

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

PR 25-0001

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STATE OF MONTANA,

Plaintiff,

v.

O R D E R

MARK TODD FRENCH,

Defendant.

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The Honorable Molly Owen, presiding Judge in Cause No. DC-45-2025-11-JA in the Twentieth Judicial District Court, Sanders County, has forwarded to this Court the Motion to Disqualify the Judge for Cause Due to Bias and Affidavit in Support of Motion to Disqualify District Court Judge for Cause filed by Defendant Mark Todd French, representing himself, pursuant to § 3-1-805, MCA.

The basis for the affidavit is French's disagreement with decisions the District Court has made regarding the payment of fines imposed by a Justice Court and the District Court's consideration of the Justice Court record. However, § 3-1-805(1)(b), MCA, provides that an affidavit cannot be based solely on rulings in the case which can be addressed on appeal. French has provided no basis why, if the District Court erred in these rulings, we could not address those errors on appeal.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the motion to disqualify Judge Owen is VOID and thereby DENIED.

The Clerk is directed to provide copies of this Order to the Clerk of the District Court of Sanders County for notification to all parties in Cause No. DC-45-2025-11-JA, and to the Honorable Molly Owen.