

ATTORNEY AND JUDGE COMPLAINTS

ATTORNEY COMPLAINTS

ACLU-TN does not usually handle attorney or judge complaints. However, if your attorney will not return your phone calls or is otherwise difficult to reach, we suggest you write him or her a letter with your questions or comments. It is not uncommon for attorneys to be out of the office for several days at a time. Therefore, a letter may be the best way to reach your attorney and document your questions and concerns.

If you feel your attorney does not adequately answer your questions when you speak to him or her about your case, make sure you ask specific questions, and keep asking them until you understand the answer.

If you feel your attorney has acted unethically or improperly, fill out the [complaint form](#) describing the problem, which can be found at <http://www.tbpr.org/for-the-public/file-complaint>, and mail it to:

The Board of Professional Responsibility

10 Cadillac Drive, Suite 220

Brentwood, TN 37027

Phone: 615-361-7500

Toll Free: 800-486-5714

Fax: 615-367-2480

If you feel your attorney is not adequately representing your interests and you would like to obtain a new attorney, please remember that if an attorney has been appointed to represent you, he or she is your attorney until the court declares otherwise. Also, please be aware that your communications with your attorney may be covered by the attorney-client privilege. However, any communications with any individual who is not your attorney or who does not work with him or her, may not be covered by the attorney-client privilege. Please do not discuss the details of your case with any other individuals or those discussions may be used against you.

JUDGE COMPLAINTS

ACLU-TN does not usually handle judge complaints. If you have complaints about a judge, unfortunately there is not much you can do about a judge's actions in the courtroom. Federal judges are appointed and state judges are elected. Both are immune from prosecution for their conduct on the bench. This means they cannot be sued for issuing decisions with which you disagree. Of course, judges can be prosecuted for criminal acts (such as attacking someone).

If you feel the judge is not being fair with you, you should discuss your options with your attorney. These options might include requesting that the case be moved to a different court. You should also ask if the judge's actions or feelings against you could be the basis of an appeal to a higher court.

If you feel that a judge acted unethically or improperly, you must fill out the [complaint form](#), found at http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/docs/updated_judicial_complaint_form_ia_final_save_enabled_0628_2012.pdf, and mail it to the address below.

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Board of Judicial Conduct

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