

# How can I become a Justice of the Peace?

Prepared by the ACT Justices of the Peace Association Inc

*I will well  
and truly  
serve in the  
office of  
Justice of the  
Peace in the  
Australian  
Capital  
Territory*

*JP Oath of Office*

Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Attorney-General, under the *Justices of the Peace Act 1989*. Appointments are administered by Access Canberra (<https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au>).

## What's involved?

Prospective JPs must complete an application package, available from the ORS. An applicant will

- need to provide proof of eligibility, character references, support from their employer (if intending to be available during business hours), and explain why they want to be a JP
- undergo a police criminal records check
- attend a training course—12 hours over two days—and must pass an examination to be appointment (unless otherwise approved). The course is run through the CIT and costs \$400.

JPs are formally appointed (sworn-in) in a brief ceremony at the ACT Supreme Court.

## What are the eligibility requirements?

To be a JP, a person must:

- be an Australian citizen **and**
- be a permanent resident of the ACT or satisfy the Minister that attendance / employment in the ACT will enable them to undertake the duties of a JP (this allows residents of nearby NSW who work in the ACT to be JPs); **or** be on the electoral roll for an ACT electorate **and**
- be of good character and standing in the ACT community **and**
- satisfactorily complete the JP training

course, or have requisite experience or qualifications **and**

- agree to their name and contacts being published on the JP Register and being made publicly available **and**
- agree to be available to the public at all reasonable times.

The last point is important—available at all reasonable times means just that—during business hours, outside business hours and on weekends.

The Attorney-General expects that JPs will serve the wider ACT community. This means JPs are not generally appointed for the purposes of serving only the organisation in which they work.

## What else?

A JP needs patience, empathy and plenty of common sense.

Finally, a JP needs to have respect for the Office. The Office of Justice of the Peace has a long and honourable history and JPs hold a position of trust within the community. The community's confidence in the professionalism of JPs can be undermined if JPs do not take the time to do the job well.

## Want to know more?

We'd be happy to talk to you and provide first-hand experience of the fulfilling role of Justice of the Peace, and the support offered by our Association. Contact us at [info@actjpa.org.au](mailto:info@actjpa.org.au).

More information, and an on-line application form, is available from Access Canberra.

([https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/2073/related/1](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/2073/related/1))



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