

In the Courtroom of Judge Jarod Hofacket: A Documented Pattern of Problematic Dispositions, 2020–2026

Problematic Dispositions are those non-merits resolutions where the underlying charges against a defendant remain unresolved, thereby freeing the defendant from physical custody and further criminal prosecution for those charges. In the courtroom of Judge Jarod Hofacket 22 cases were adjudicated at a 36% problematic rate, resulting in 8 problematic cases that included 2 dismissed as incompetent, 0 dismissed for failure to prosecute, 6 State notices of dismissal (nolle prosequi), and 0 deferred dismissals.

2020–2021: Early Signals of Recurring Dismissal

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2020 or 2021.

2022–2023: Peak Volume and Same-Day Clusters

On October 18, 2022, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in five cases against Isaac Diaz Vargas on the same day: Non-Residential Burglary; Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony); Robbery; a second Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony); and Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle (1st Offense), assigned to Judge Jarod Hofacket at the time, with Diaz Vargas having 1 to 6 prior cases. Diaz Vargas faced new charges of Receiving Stolen Property – Receive (Firearm) in January 2023.

In October 2023, Judge Jarod Hofacket dismissed as incompetent the Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) case against Benjamin Hernandez, who had 16 prior cases. Hernandez faced new charges of Criminal Trespass in April 2024.

In November 2023, Judge Jarod Hofacket dismissed as incompetent the Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) case against Sandra Hernandez, who had 10 prior cases. Hernandez faced new charges of Criminal Damage to Property (Over \$1000) in February 2024.

2024–2026: Continued High-Prior Dismissals and Reoffending

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2024 or 2026.

In January 2025, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in the Shoplifting (Over \$500 but not more than \$2,500) case against Eddie Jaquez, assigned to Judge Jarod Hofacket at the time, who had 14 prior cases. Jaquez faced new charges of Shoplifting (\$250 or Less) in March 2025.

The pattern of problematic dispositions in the courtroom of Judge Jarod Hofacket includes 2 incompetent findings and 6 State notices of dismissal (nolle prosequi). High-prior individuals in these records include Benjamin Hernandez (16 priors), Eddie Jaquez (14 priors), and Sandra Hernandez (10 priors). The same-day cluster of five State notices of dismissal (nolle prosequi) against Isaac Diaz Vargas on October 18, 2022, is the largest single-day cluster in these records.

Summary of Featured Examples

Period	Offender	Key Charge(s)	Disposition by Judge Hofacket	Priors	Notable Subsequent Charge(s)
2022 (Oct 18)	Isaac Diaz Vargas	Non-Residential Burglary; Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) x2; Robbery; Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle (1st Offense) [same-day cluster of 5]	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	1–6	Receiving Stolen Property – Receive (Firearm) [Jan 2023]

Period	Offender	Key Charge(s)	Disposition by Judge Hofacket	Priors	Notable Subsequent Charge(s)
2023	Benjamin Hernandez	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony)	Dismissed by Judge Hofacket as incompetent	16	Criminal Trespass [Apr 2024]
2023	Sandra Hernandez	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony)	Dismissed by Judge Hofacket as incompetent	10	Criminal Damage to Property (Over \$1000) [Feb 2024]
2025	Eddie Jaquez	Shoplifting (Over \$500 but not more than \$2,500)	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	14	Shoplifting (\$250 or Less) [Mar 2025]