

FY-2026

On 1 July 2025, the Judicial Conduct Commission dismissed a complaint against a district court judge for violation of Rules 1.2, 2.3(A), 2.4(A), 2.8(B), 2.10(A), 2.11(A)(1). The judge made a statement during a court hearing. The statement made by the judge undermined the judge's impartiality, could reasonably be perceived as bias, was discourteous, and was evidence that the judge felt pressured. Also, if there was perceived bias, the judge should have disqualified themselves earlier in the proceedings. Also, in their disqualification order, the judge wrote explanatory comments. Utah Judicial Ethics Advisory Opinion 04-01 states that "judges should generally avoid commenting when granting a motion for disqualification. Comments in such an order serve no purpose in litigation." The judge accepted responsibility and explained that the misconduct was not intentional. The Commission found the behavior and misconduct were troubling but relatively minor for which no public sanction was warranted.

On 5 August 2025, the Judicial Conduct Commission dismissed various complaints against a district court judge for violation of Rule 1.2. During a sentencing colloquy ("explanation"), the judge made certain statements describing a defendant that undermined the confidence and impartiality of the judiciary giving an appearance of impropriety. The judge accepted responsibility and was apologetic. The Commission found the behavior and misconduct were troubling but relatively minor for which no public sanction was warranted.