

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
Prior Involvement as Counsel or Judge				
Judge is on a three-judge panel in a capital case and previously issued a blanket recusal order involving the assistant prosecutor on the case.	x			<i>Burge, 2014-Ohio-1458</i>
Judge prosecuted the defendant in an earlier unrelated criminal proceeding.		x		Jud.Cond.R. 2.11(A)(7)(b); <i>Batchelor, 2013-Ohio-2626</i> ; <i>Stevenson, 2014-Ohio-3176</i> ; <i>Robinson, 2022-Ohio-4490</i> .
Judge, while elected prosecutor, gave law enforcement charging advice concerning defendant.	x			<i>Kuhn, 2023-Ohio-4882</i>
Judge prosecuted the defendant, case now before the judge on a motion for post-conviction relief.	x			Jud.Cond.R. 2.11(A)(2)
Judge was an assistant prosecutor at the time of indictment but was not personally involved in the case.		x		<i>Gall, 2013-Ohio-1319</i>
Judge is likely to be a material witness in the case.	x			<i>Hedric, 2009-Ohio-7208</i>
While judge was in private practice, a law partner handled the matter.	x			Jud.Cond.R. 2.11(A)(7)(a)

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
Judge is former city council member who participated personally and substantially on the matter while on council.	x			Jud.Cond.R. 2.11(A)(7)(b)
Judge represented one of the parties while in private practice on an unrelated matter.		x		<i>Serrott</i> , 2012-Ohio-6340; <i>Breaux</i> , 2019-Ohio-5454; <i>Rosebrook</i> , 2020-Ohio-5360; <i>Ballard</i> , 2022-Ohio-775.
Judge presides over “family drug court” and “neglect and dependency” cases involving the same juvenile. Parents of the juvenile alleged bias based on extrajudicial information learned while presiding in drug court.		x		<i>Blanchard</i> , 2017-Ohio-5543
Familiarity with Counsel or Parties				
Judge has strong ties to a person involved in the case.	x			<i>Sage</i> , 2011-Ohio-7082; <i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Oldfield</i> , 2014-Ohio-2963; <i>Padden</i> , 2018-Ohio-5420
The court’s funding authority is a party.		x		<i>Watson</i> (1997), 81 Ohio St.3d 1207
A court employee is a party.		x		<i>Lotz</i> , 2002-Ohio-7480; <i>Bennett</i> , 2019-Ohio-2017

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
Counsel is the judge's former law partner from six months ago.	x			<i>Vercillo, 2013-Ohio-5763; Ward, 2002-Ohio-7467</i>
Counsel is the judge's former law partner from 20 years ago.		x		<i>Vercillo, 2013-Ohio-5763; Ward, 2002-Ohio-7467</i>
Counsel is a local lawyer.		x		<i>O'Donnell, 2013-Ohio-5762; Schmidt, 2021-Ohio-3571; Kate, 2019-Ohio-4449</i>
Judge was a victim of the defendant in a crime (threats against public officials) that occurred over 20 years ago.		x		<i>Deweese, 2017-Ohio-9421</i>
Political / Campaign Activity				
Case involves a local officeholder and former party chair with personal connections to many local judges.	x			<i>Corrigan, 2005-Ohio-7153; Celebrezze, 2004-Ohio-7360; but see Gallagher, 2018-Ohio-5428.</i>
A member of the board of elections is a party in a proceeding.		x		<i>Villanueva (1995), 74 Ohio St.3d 1277</i>
Opposing law firm made contribution to judge's campaign committee.		x		<i>Bartolotta, 2016-Ohio-8585; Breaux, 2017-Ohio-7374</i>

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
Judge's campaign opponent is counsel in the case.		x		<i>Floyd, 2012-Ohio-6353; Hurley, 2014-Ohio-5874; Burt, 2015-Ohio-5670</i>
Counsel is on the judge's campaign committee.			x	<i>Advisory Opinion 2014-1</i>
Judge received a monetary campaign contribution from counsel for a party.		x		<i>Wallace, 2019-Ohio-5452</i>
Judge's decade old campaign statements vaguely referring to his former opponent's handling of a capital case, factually similar to the case at bar, warranted his disqualification to avoid the appearance of bias.	x			<i>Cottrill, 2022-Ohio-4800</i>
Family and Friends				
Judge's spouse is the county prosecutor, who had no personal involvement in the case.		x		<i>Bates, 2012-Ohio-6342; Carr, 2004-Ohio-7357</i>
Counsel is a friend of the judge.		x		<i>Burt, 2013-Ohio-5898; Wallace, 2019-Ohio-5452</i>
The defendant is the judge's daily workout partner.	x			<i>Rastatter, 2009-Ohio-7205</i>

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
The judge has personal and professional connections to a key witness in the case.		x		<i>Leuthold, 2023-Ohio-4775</i>
Judge's family member has an economic interest in the proceeding.	x			Jud.Cond.R. 2.11(A)(3)
Judge married to police officer employed by arresting agency of defendant.		x		<i>Farmer, 2014-Ohio-2046; Advisory Opinion 89-19</i>
Judge became social friends with political opponent of criminal defendant after conviction that was alleged as politically motivation.	x			<i>Crawford, 2017-Ohio-9428</i>
Personal Knowledge or Bias				
Judge has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a party's lawyer.	x			Jud.Cond.R. 2.11(A)(1)
Judge has expressed dissatisfaction with a lawyer's time-wasting tactics.		x		<i>Holbrook, 2013-Ohio-5863; Harwood, 2013-Ohio-5256; Corrigan, 2004-Ohio-7354; Swenski, 2014-Ohio-3299; Russo, 2021-Ohio-1246.</i>
Judge has personal knowledge of the facts in dispute.	x			Jud.Cond.R. 2.11(A)(1)

