

This form must be used if you want to make a complaint about the conduct of a judge that is alleged to constitute judicial misconduct.

The following information is intended to assist you before completing the complaint form. More detailed information is available on the Judicial Council's website, judicialcouncil.ie, or on request.

Who may make a complaint?

A complaint may only be made

1. by a person who is directly affected by the alleged misconduct of a judge or,
2. by a person who witnessed the alleged misconduct of a judge.

This person is referred to as a Complainant. Where you are a Complainant, complete Part 1A.

A complaint may be made on behalf of a Complainant by another person only in the following circumstances:

- where a Complainant is aged under 18 years, by a parent or guardian;
- where a Complainant is unable to make the complaint himself or herself by reason of a mental or physical incapacity, by a person duly authorised by law to act on behalf of the complainant (in this case evidence of the legal authorisation may be required);
- where a Complainant is a solicitor who is a member of the Law Society, by an authorised officer of the Law Society;
- where a Complainant is a barrister who is a member of the General Council of the Bar of Ireland, by an authorised officer of the General Council.

This person is referred to as the Representative for the purpose of this form. Where you are making the complaint as a Representative on behalf of a Complainant, complete Part 1B.

How do you make a complaint?

There are two ways to make a complaint:

1. Online through our website, judicialcouncil.ie. Complete the online complaint form and click Submit.
2. By post. Complaint forms are available to be downloaded and printed from our website or by contacting the Judicial Council by phone or email. Our phone number is 01 968 3988 and our email is info@judicialcouncil.ie. Complete the complaint form and post it to The Registrar to the Judicial Conduct Committee, The Judicial Council, Green Street Courthouse, Green Street, D07 W568.

Please note that if you lodge your complaint via the website all correspondence will issue by email.

Additional information

A complaint may only be made about a serving judge.

The Judicial Council Act 2019 only applies in certain circumstances. Therefore, a complaint cannot be dealt with by the Judicial Council in relation to the following:

- an allegation of misconduct occurring before 3rd October 2022
- if the judge you wish to complain about has retired or for any other reason is no longer a judge
- complaints about persons who are not judges, including Court Officers (e.g. County Registrars, Courts Service staff, Sheriffs) and legal professionals
- complaints received anonymously.

There is a time limit of three months to lodge a complaint from the time of the alleged misconduct of the judge. However, this time limit may be extended in certain circumstances.

The staff of the Judicial Council may assist you in accessing the complaint form or with information about the procedures. It is not possible to discuss the circumstances or merits of a complaint with you or to provide you with legal advice.

When your complaint is received, the Registrar to the Judicial Conduct Committee decides whether the Act applies, and if so whether your complaint is admissible (which means whether it may progress to the next stage). The Registrar will also inform the judge concerned about the complaint. The Registrar's role is independent, and they may only engage with you or the judge in relation to your complaint as provided for in the Judicial Council Act 2019 or under the Judicial Conduct Committee's Procedures.

The following, which are available on the Judicial Conduct Committee section of our website, will be of further assistance in explaining the overall process.

Complaints Procedures
Guidelines in relation to Judicial Conduct and Ethics
Judicial Council Act 2019

COMPLETE EITHER PART 1A OR PART 1B

COMPLETE PART 1A WHERE YOU ARE MAKING A COMPLAINT ON YOUR OWN BEHALF

COMPLETE PART 1B WHERE YOU ARE MAKING A COMPLAINT ON BEHALF OF A COMPLAINANT

PART 1A: MAKING A COMPLAINT ON YOUR OWN BEHALF

Basis on which the Complaint is made* (please tick as appropriate)

- I am directly affected by the conduct complained of
- I witnessed the conduct complained of

Forename*

Surname*

Address*

Phone number

Email address*

PART 1B: MAKING A COMPLAINT ON BEHALF OF THE COMPLAINANT

Basis on which the Complaint is made* (please tick as appropriate)

- The Complainant is directly affected by the conduct complained of
- The Complainant witnessed the conduct complained of

Complainant's Forename*

Complainant's Surname*

Capacity in which the Complaint is made* (please tick one option as appropriate)

- I am making the complaint as the parent or guardian of the Complainant who is a child, being a person aged under 18 years.
- I am making the complaint as a person duly authorised by law to act on behalf of the Complainant who is unable to do so by reason of that person's mental or physical incapacity. Please state below the basis in law on which you are so authorised. (You may be requested to furnish evidence to support this).

- I am making the complaint as a duly authorised officer of the Law Society on behalf of the Complainant who is a solicitor and who is a member of the Law Society.
- I am making the complaint as a duly authorised officer of the General Council of the Bar of Ireland on behalf of the Complainant who is a barrister and who is a member of the General Council of the Bar of Ireland

Mandatory to complete *

Forename*

Insert Representative's Forename

Surname*

Insert Representative's Surname

Address*

Insert Representative's Address

Phone number

Insert Representative's Phone No.

Email address*

Insert Representative's email address

PART 2 : DETAILS OF THE COMPLAINT

Name of the Judge complained of *

Judge's Name

Place where the alleged misconduct occurred (including the court building and the courtroom if applicable to your complaint)

Insert the location if applicable

Date and time of the alleged misconduct complained of *

Insert Date and, where applicable, the relevant time

Details of the Complaint *

Include sufficient supporting information to enable a determination be made as to whether the complaint is admissible

Mandatory to complete *

- I confirm that I am aware that it is a requirement of section 50 (5) of the Judicial Council Act 2019 that my name and particulars of my complaint will be provided to the judge complained of *
- I confirm that I am aware that the particulars of complaints made are confidential*
- I agree with the handling of my data in accordance with the Judicial Council [privacy policy](#) *

I declare that the particulars in this form are correct

Signed*

By Complainant where Part 1A completed
By Representative where Part 1B completed

Mandatory to complete *