



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**CJC No. 25-0188**

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**PUBLIC ADMONITION**

**HONORABLE ED FOLLIS  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT. 4  
O'DONNELL, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on June 4-5, 2025, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Ed Follis, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4, in O'Donnell, Lynn County, Texas. Judge Follis was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response.

After considering the evidence before it, the Commission enters the following findings and conclusions:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Ed Follis, was Justice of the Peace for Pct. 4, in O'Donnell, Lynn County, Texas.
2. Judge Follis was required to obtain 20 hours of judicial education every Academic Year<sup>1</sup> as a justice of the peace. Ten (10) hours are required to be obtained in person and ten (10) hours can be obtained online.
3. Judge Follis failed to complete the required 20 hours of judicial education for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. Specifically, Judge Follis completed 6.5 hours of online training after the deadline.
4. Judge Follis claimed he completed his judicial education through the Texas Municipal Court Education Center ("TMCEC") but had not received the certificate.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Academic Year is from September 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Judge Follis is also a municipal judge for the City of O'Donnell, Texas.

5. Judge Follis did seek a waiver for the educational requirements for the 2023-2024 Academic Year to permit him to obtain his judicial education online, but the Justice of the Peace Education Committee did not grant a waiver.
6. On February 26, 2025, the Commission mailed and emailed a Letter of Inquiry to Judge Follis to the mailing address of the court and his county email address. He was asked to provide a written response on or before March 19, 2025. Judge Follis did not respond.
7. On April 1, 2025, the Commission resent the Letter of Inquiry to Judge Follis via email. He was asked to provide a written response on or before April 8, 2025.
8. On April 2, 2025, Judge Follis replied to the April 1<sup>st</sup> email and stated he took 20 hours of judicial education online in September and October of 2024. He stated he made an error regarding how he submitted some of those hours and explained the reason he took all of his hours online was because he cannot walk any distance because of his bad knees. Judge Follis stated there should be a waiver from his orthopedic doctor on file at the training center.<sup>3</sup>
9. On April 3, 2025, the Commission replied to Judge Follis' April 2<sup>nd</sup> email advising of the need to respond to the Letter of Inquiry wherein he could provide a detailed explanation regarding his circumstances. On April 25, 2025, the Commission received Judge Follis' responses to the Letter of Inquiry.
10. In his written responses, Judge Follis stated he completed his judicial education hours on October 7 & 8.<sup>4</sup> When asked about the waiver of in-person training by the Justice of the Peace Education Committee, Judge Follis replied "Completed Hours".
11. Judge Follis provided the Commission with a letter from his orthopedic doctor regarding his bad knees, but did not provide the certificate(s) regarding his judicial education through TMCEC with his written responses.

### **RELEVANT STANDARDS AND AUTHORITIES**

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in relevant part, "A judge shall comply with the law ...."
2. Canon 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in relevant part, "A judge...shall maintain professional competence in [the law]."
3. Rule 3a(2) of Rules of Judicial Education provides, in relevant part, "Each Justice of the Peace will, as an official duty: in each fiscal year thereafter, complete twenty (20) hours of instruction approved by a justice court education committee in the performance of office. At least ten (10) of the total required hours must be met by attending courses, provided by the Texas Justice Court Training Center. The remaining hours may be achieved through course(s) sponsored by any approved provider. Up to ten (10) of those hours may be satisfied via electronic course(s)."
4. Rule 3d of Rules of Judicial Education provides, in relevant part, "A person who serves in the dual capacity as a Justice of the Peace and as a municipal judge may be permitted to receive credit toward fulfillment of the requirements of the Rules of Judicial Education for each office by attending a

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<sup>3</sup> Texas Justice Court Training Center ("TJCTC") did not provide a waiver by the Justice of the Peace Education Committee for Judge Follis. Nor did Judge Follis provided a granted waiver with his responses.

<sup>4</sup> According to TJCTC, Judge Follis did complete 6.5 hours of his judicial education on October 7 & 8, 2024.

course of instruction for either office, provided that the curriculum is pertinent to the duties and responsibilities of each office.”

5. Rule 9b of the Rule of Judicial Education provides: “After the end of each grant year, the Register will report to the applicable Education Committee the name of any judge or judicial officer who had not accumulated the minimum hours of education for that year, including such judges who are leaving office and do not plan to run for another term.”
6. Rule 10a of Rules of Judicial Education states: “Upon receipt of the reports required by Rule 9b, the applicable Education Committee will advise the named judges or judicial officers of the deficiency. Within 30 days of the receipt of such notice, the judge or judicial officer may submit a statement of the reasons that prevented compliance. Thereafter, unless the applicable Committee grants a waiver for good cause shown, it will report the name of the judge or judicial officer to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct by November 1.”

### CONCLUSION

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that the Honorable Ed Follis, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4, in O'Donnell, Lynn County, Texas, should be publicly admonished for his failure to comply with the law and maintain professional competence in the law when he failed to complete the judicial education for the 2023-2024 Academic Year, in violation of Canons 2A and 3B(2) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, Section 1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to protect the public and promote public confidence in the judicial system.

Issued this the 23<sup>d</sup> day of June, 2025.

  
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Gary Steel  
Chair, State Commission on Judicial Conduct