

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE CODE OF ETHICS

A code of ethics specific to JPs was originally proposed by the Justice of the Peace Association of British Columbia. Like the [CJC Ethical Principles for Judges](#) for Provincial Court Judges and Judicial Justices, the Justice of the Peace Code of Ethics provides very important guidance to JPs on how to discharge their responsibilities as judicial officers. The Code of Ethics, as approved by the Judicial Council of B.C., appears below:

Independence

- Rule 1.00** Justices of the Peace must both be and appear to be independent, impartial, and unbiased.
- Rule 1.01** Justices of the Peace must avoid all conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived, and are responsible for promptly taking appropriate steps to disclose, resolve, or obtain advice with respect to such conflicts when they arise.
- Rule 1.02** Justices of the Peace should not be influenced by partisan interests, public opinion, or by fear of criticism.
- Rule 1.03** Justices of the Peace should not use their title and position to promote their own interests or the interests of others.
- Rule 1.04** Justices of the Peace should discharge their duties in accordance with the law.
- Rule 1.05** Justices of the Peace are subject to the Provincial Court Act and the authority and guidance of the Chief Judge acting thereunder.

Knowledge

- Rule 2.00** Justices of the Peace should maintain their competence through their work, by participating in training and education courses and by seeking guidance from the Office of the Chief Judge in specific areas as required.
- Rule 2.01** Justices of the Peace should remain up to date on changes in the law relevant to their judicial function.

Conduct

- Rule 3.00** Justices of the Peace are subject to ongoing public scrutiny and therefore they must respect and comply with the law and conduct themselves at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.
- Rule 3.01** Justices of the Peace should approach their duties in a calm and courteous manner when dealing with the public and others and should present and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the dignity of the Court and their office.
- Rule 3.02** Justices of the Peace should convey in plain language their decisions and the reasons therefore where such are legally required.

Rule 3.03 Justices of the Peace must safeguard the confidentiality of information that comes to them by virtue of their work and should not disclose that information except as required by law.

Rule 3.04 In discharging their duties, Justices of the Peace must treat those with whom they deal in a respectful and tolerant manner regardless of the gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, culture, language, mental abilities, or physical abilities of those persons.

Administration of Justice

Rule 4.00 Justices of the Peace shall refrain from openly and publicly criticizing the administration of justice or the conduct of others. Justices of the Peace shall recognize that only the Chief Judge may speak publicly on behalf of the Provincial Court and that through appropriate channels, it is to the Chief Judge that they should communicate their criticisms, suggestions, and concerns.

Rule 4.01 Justices of the Peace should deal with the tasks that come before them in a timely manner and should make themselves accessible to those requiring their services.

Infringement of the Code of Ethics

Rule 5.00 Justices of the Peace who infringe this Code of Ethics act inconsistently with the interests of the administration of justice and offend the honour and dignity of the Court.