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
During case, the judge's actions or words would cause a reasonable person to believe there is a hostile feeling or spirit of ill will.	x			Sheward, 2013-Ohio-3643
Comments made by judge during sentencing suggesting defendant's parents were "gang members" and that defendant was responsible for ruining the lives of heroin users.	x			Sutula, 2016-Ohio-8599
Judge made public comments on a radio show about an unrelated case involving a child victim prior to sentencing a defendant in a child victim case.			x	Ghiz, 2016-Ohio-8586 ; Jud.Cond.R. 2.11(A)(5)
Judge's unnecessary and isolated comments about counsel's credibility and lack of professionalism; threatening contempt.		x		Yarbrough, 2019-Ohio-4450 ; Stucki, 2019-Ohio-4534
Speculation that the judge may be called as witness.		x		Kelbley, 2019-Ohio-5450
Judge presides over two civil cases arising from a criminal case he previously presided.		x		Finnegan, 2019-Ohio-4533

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
Counsel for party briefly represented judge's ex-husband during divorce proceedings.		x		<i>Ghiz, 2019-Ohio-3351</i>
Judge is allegedly Facebook "friends" with several persons related to defendant's prior criminal case.		x		<i>Muench-McElfresh, 2019-Ohio-4451;</i> <i>Kerenyi, 2020-Ohio-1082. See also Adv. Op. 2010-07.</i>
During the pendency of a matter, the defendant allegedly threatened to kill the judge.			x	<i>Binette, 2021-Ohio-1753</i>
Judge in a capital murder case referred to patients as "victims", referred to defendant's actions as "murder", and sarcastically referred to defendant as "the killer" in chambers; was quoted in press regarding pending decisions and his opinions about defense's trial strategy.		x		<i>Holbrook, 2022-Ohio-2141</i>
Judge excluded certain counsel from hearings, spoke to counsel in a rude tone, and made sarcastic comments.	x			<i>Clark, 2023-Ohio-4774</i>
Conflicts				
A party filed a lawsuit against the judge in state or federal court.		x		<i>Pokorny, 2013-Ohio-915; Mattingly, 2014-Ohio-3065;</i> <i>Saffold, 2018-Ohio-5258; Schooley, 2021-Ohio-3568;</i> <i>Giulitto, 2022-Ohio-749</i>

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
Judge was formerly an adjunct professor at a law school that is a party in the case.		x		<i>Froelich, 2015-Ohio-3423</i>
Judge previously recused himself/herself in an unrelated matter involving the same party.		x		<i>Celebrezze, 2012-Ohio-6304, VonAllman, 2016-Ohio-8589; Goslee, 2018-Ohio-5422; Leuthold, 2018-Ohio-5426; Serrott, 2022-Ohio-3203; Forchione, 2011-Ohio-7077; Inderlied, 2015-Ohio-5676</i>
Judge is a party in a federal lawsuit defended by same firm involved in underlying appellate case.	x			<i>O'Toole, 2017-Ohio-7053</i>
Grievances Filed / Disciplinary Case				
A party filed a grievance against the judge with the disciplinary authorities.		x		<i>Celebrezze, 2012-Ohio-6304</i>
Judge filed a grievance against counsel with the disciplinary authorities.			x	<i>Lynch, 2013-Ohio-910; Ghiz, 2022-Ohio-4585; cf. OSBA v. Evans, 2013-Ohio-4992</i>
Judge is likely to be an adverse witness in counsel's disciplinary case.			x	<i>Lynch, 2013-Ohio-910; Maschari, 1999-Ohio-8</i>
Ex Parte Communications				
Judge had an "academic" ex parte conversation with one lawyer regarding general issues in the case.	x			<i>Sheward, 2012-Ohio-6289</i>

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
Ex parte communication via staff requesting counsel to prepare entry.			x	<i>Spitler, 2014-Ohio-5875; Disciplinary Counsel v. Stuard, 2009-Ohio-261</i>
Ex parte communication with lawyer who was a regular member of judge's carpool.		x		<i>Gall, 2016-Ohio-8602</i>
Going forward with a hearing in the absence of a party.		x		<i>McMonagle, 2020-Ohio-4666</i>
Judge had access to the police report that is included in the case file.		x		<i>Bonfiglio, 2021-Ohio-4669</i>
Miscellaneous				
Judge presiding over trial and post-conviction proceedings of defendant.		x		<i>Nastoff, 2012-Ohio-6339; Callahan, 2014-Ohio-3175</i>
Judge caused unreasonable delay in the case and characterized the state's position to pursue the death penalty in the case as "silly" and a "waste of time."		x		<i>Collier -Williams, 2017-Ohio-5718; Yarbrough, 2020-Ohio-4439</i>
Judge failed to adequately explain or clarify her conduct after a request from the Court; allegation that judge entrusted judicial functions to staff.	x			<i>Saffold, 2021-Ohio-114</i>

IS THE JUDGE REQUIRED TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF OR HERSELF?

DISQUALIFICATION SCENARIO	YES	NO	IT DEPENDS	AUTHORITY
COVID-19; if a judge cannot prove that he or she has taken steps to protect the safety of individuals in the courtroom, the judge may be disqualified.	x			<i>Fleegle, 2020-Ohio-5636; Carr, 2020-Ohio-2868</i>
Administrative judge assigned case to herself despite requirement to randomly assign cases. DQ to avoid the appearance of impropriety.	x			<i>Celebrezze, 2023-Ohio-4383</i>
An objective observer would reasonably conclude that the judge had already determined that party would be guilty of contempt regardless of evidence adduced at potential contempt hearing.	x			<i>Ruehlman, 2024-Ohio-1306</i>