

# Commonwealth of Kentucky

## Court of Appeals

NO. 2026-CA-0372-OA

MATTHEW G. BEVIN

PETITIONER

v. AN ORIGINAL ACTION  
ARISING FROM JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT  
ACTION NO. 23-CI-501577

HONORABLE ANGELA J. JOHNSON

RESPONDENT

AND

GLENN R. BEVIN; JONAH  
BEVIN; AND THE COURIER  
JOURNAL, INC.

REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST

STATUS QUO ORDER AND ORDER GRANTING EMERGENCY RELIEF

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On March 27, 2026, Petitioner, Matthew G. Bevin (“Bevin”), filed this original action along with a motion pursuant to Kentucky Rules of Appellate Procedure (“RAP”) 60(H). Specifically, Bevin’s petition seeks relief from the Family Court’s March 24, 2026, order sentencing him to sixty (60) days in jail with a \$500 bond for contempt. His request for emergency relief seeks to have the order of arrest vacated.

Having reviewed the limited record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, it appears that Respondent issued the order of arrest **after** Bevin had made a request to disqualify her for alleged bias and remove her from the decision-making process for his case. Under clear Kentucky case law, “after the filing of an affidavit to disqualify, the trial judge is without further jurisdiction to proceed in the matter until the Chief Justice acts or until a special judge is designated.” *Jackson v. Commonwealth*, 806 S.W.2d 643, 645 (Ky. 1991); *see also Diaz v. Barker*, 254 S.W.3d 835 (Ky. App. 2008 (“under the recusal remedy set out in KRS 25A.020(1), the trial judge is not to make the recusal determination[,] and the case is to be held in abeyance pending the Chief Justice’s determination.”)). Thus, once Bevin made the motion to recuse her, Judge Johnson was prohibited from proceeding further on the merits of his case.

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent, Judge Johnson, is ORDERED to recall the active bench warrant for Bevin’s arrest forthwith. The March 24, 2026, sentencing order, also apparently issued after the motion to recuse, is hereby stayed pending further resolution of the writ on its merits, which has been assigned randomly to another panel of this Court. The parties shall maintain the status quo ante with respect to Bevin’s sentence for the contempt finding.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of this Court is directed to serve a copy of this Order to the parties by electronic mail in addition to conventional service. The Clerk of the Court shall include a copy of Petitioner's motion for emergency relief with the Order.

ENTERED: 03/27/2026



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HON. AUDRA J. ECKERLE  
JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS