

Judges Assistance Committee

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Effective July 1, 2014

Judges Assistance Committee



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STATE OF KANSAS



JUDGES ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

*Prepared and published as a public service by the
Judges Assistance Committee
July 1, 2014*

The Judges Assistance Committee provides assistance to any Kansas judge needing help by reason of a mental or physical disability or an addiction to or excessive use of drugs or intoxicants.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE?

- ◆ Identify judges who are impaired from responsibly performing their duties by virtue of addiction or abuse of alcohol or other chemicals or due to senility, psychiatric disorders, or other reasons.
- ◆ Arrange intervention in those identified cases in such a manner that the judges involved will recognize their impairment, accept help from the Committee and medical professionals, and be treated and monitored for a period of time so that they may return to their duties when able.
- ◆ Recommend avenues of treatment and provide a program of peer support where possible.
- ◆ Act as an advocate of judges who are ill and assist them in recognizing their impairment in obtaining effective treatment when possible, and in returning to the responsible performance of their profession.
- ◆ Educate the public and the legal community about the nature of impairments and develop a program which will generate confidence to warrant early referrals and self-referrals to the Committee so that impairments may be avoided, limited, or reversed.

WILL COMMUNICATION BE CONFIDENTIAL?

All proceedings, information, meetings, reports, and records of the Committee pertaining to individual judges are privileged and will not be divulged in whole or in part except: (1) upon failure or refusal of the judge to address issues of concern, the Committee may refer the matter to the Commission on Judicial Qualifications (JQ); (2) when a judge has been referred to the Committee by JQ, the Committee will provide progress reports and recommendations to JQ. The Committee has no duty to report to JQ when a referral has not originated from JQ; (3) upon the judge's consent to the release of information; and (4) by order of the Supreme Court.

WHO MAY CONTACT THE COMMITTEE?

A judge may communicate with the Committee or one of its members directly on his or her own behalf or any person may suggest the need to intervene on a judge's behalf. The judge's interaction with the Committee, however, is voluntary.

The Office of the Clerk of the Appellate Courts is authorized to assist judges and other persons wishing to contact the Judges Assistance Committee. The Committee members may also be contacted directly.

WHO SERVES ON THE COMMITTEE?

The Committee consists of seven judges and includes at least two active district judges and two active district magistrate judges. The other three members may be active or retired judges. See Supreme Court Rule 640.
