



NY Justice Merchan Fines Trump \$9,000 for Contempt

Former President Donald Trump was held in contempt for social-media posts, and fined \$9,000 by New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan after violating a gag order in the New York “hush money” this morning. Trump. Merchan stated that he believed the fines would not compel Trump to comply with the order, and stated jail may be a necessary punishment, [stating in the order](#):



AP Images

While \$1,000 may suffice in most instances to protect the dignity of the judicial system, to compel respect for its mandates and to punish the offender for disobeying a court order, it unfortunately will not achieve the desired result in those instances where the contemnor can easily afford such a fine. In those circumstances, it would be preferable if the Court could impose a fine more commensurate with the wealth of the contemnor. In some cases that might be a \$2,500 fine, in other cases it might be a fine of \$150,000. Because this Court is not cloaked with such discretion, it must therefore consider whether in some instances, jail may be a necessary punishment.

Merchan ordered Trump to remove seven posts on his Truth Social account, and two posts on his campaign website:

THEREFORE, Defendant is hereby warned that the Court will not tolerate continued willful violations of its lawful orders and that if necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, it will impose an incarceratory punishment; and it is hereby ORDERED, that Defendant pay a \$1,000 fine for each of the nine violations of this Court’s lawful order by the close of business on Friday, May 3, 2024; and it is further ORDERED that Defendant remove the seven offending posts from Defendant’s Truth Social account and the two offending posts from his campaign website by 2:15pm Tuesday, April 30, 2024.



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