney's, law enforcement, other employees in the court house. I am unsure if there can be anything done in my case, but this is extremely unacceptable that so many families and children's lives have been managed by a woman who clearly has shown a pattern of being an addict, and her judgements were based off of potentially that she was drinking, detoxing or craving for alcohol.