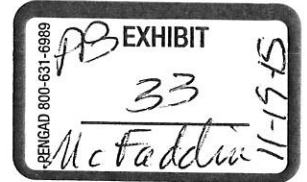


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Family Court
(Incumbent)



Full Name: George Marion McFaddin, Jr. (George)
Business Address: 215 North Harvin Street, Sumter, SC 29150
Business Telephone: 803 436 2373

1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court Judge?
I have more experience behind me now (13 years plus) and want to use that experience to better serve the litigants. While I make mistakes, I try to issue fair rulings based upon thought and not whim. I especially want to continue to put children first when children are involved. I want to continue holding Adoption Days twice a year to expedite the adoptions of children who come from abuse and neglect situations and who need homes and not mere "placements." I am in good health and like to work.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected?
Yes indeed.
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?
No.
4. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice?
Yes.
5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?
I avoid them at work and away from work. With self-represented parties I politely explain to them that I cannot engage in such communications. Few lawyers attempt such communications but when they do I stop them quickly. I even avoid "greeting" conversations in the courtroom.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? Whenever such a situation arises where my fairness or decision-making could be questioned, I will put the matter before the parties and the lawyers and if any of them prefer recusal I then recuse myself. However, there are times when I recuse myself without bringing the matter before the parties and the lawyers. This happens when friends, family members or former clients appear before me. My goal is to insure that all parties feel like they had their day in court with a fair judge, one not biased in any way.
7. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion?
In such a case I would recuse myself immediately. I want all to feel they had a fair judge.

8. How do you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?
I would immediately recuse myself. Again, I want all to feel their case was heard and decided by a fair and impartial judge.
9. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?
I simply do not accept such things unless provided by bar related events where all judges receive the same treatment. I do not accept gifts or "free" items from anyone, lawyer or lay person.
10. How do you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge?
Under the canons of judicial conduct I am required to report him or her. I have done so.
11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions which, if you were re-elected, would need to be re-evaluated?
I am not.
12. Do you have any business activities that you have remained involved with since your election to the bench?
No.
13. Since Family Court judges do not have law clerks, how do you handle the drafting of orders?
I spend a lot of time drafting my rulings that are just short of orders meaning the drafting attorney usually has little to do but add the caption. I often draft all orders involving self-represented litigants. I do ask lawyers to draft some orders but I do not sign unless it is a proper and correct order and I know that the other attorney or party has reviewed the proposed order.
14. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?
My administrative assistant maintains a calendar and I note deadlines on my calendar.
15. What specific actions or steps do you take to ensure that the guidelines of the guardian ad litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case?
I review the guardian statutes regularly and read all affidavits filed by the guardian and the reports. I am very particular about the filing of the reports. I review the guardian's timesheets to insure accuracy and to determine the time the guardian actually spent with the child or children.
16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?
I do not believe in or participate in judicial activism. Our legislature creates the statutes and our Supreme Court and Court of Appeals create our case law.
17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system?
I have been asked to speak at education-related events where both sides are represented.
18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge strains personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How do you address this?

- Judging is a very lonely job for me. I eat alone and do not do anything socially with lawyers. I also do little with others simply to avoid legal based conversations. I knew the job was a lonely.
19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?
No.
 20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?
No.
 21. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender?
No.
 22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses?
Yes.
 23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?
Be patient, be kind. Listen more than I talk. Control my temper and frustration. Do not berate anyone and never embarrass a litigant or a lawyer. Act like Atticus Finch would if he were a judge.
 24. Do the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or do these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day?
They apply all the time.
 25. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant?
It is never proper to be angry. One who cannot control his temper cannot control others.
 26. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If it is over \$100, has that amount been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?
I have not spent any money thus far except for gasoline to drive to Columbia to obtain my application. I will supplement this answer as needed.
 27. While campaigning for this office, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff for your campaign?
No and I will not use it or my staff person.
 28. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date?
No.
 29. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening?
No.
 30. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?
No.

31. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission?
No.
32. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted?
Yes.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

S/ George M. McFaddin, Jr.

Sworn to before me this 7th day of August ,2015.

Janet L. Grimm

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 10/27/18