

Justice of the Peace

6 Year Term

Justices of the peace in Nevada handle smaller cases and serve as the entry point for many legal matters. Here's their jurisdiction:

Civil Cases Justice courts have jurisdiction over civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$15,000. This includes small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, and debt collection cases.

Criminal Cases They handle misdemeanor criminal cases and gross misdemeanors (crimes punishable by up to 364 days in jail and/or fines). They also conduct preliminary hearings for felony cases to determine if there's probable cause to bind the case over to district court for trial.

Traffic Violations Justice courts handle most traffic citations and violations, including DUI cases (though felony DUIs go to district court).

Small Claims They preside over small claims cases up to \$10,000, which offer a simplified process for individuals to resolve disputes without attorneys.

Protective Orders Justices of the peace can issue temporary protective orders in domestic violence and harassment cases.

Evictions They have specific jurisdiction over eviction (unlawful detainer) proceedings.

Civil Commitments They can handle emergency mental health detention hearings.

Marriages In some townships, justices of the peace can perform civil marriage ceremonies.

Geographic Jurisdiction Justice courts serve specific townships within counties. Each township has its own justice court, and justices of the peace are elected within their townships.