

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What can the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission do?

The Commission investigates and may take disciplinary action or, in the most serious cases, recommend to the Arkansas Supreme Court that it impose discipline upon a judge whose actions are found to a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

In order of increasing severity, the Commission may make an informal adjustment (such as direct professional counseling or assistance for the judge), issue a public admonishment, reprimand or censure the judge. A recommendation will be made to the Arkansas Supreme Court if the Commission finds more stronger action is needed.

The Court may impose suspension, removal or involuntarily retirement.

How will the Commission handle my complaint?

Each complaint is carefully reviewed by the Commission staff and acted on by the Commission. Complaints that include allegations of misconduct within the Commission's jurisdiction will be investigated by the staff and those findings presented to the Commission. The Commission may dismiss the complaint or conduct a preliminary investigation. A preliminary investigation may lead to a formal hearing.

Each complainant is informed by letter whether a complaint states a basis for further consideration. The complainant will be notified of the disposition if the Commission conducts an investigation or proceeding.

Who may file a complaint with the Commission on judicial performance?

Any individual or group may file a complaint.

The Commission may receive complaints from courtroom litigants, attorneys, jurors, court observers, court personnel, prisoners, court administrators, other judges or anyone who has knowledge of possible judicial misconduct or wrongdoing.

How do I file a complaint?

Complaints may be submitted by completing a Commission complaint form describing the judge's misconduct. You may write or call the Commission office to request a form, download the form or file electronically at the Commission's website: www.arkansas.gov/jddc. You may attach copies (do not send originals) of court documents to support your allegations against the judge.