

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

PRIVATE REPRIMAND


The Commission issues this private reprimand to a judge for violation of SCR 4.300, the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The Commission received information during an informal investigation that in a confidential juvenile matter pending before the judge, the judge contacted a third party not involved in the case about a matter related to the case.

Canon 3(B)(7) prohibits *ex parte* communications, except under limited circumstances, which are not applicable here. The Commentary to Canon 3(B)(7) notes that the proscription extends to communications from lawyers and other persons who are not participants in the proceedings. The Commentary also indicates that a judge must consider only the evidence presented.

In issuing this private reprimand, the Commission duly considered that there was no evidence of a pattern of such conduct and that the judge fully cooperated in the investigation.

DATE: 3-7-13


STEPHEN D. WOLNITZEK, CHAIR