

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

PR 25-0001

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ABC COLLECTORS, INC.,

Plaintiff and Appellee,

v.

O R D E R

COURTNEY M. FLORES and  
JORDAN ALLYN FLORES,

Defendants and Appellants.

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On January 24, 2025, self-represented litigants Courtney M. Flores and Jordan Allyn Flores filed a Notice of Appeal in the above-captioned Cause No. DV-15-2024-1547(B) in the Eleventh Judicial District Court, Flathead County, before Hon. Paul Sullivan, District Court Judge. On January 25, 2025, Flores moved to disqualify Judge Sullivan pursuant to § 3-1-805, MCA. However, Judge Sullivan took no action on the motion at that time since Flores had notified the court that they had appealed the matter to this Court, thus divesting the District Court of jurisdiction.

On August 21, 2025, Flores filed a Verified Emergency Motion to Vacate Judgment, Quash Bank Levy, Strike Improperly Named Party, Challenge Contract Enforcement, and Demand Investigation of Attorney Misconduct in the District Court case. The District Court then reviewed the record and determined that Flores had not appealed to this Court. Judge Sullivan then referred the disqualification motion to this Court pursuant to § 3-1-805, MCA.

Section 3-1-805, MCA, provides that an affidavit for disqualification for cause must allege facts showing personal bias or prejudice of the presiding judge. Section 3-1-805(1)(b), MCA, provides in part that the affidavit will be deemed not to have been made in good faith if it is based solely on rulings in the case which can be addressed

in an appeal from the final judgment. Flores first allege that Judge Sullivan has demonstrated personal bias or prejudice because of rulings he made or failed to make. However, this is insufficient basis to support a disqualification motion because the rulings can be addressed in an appeal from the final judgment. They further allege that, in a previous unrelated case, Judge Sullivan “demonstrated behavior that [Flores] perceived as intimidating and unfair, including threatening language and demeanor toward [Courtney Flores] and her family.” Flores do not provide a transcript, explain the context, or provide any evidence in support of this allegation. These nonspecific allegations are insufficient to demonstrate personal bias or prejudice.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the motion to disqualify District Judge Paul Sullivan from Flathead County Cause No. DV-15-2024-1547(B) is DENIED.

The Clerk is directed to provide copies of this Order to the Clerk of the District Court of Missoula County for notification to all parties in Cause No. DV-15-2024-1547(B), and to the Honorable Paul Sullivan.