



JP Newsletter

JP survey – the results are in

The Justices of the Peace (JP) Training Committee (JPTC) thanked all JPs who participated in the Training Survey. The Survey response was very useful.

Information collected will assist the JPTC to identify training needs and develop training material for JPs state-wide.

Responses from court JPs confirm the Department of the Attorney General is providing training that meets their needs in respect to frequency and the topics available. The Survey also confirmed that witnessing documents is the predominant role of JPs and the majority (82 per cent) of witnessing is conducted from home.

Some 29 per cent of JPs witness documents at work and a further 18 per cent at JP document witnessing centres. JPs also favoured ongoing training once a year.

The Survey responses also indicated a relatively small number of JPs approved bail or issued search warrants and most JPs deal with bail documents at a courthouse.

Other locations where JPs approved bail include police stations and prisons. Similarly, the Survey showed that search warrants are issued by a relatively small cohort of JPs, with most being issued from home.

Reduced functions of JPs aged 70 and 75

Those JPs who are approaching the ages of 70 and 75 years are reminded that functions that can be performed at this age are reduced.

A JP who has reached 70 years of age must not sit in court or as a visiting justice.

A JP who has reached 75 years of age must not:

- deal with bail matters

- issue Search Warrants
- authorise the issue of a warrant to arrest, apprehend, detain a person or seize property.

JPs who have attained the age of 75 years may continue to witness documents such as statutory declarations and affidavits so long as they remain able to do so.

GET THE FACTS

[Fact Sheet 5 – Bail Undertaking by an accused person](#)

[Fact Sheet 6 – Surety Undertakings](#)

[Office of the Public Advocate Training Calendar](#)

[JP Training Calendar](#)

Are your contact details correct?

To keep up to date with the latest information JPs are being asked to ensure the Department has their correct contact information.

To check whether your contact details are correct, or need to be updated, please email your:

- name
- postal address
- email address
- home phone number
- mobile number

to email jps@justice.wa.gov.au

Conflicts of interest

The JP Code of Conduct states:

- We will disqualify ourselves from any proceedings in which our impartiality might reasonably be questioned.
- If it is seen that a conflict may arise, we will disclose all actual and potential conflicts of interest known to us.

Many JPs may come across a conflict of interest in their service at some time.

How these conflicts are managed and identified are important.

Threats to a perceived independence can arise if, for example, a JP:

- Witnesses an affidavit for a family member or for a family business
- Witnesses property development documents regarding land you or your family are interested in purchasing
- Issues a warrant on a business competitor or someone you have a personal connection with

- Performs a function as a JP where you have prior knowledge of the matter, such as witnessing the event
- Performs a function as a JP where you or your business will financially benefit or which advances your personal or business interests
- Presides in court where you have personal knowledge of the accused or the victim (i.e. family member, friend or work colleague).

JP Training Calendar

| Date | Location | Topic | Contact | Phone | Email |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 October 2015 | Warwick Hall | Bail and Surety / Enduring Powers of Attorney and Guardianship / Probate and Wills Witnessing Documents, Oaths and Affidavits | Brian Carthew JP RAJWA (Stirling Branch) | 9448 5218 0409 448 8521 | cyberian@iinet.net.au |
| 23 October 2015 | Geraldton Court | Court Procedures | Clerk of Court | 9921 3722 | geraldtoncourt@justice.wa.gov.au |
| 24 October 2015 | Goodearth Hotel | Aboriginal Cultural Training | JP Training and Research Coordinator | 9425 2525 | jps@justice.wa.gov.au |
| 27 October 2015 | Dog Rock Convention Centre | Court Procedures | Clerk of Court | 9845 5200 | albanycourt@justice.wa.gov.au |
| 27 November 2015 | Bunbury Court | Court Procedures | Clerk of Court | 9781 4200 | bunburycourt@justice.wa.gov.au |
| 28 November 2015 | Perth Court | Court Procedures | JP Training and Research Coordinator | 9425 2525 | jps@justice.wa.gov.au |

Did you know?

Have you considered online modules to assist in your on-going training to enhance your skills or to test/refresh your knowledge.

Currently there are five modules delivered through the Central Institute of Technology on:

- VRO (court accreditation)
- Bail (court accreditation)
- Warrants (court accreditation)
- Traffic (court accreditation)
- Witnessing (for JPs engaged/interested participating in signing centres.)

Two new modules (Sentencing and Bail) are currently being developed and should be available by the end of 2015.

For more details please contact the JP Branch on 9425 2896.