

What is a Justice of the Peace?

The justice of the peace presides over the justice court in cases involving misdemeanors, small civil disputes, landlord/tenant disputes and more. They also conduct inquests and may perform marriage ceremonies.

What Does a Justice of the Peace Do in Texas?

A Justice of the Peace in Texas has the following duties:

- Hears traffic and other Class C misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only.
- Hears civil cases with up to \$20,000 in controversy.
- Hears landlord and tenant disputes.
- Hears truancy cases.
- Performs magistrate duties.
- Conducts inquests.

For more complete information about the responsibilities of a justice of the peace and other county officials, see the "[Guide to Texas Laws for County Officials](#)."

Please note: Some duties performed by officials may vary within individual counties.