

## **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.