



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do you become a Justice of the Peace?

If you are interested in becoming a Justice of the Peace, you may complete and submit an application form to the Judicial Executive Assistant, Justice of the Peace Program. Applications may be received in person at the Yellowknife Courthouse, or by e-mail to JP_Program@nwtcourts.ca.

Where applicable, the applicant is asked to obtain a letter of support from municipal council and/or band council. Applicants are asked to submit a clear *Criminal Record* check and a current resume with their application. Upon receipt of the completed application, letters of support, *Criminal Record* check and resume, the Chief Judge will review the application and determine next steps.

If your application is recommended for appointment, it can take up to 4 months to receive your appointment instrument.

2. Where do I get training to become a Justice of the Peace?

Once a Justice of the Peace is appointed, training is provided by the Territorial Court Judges and/or senior Justices of the Peace through workshops, continuing legal education and mentorships. Training sessions are available in person or by videoconference each year.

3. What qualifications do I need to become a Justice of the Peace?

Criteria used as a guideline for considering Justice of the Peace appointments can be found through the “Application Criteria” document.

4. What does a Justice of the Peace do?

Justices of the Peace generally preside over summary conviction matters arising from territorial statute, municipal by-law, and selected *Criminal Code* matters. They regularly conduct bail hearings; issue warrants and summonses; and carry out various public functions such as conducting marriage ceremonies.

5. What are the duties and responsibilities of a Justice of the Peace?

For members of the general public who have been appointed a Justice of the Peace, there are four levels of responsibilities. The Chief Judge determines the level for each Justice of the Peace. These levels are: Administrative JP (A2); Presiding Level 1 (P1); Presiding Level 2 (P2) and Presiding Level 3 (P3). Brief descriptions of each level can be found on the “Categories Training Plan” document.

6. Do you need a Law degree to become a Justice of the Peace?

A law degree or other post-secondary education is not required. Justices of the Peace are lay people, working and living in the community where they sit, performing a variety of judicial and quasi-judicial functions. Justices of the Peace carry out these duties on a part-time basis.

7. How old do you have to be to become a Justice of the Peace?

An individual must have attained the age of 19 years to be considered as a Justice of the Peace and can serve indefinitely until they resign, or upon reaching 75 years of age.