

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

PR 25-0001

LINDSAY PARE,

Petitioner,

and

O R D E R

CHAD STONE,

Respondent.

Chad Stone, representing himself, has moved to disqualify the Honorable Brenda R. Gilbert from presiding in Cause No. DR-25-27 in the Sixth Judicial District Court, Park County, 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.

Stone alleges that Judge Gilbert has demonstrated personal bias or prejudice because she spoke to a law enforcement officer about Stone ex parte. Stone attaches the affidavit of Park County Sheriff Brad Bichler, who stated, in relevant part, "I have had conversations with Judge Gilbert outside the courtroom regarding Mr. Stone. That conversation was in regards to my office receiving notice of Mr. Stone[']s case being dismissed in federal court in Billings." This statement is insufficient to demonstrate personal bias or prejudice.

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

The Clerk is directed to provide copies of this Order to the Clerk of the District Court of Park County for notification to all parties in Cause No. DR-25-17, and to the Honorable Brenda R. Gilbert.

Electronically signed by:
Cory Swanson
Chief Justice, Montana Supreme Court
October 2 2025