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and son Camper I live on JT

Chairman and members of the Commission,

on JP

My name is James J. Walker, Jr. I live in Charleston. I am a retired electrical engineer and a graduate of The Citadel, where I learned the Honor Code that has guided my entire life:

adult

"A cadet does not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do."

I am not here to re-argue a case. I am here to speak to Judge Spiros Ferderigos's ethics, competence, diligence, and judicial temperament, as required by your rules.

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#### 1. What I witnessed from inside my son's home

On January 20, 2021, the Family Court hearing for my son was conducted through WebEx. I was physically present in my son's home, but I was in a different room, separate from where he sat alone during the hearing.

Even from another room, I could clearly hear when the Judge joined and when the attorneys spoke. And I can confidently tell this Commission:

My son was never invited to speak — not once during the entire hearing.

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The hearing began about fifteen minutes late. From the moment it began, the Judge was confused about which motions he had, which filings were before him, and whether he had even read them. The Guardian ad Litem's lawyer dominated the hearing. My son's attorney Jessica Partain, attempted multiple times to correct false statements but was cut off.

*she had to leave because of the late start.  
She asked the Judge to read her affidavit*

Nothing about what I heard suggested careful preparation or judicial control.

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2. The transcript proved everything I heard

After the hearing, I read the certified transcript — all 37 pages. It confirmed my concerns:

- Pages 4–8 – The Judge did not know which filings were before him.
- Pages 11–12 – He repeatedly interrupted my son's attorney.
- Pages 19–24 – He accepted improper recommendations from the Guardian ad Litem and her attorney.
- Pages 4–36 – My son was never sworn, never questioned, never permitted to speak.

A parent silenced in a custody matter is not a procedural error — it's a failure of judicial duty.

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3. The Judge refused to correct errors

As pro se Litem

When it became clear there were factual mistakes, my son filed the appropriate Rule 59 and Rule 60 motions.

Judge Ferderigos refused to correct the record.

Few weeks later

under affidavit

Later, a male Ph.D. addiction specialist, whose name had been used by the Guardian, testified under oath that he could not identify a single distortion by my son.

cognitive distortion

This directly disproved the Guardian's central claim — yet the Judge allowed that falsehood to remain.

You can lie in Court, no consequences, not like  
criminal Ct. Same with trials, spectral  
evidence

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4. The destruction of my relationship with my granddaughter

Because of this Judge's reliance on false information and his refusal to correct it, the Guardian ad Litem and her attorney were empowered to block all contact between our family and my granddaughter.

I have not seen my granddaughter since the end of December 2021.

A judge's lack of diligence should never separate children from their families.

7 In An example of 2023 the mother

and her attorney agreed to a lunch visit with Helene <sup>incarcerated</sup> me. The Jay GAL and her attorney prevented it. Not because of anything we or my son did.

It was possible because Judge Fardengos allowed their original false reports & recommendations to stand unchallenged. We were already up there.

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8 Because of the judges reliance on 8, false info & refusal to correct it the GAL & Lawyer ~~was able~~ to block all contact with our <sup>empowered</sup> son and Grand daughter.

Not seen my grand since Dec 2021. This is almost 4 yrs w/o bdays, holidays conversations or the love between grandparent & grandchild.

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5. The system trapped us

Because the Judge's order was a temporary order, South Carolina law did not allow an appeal.

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That meant no higher court ever reviewed his mistakes.

No mechanism allowed us to fix the false statements.

We were trapped for years under an order that could not be appealed.

In matters involving children and custody, this is a serious gap in the law.

And when a judge fails to read filings or correct errors, temporary orders cause permanent harm.

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Members of the Commission,

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Your mandate is not to revisit cases, but to determine whether a candidate meets the standards of ethics, competence, fairness, diligence, and judicial temperament.

I respectfully submit that Judge Spiros Ferderigos has not met those standards.

- He did not prepare.
- He did not run a fair hearing.
- He did not allow a parent to speak.
- He did not correct his mistakes.
- And the consequences of his failures destroyed a child's relationship with her father and grandparents.

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Because of his decisions, I have lost years with my granddaughter that I will never get back.

With respect for this Commission and its process,  
I urge you to deny Judge Spiros Ferderigos's reappointment.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the people of South Carolina.

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