



**BEFORE THE  
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

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**IN RE: HONORABLE MIKE SUTHERLAND  
BURLESON COUNTY JUDGE  
CALDWELL, BURLESON COUNTY, TEXAS**

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**VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO RESIGN FROM  
JUDICIAL OFFICE IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

This Agreement is being entered into by the undersigned parties pursuant to Section 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code.

**WHEREAS**, at all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Mike Sutherland was the Burleson County Judge, Caldwell, Burleson County, Texas;

**WHEREAS**, the Commission received two complaints against Judge Sutherland (CJC Nos. 18-0267 and 19-1230) alleging that he sexually harassed a woman and/or engaged in a sexual relationship with a woman employed by Burleson County;

**WHEREAS**, Judge Sutherland has denied the allegations against him, and timely responded to the Commission's inquiries, including without limitation providing documents requested by Commission staff;

**WHEREAS**, effective immediately upon the signature of this document, Judge Sutherland officially and formally resigns from the office of County Judge, Burleson County, Texas, effective June 16, 2019;

**WHEREAS**, no Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law have been made in connection with the above-referenced matters;

**WHEREAS**, the parties agree that the allegations of judicial misconduct, if found to be true, could result in disciplinary action against Judge Sutherland; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties to this Agreement are desirous of resolving this matter without the time and expense of further disciplinary proceedings.

**IT IS THEREFORE AGREED** that Judge Sutherland, upon the signing of this Agreement, agrees that he has officially and formally resigned his judicial duties and is entering into this Agreement to resolve the above-referenced matters in lieu of disciplinary action by the Commission, pursuant to Section 33.032(h) of the Texas Government Code. The Commission agrees that it shall pursue no further disciplinary proceedings against Judge Sutherland in connection with the above-referenced matters.

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED** that, upon the Commission's approval of this Agreement, Judge Sutherland shall be forever disqualified from judicial service in the State

of Texas, including without limitation (a) sitting or serving as a judge, (b) standing for election or appointment to a judicial office, and (c) performing or exercising any judicial duties or functions of a judicial officer, including the performance of wedding ceremonies.

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED** that any violation of this Agreement by Judge Sutherland would constitute willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice in violation of Art. 5, §1-a(6)A of the Texas Constitution, and Section 33.001(b) of the Texas Government Code.


**IT IS FURTHER AGREED** that the Commission may enforce this Agreement through any legal process necessary, including injunctive relief; that Travis County, Texas, shall be the proper venue for any dispute between the parties or proceeding relating to this Agreement; and that Judge Sutherland, individually, shall bear the expense, cost, and any reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees in the event any dispute arising under this Agreement is decided against him by any court or tribunal.

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED** that Judge Sutherland, by his execution of this voluntary agreement, does not admit guilt, fault or liability regarding the matters contained in the complaints referenced above.

**AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED** upon its execution by the parties.

SIGNED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE MIKE SUTHERLAND

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HON. CATHERINE WILEY, CHAIR  
STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL  
CONDUCT

Date: 6-6-19

Date: 6-6-19

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTORNEY FOR JUDGE Sutherland

Date: 6-6-19

VERIFICATION

State of Texas §  
County of Burleson §

**BEFORE ME**, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Judge Mike Sutherland, who by me being first duly sworn, on his oath deposed and said that the above "Voluntary Agreement to Resign from Judicial Office in Lieu of Disciplinary Action" is a true and correct recitation of the facts and accurately reflects his understanding of the terms and conditions of, and voluntary consent to enter into, such Agreement.

**SWORN TO BEFORE ME**, on this the 6 day of June, 2019.

*Karina Barraza Branham*

NOTARY PUBLIC, IN AND FOR THE  
STATE OF TEXAS

