

Technical Bulletin: 02/24

Amendments to the *Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991*

April 2024

Background

On 1 April 2024, amendments to the [Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991](#) (the Act), were introduced. These amendments will enhance appointment, disqualification, complaint processes and conduct standards for Justices of the Peace (JPs) and Commissioners for Declarations (Cdecs). Included below are some key amendments that apply to appointed JPs and Cdecs.

New version of the JP and Cdec Code of Conduct

Section 31G of the Act provides a refreshed code of conduct for JPs and Cdecs which came into effect on 1 April 2024. Please view the updated code of conduct to ensure you perform your role as outlined.

You can access a copy of the code of conduct online at www.qld.gov.au/jpcodeofconduct.

Serious or repeated contraventions of the code of conduct (without reasonable excuse or reason) may result in a person's appointment as a JP or Cdec being suspended or even revoked.

Suitability for appointment

Section 17 of the Act lists matters that the chief executive may consider in deciding whether a person is suitable to be appointed or continue to hold office as a JP or Cdec.

Matters that the chief executive may consider include:

- the person's character and standing in the community
- anything that may affect the person's ability to competently fulfil the duties of a JP or Cdec
- whether the person has been disqualified from holding an occupational licence or has had an occupational licence suspended or revoked
- whether the person has been convicted of an offence and the circumstances surrounding the offending
- whether the person has ever contravened the code of conduct without reasonable excuse.

Inquiries about person's appropriateness to hold office

Amended Section 33 allows the Queensland Police Service to continuously monitor and notify the chief executive if an appointed JP or Cdec is charged with or convicted of an offence.

Legislation and further reading

Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991

www.legislation.qld.gov.au

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