

File

Complaint

Here:

<https://www.nccourts.gov/form/nc-judicial-standards-complaint-form>

Name of Judge: Doretta Walker

Court: District

Case Name: Durham County DSS vs Sharrocka Pettiford

File Numbers: 19 JA 90, 93, 94, 95

What kind of case is it: Other -Juvenile

What happened? (This is a draft and you should tweak it to fit your personal experience of what you witnessed)

I am writing to formally file a complaint regarding judicial misconduct by Durham County District Court Judge Doretta Walker, which occurred during the hearing on September 30, 2024.

It was also evident that Judge Walker exhibited bias toward the mother, Sharrocka Pettiford, in this case. Regardless of the evidence of progress the mother presented, Judge Walker continued to degrade and belittle her progress. Her actions suggest a predetermined inclination that compromises her impartiality.

During the proceedings, Judge Walker exhibited unprofessional behavior, including rolling her eyes and making faces while witnesses provided their testimony. This behavior undermines the integrity of the judicial process and demonstrates a lack of respect for the individuals involved in the case.

Furthermore, Judge Walker entered exhibits into evidence without adequately reviewing their contents. These exhibits were supposed to influence her findings of fact but she never stopped to read them prior to making her findings. This raises concerns about her commitment to ensuring a fair and just hearing. Additionally, despite discovering that there were no signed orders from the previous hearings in the record(no order since Nov of 2023), she proceeded with the hearing, which raises questions about her adherence to proper legal protocols.

Moreover, on September 27, 2024, Attorney Jane Campbell witnessed Judge Walker engaged in ex parte communication with a supervisor from the Department of Social Services in the hallway regarding this case. When inquired about the nature of their conversation, the supervisor merely stated, "Monday is going to be something." This interaction further indicates potential bias and raises ethical concerns about the fairness of the proceedings.

Given these serious issues, I urge the commission to investigate this matter thoroughly. Judicial conduct should uphold the highest standards of integrity, and it is crucial that all parties involved in legal proceedings feel they are treated with fairness and respect.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

