

**STATE OF VERMONT
JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD**



JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT COMPLAINT FORM

Please use this form to submit a complaint if you believe there has been judicial misconduct of a justice, judge, assistant judge, acting judge, magistrate, or hearing officer. Judicial misconduct includes, but is not limited to, violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, willful, and persistent failure to perform judicial duties, and habitual intemperance (such as alcohol abuse). The Code of Judicial Conduct can be found on the Judiciary’s website at [Vermont Statutes, Court Rules, Code of Judicial Conduct 2019](#). The Board also investigates complaints alleging a physical or mental disability of a judge, either temporary or permanent, if it may seriously interfere with the judge’s performance of judicial duties. Before completing this form, please review the Judicial Conduct Board’s “Information Concerning Judicial Complaint Procedures,” which can be found near the bottom of the main page.

By signing this form, you certify that the information is a complete and accurate representation of the facts to the best of your knowledge. A copy of your complaint will be sent to the judge who is the subject of your complaint. Your identity and the contents of the form will be kept confidential from the general public unless the Judicial Conduct Board files a formal complaint against the judge. At that time the proceeding will become public.

1. Person Making Complaint:

(First Name)	(Last Name)	
(Street Address)	(Apt. No.)	
(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
(Preferred Daytime Phone)		(Preferred Email address)

2. Are you a Lawyer, or were you represented by a Lawyer during the Event that is the subject of this complaint? Yes No

If Yes:

(Lawyer's Name)

(Lawyer's Address)

(Lawyer's Phone Number)

3. Person you wish to Complain About:

(First Name)

(Last Name)

(Court)

(Vermont County)

Please Check One:

- Vermont Supreme Court
- Superior Court, Civil Division
- Superior Court, Small Claims Division
- Superior Court, Criminal Division
- Superior Court, Family Division
- Superior Court, Probate Division
- Other _____
- Unknown

4. Date(s) of alleged misconduct _____

5. Did the alleged misconduct occur as part of a Court Case: Yes No

If Yes:

(Name of Case)

(Docket Number)

9. Once you have completed the Complaint Form, you should print the form, **Sign where indicated and mail it to the following address:**

**Merrill E. Bent, Esq., Chair
Judicial Conduct Board
PO Box 397
Northfield, VT 05663**

What to Expect:

- You can expect the Board to review the judge's actions in response to your complaint. If warranted, the Board will conduct its own investigation into the matter and may even hire a special counsel to do so.
- You can expect to be notified by the Board if it has further questions about your complaint.
- You can expect to be alerted when the Board has concluded its investigation into your complaint and to receive a written notification of the outcome of your complaint.

What Not to Expect:

- You should not expect the decision of a judicial officer to be overturned or modified in any way by the Board. A court order can only be reviewed by an appellate court. If you have questions regarding how to appeal an order of the court, you should contact the staff of that court or consult with an attorney.
- You should not expect the Board to interpret, explain, or justify the meaning of a court's order. If you have questions in this regard you should consult with an attorney.
- You should not expect the Board to provide you any guidance or legal advice regarding any pending legal proceeding or regarding any other matters. Again, if you have questions of this nature you should consult with an attorney.
- You should not expect the Judicial Conduct Board to investigate or discipline an attorney. To file a complaint against an attorney, please review the materials located on the Judiciary's website at <https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/about-vermont-judiciary/boards-and-committees/professional-responsibility>