

Complaint

Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline

JUDGE

Name

County

Judicial Position (County, District or Appellate Judge)

COMPLAINING PARTY

Name

Street Address or P.O. Box

City and State

Zip Code

Primary Phone

Other Phone

Please Read the [Instructions and Important Information](#) on Page 2 of this Form

You may state your complaint below, in a letter, and/or with attachments

Signature of Complainant Party

Date

The Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline evaluates complaints of alleged misconduct by judges and justices of Colorado state courts. The Commission has no authority to review the conduct of persons involved in other judicial functions or related positions, such as support staff, magistrates, municipal judges, district attorneys, public defenders, probation officers, administrative law judges, workers compensation hearing officers, federal magistrates, federal judges, police and sheriff officials, or the Department of Corrections. Because county court judges in the City and County of Denver also act as municipal judges, their conduct is monitored by the Denver County Court Commission on Judicial Discipline, rather than the Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline.

The Colorado Code of Judicial Conduct provides an ethics code for judges. A judge's conduct in his or her professional capacity and in the community is guided by certain principles, known as the Canons, which are contained in the Code. The Canons address the integrity and independence of the judiciary; impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; failure to perform duties promptly, impartially, and courteously; conduct off the bench that is outside the boundaries of permitted quasi-judicial or extra-judicial activities; and inappropriate political activities.

The Commission is authorized to review and investigate complaints; issue private letters of admonition, reprimand, or censure; make referrals to training or counseling programs; evaluate disabilities; and, if appropriate, recommend public sanctions to the Supreme Court, such as removal, public reprimand, or retirement for disability. Grounds for Commission action include:

- Willful misconduct, including misconduct that, although not related to judicial duties, brings the judicial office into disrepute or is prejudicial to the administration of justice
- Willful or persistent failure to perform judicial duties
- Intemperance, including extreme or immoderate personal behavior, recurring loss of temper or control, abuse of alcohol or medications, or the use of illegal narcotic or dangerous drugs
- A violation of any of the Canons
- A disability that interferes with the performance of judicial duties that is, or is likely to become, of a permanent character.

The Commission focuses on judicial conduct, rather than on judicial rulings. It has no authority to intervene in litigation or to reverse or revise rulings of a trial court or an appellate court. For example, it cannot modify a ruling on a motion, revise a parenting plan, resolve conflicts in evidence, recalculate damages, override a jury verdict, or reduce a sentence. Such matters may involve errors in a court's findings of fact and conclusions of law and, therefore, are reserved to the trial court for reconsideration or to the appellate courts for review. Filing a complaint with the Commission does not extend or stay the time limits that apply to a motion for new trial or an appeal.

Complaints are reviewed by the staff of the Commission to determine whether they are within the Commission's jurisdiction. The Colorado Rules of Judicial Discipline require the dismissal of complaints that are groundless or frivolous or that involve issues that belong in the appellate courts. Complaints that survive the screening process are referred to the Commission for its consideration. The Commission is comprised of four citizens, who are not currently lawyers or judges; two lawyers; two county court judges; and two district court judges.

The complaint should describe the incident or incidents of alleged misconduct on the front of this form, in a letter, or in a brief summary. Court orders, exhibits, partial transcripts or audio CDs of proceedings (if available), and other documentation relevant to a complaint may be included. Complaints are accepted in any format that describes the alleged misconduct, and may be handwritten or typed. It is important to identify the judge, the county, and the case number, if the alleged misconduct occurred during a court proceeding.

The papers and proceedings of the Commission are confidential. A judge is not notified of a complaint unless the Commission determines that an investigation is warranted.

Send the Complaint and related documentation to:

Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline
1300 Broadway, Suite 210
Denver, Colorado 80203
complaints@jd.state.co.us

For questions about the process or additional information, please contact the Commission's Executive Director at (303)457-5131. The Commission's fax number is (303)501-1143. The Commission's website is www.coloradojudicialdiscipline.com.