

Who may file?

Members of the public, as well as candidates for judicial office, may file complaints alleging violations of the Standards set forth by the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee (MDJCCC).

What documentation is required?

Complaints must be in writing using the form available by clicking the link at the bottom of this page or by contacting the Committee. Complaints must be accompanied by supporting material, signed by the complainant and mailed to the Committee at the following address:

Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee
P.O. Box 10427
Baltimore, MD 21209

Complaints may also be made in person or by fax: 410 480-5148 to the attention of MDJCCC. If there are any questions about the process or if the complaint is to be made in person, leave a message at 410-480-5148. Someone will return your call shortly.

What happens once a complaint is filed?

After receiving a complaint, the Chair will confer with such Committee members as they deem necessary in order to determine whether there is an adequate basis for further inquiry. If there is no adequate basis for further inquiry, the complainant shall be promptly notified that no further action shall be taken. If there is an adequate basis for further inquiry, the Chairs shall designate one or more Committee members to conduct such further inquiry. The Chairs or their designee on the Committee may request additional information from the complainant but, in any case, shall notify the respondent of the complaint and request a prompt written response. Thereafter, the Committee will act promptly upon the complaint. *How will the Committee communicate its actions?* Each decision of the Committee shall be communicated promptly in writing to the complainant and the respondent. The Committee will announce its actions and post any written decisions on its website. *Will the Committee discuss its deliberations?* The deliberations of the Committee shall be confidential. However, the complaint and request for investigation, the candidate's response (if any), and the findings and action of the Committee shall be available to the public and may be disclosed to any persons or entities, including the media. When deemed appropriate by a majority of the entire Committee, complaints may be referred to the Judicial Ethics Committee or to the Attorney Grievance Commission.

Can complaints be filed against a candidate who has not agreed to abide by the Standards? If so, what will the committee do with those complaints?

This question has been raised recently during the launching of the public education campaign and the announcement of the Standards. Complaints may be filed by any

member of the public as well as candidates for judicial office with respect to the campaign conduct of any of the judicial candidates for Circuit Court. Failure of a candidate to agree to abide by the Standards will not prevent the Committee from addressing the complaint. If the Committee finds that the challenged conduct does not conform to the Standards it will so state, noting, however, that the candidate who did not agree to abide by the Standards cannot be said to have violated any agreement.

Will the materials be returned?

The Committee will not return materials filed with complaints.

Is assistance needed?

If anyone desiring to file a complaint has a disability that requires assistance in filing a complaint, leave a message at 410-480-5148. Someone will return your call promptly.