

From the Department of Justice

Use of the title JP as a post nominal

Justices of the Peace frequently ask about the use of the letters 'JP' and when it is appropriate to use them. Justices may also be interested to know where these letters should be positioned in relation to honours, academic and professional qualifications.

Section 33 of the *Justice of the Peace Act 2018* provides that an appointed Justice may use the title "Justice of the Peace" or "JP" after his or her name. The letters "JP" should be inserted after Royal [and Australian] Honours, but preceding academic, professional and other qualifications – e.g. John Smith, OAM, JP, BAcc, CPA

Notwithstanding this, clause 7(8) of the Code of Conduct in Schedule 1 of the *Justices of the Peace (Code of Conduct) Regulations 2019* provides that an appointed Justice must not purport to hold, or purport to exercise, as a Justice of the Peace a power that is not conferred on him or her as a Justice of the Peace by the Act or any other Act. Consequently, while a Justice may use JP as a post nominal, a fair degree of discretion is still required.

It is proper for the letters 'JP', or the description 'Justice of the Peace', to be used where the Justice is acting or signing as such.

However, Justices should refrain from using the letters or description in certain circumstances involving personal interests, including:

- on business cards, business or professional notepaper, commercial advertisements or any other situation that could be considered to advance trade, professional or business interests
- when writing certain personal correspondence such as a letter of complaint to a local government council or other body

Further, the letters or description should not be used on cheques, driving licences or other personal documents.

The Department would like to remind Justices that they have an obligation to notify the Secretary of the Department within 21 days of a change in circumstances, including address and contact details.

JPs can do this via the Department's [website](#), by emailing JP@justice.tas.gov.au or by telephone on 6165 6765.
