

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

JCP No. 08-26-90003

In re Complaint of John Doe*

This is a complaint of judicial misconduct by a pro se plaintiff against a district judge who dismissed his civil rights case.

The complaint is brief. The document says that its subject is “judge recusal denial.” The complaint then states, “Please review [the civil case] and its arbitrarily closing.” The complaint contains no factual allegations of misconduct. The complainant attaches several documents, including a memorandum to the clerk of court, apparently submitted with his civil rights complaint, seeking to preclude a designation of the case as related to any previously dismissed action and to obtain assignment of the cause to a judge unaffiliated with any such action. Also attached is the judge’s dismissal of the complainant’s pro se complaint in a different civil case in March 2025. In a supplement, the complainant requests immediate adjudication of the judicial complaint.

The complainant filed the underlying lawsuit in September 2025, and the case was assigned to the subject judge. In December 2025, the judge directed the complainant to file an amended complaint in compliance with the court’s instructions by a certain date, and stated that failure to timely comply would result in dismissal of the action without prejudice and without further notice. The complainant did not

*Under Rule 24(a) of the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings, the names of the complainant and the subject judge are not disclosed. Citations or references herein to a “Rule” refer to these Rules.

comply, and the judge dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice. The complainant did not file a motion seeking the judge's recusal in the case.

To the extent that the complaint challenges the correctness of the judge's dismissal or any of his other decisions in the case, the complaint is dismissed as "directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling." 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii); Rule 11(c)(1)(B); Rule 4(b)(1) (cognizable misconduct does not include allegation questioning correctness of judge's ruling, including failure to recuse). The complaint is otherwise dismissed as "lacking sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred." Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

For these reasons, the judicial complaint is dismissed.

/s/ Steven M. Colloton
Chief Judge

Filed: June 4, 2026
