

Northern Territory Judicial Commission

Factsheet



NORTHERN TERRITORY JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Judicial Commission is an independent body established under the *Judicial Commission Act 2020* to deal with complaints about the behaviour or physical or mental capacity of Northern Territory judicial officers and members of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT).

The Judicial Commission is made up of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Judge of the Local Court, the President of NTCAT, the President of the Law Society Northern Territory, and one non-legal community member.

The Judicial Commission is supported by the Judicial Commission Office (JCO) run by the Principal Officer and staff who assist with assessing and investigating complaints. The JCO is the point of contact for anyone considering making a complaint.

Who can you complain about?

A complaint must be about:

- a Judge or Associate Judge of the Northern Territory Supreme Court;
- a Judge of the Northern Territory Local Court (including, a Local Court Judge in the Youth Justice Court or in the Coroner's Court);
- the President, a Deputy President or an ordinary member of NTCAT.

What the Judicial Commission can deal with

The Judicial Commission deals with complaints about the **behaviour** or **capacity** of Northern Territory judicial officers and members of NTCAT. Some examples are:

- unreasonable delay in handing down a judgment;
- inappropriate comments or questions in court;
- health issues that may affect ability to perform official functions;
- bullying or sexual harassment.

What the Judicial Commission cannot do

The Judicial Commission cannot:

- change a decision made by a judicial officer or member of NTCAT;
- deal with complaints about court or NTCAT staff, lawyers, police or a Judge from another jurisdiction;
- deal with complaints within the jurisdiction of ICAC unless ICAC consents or refers the matter;
- deal with complaints about past judicial officers;
- deal with general complaints about the justice system.

What actions the Judicial Commission can take

The Judicial Commission can:

- if satisfied a complaint is sufficiently serious that, if substantiated, it could justify removal from office or termination of appointment, establish an Investigation Panel comprising of two Judges or former Judges and one community member;
- if satisfied a complaint is not sufficiently serious enough to justify removal from office or termination of appointment, but is partly or wholly substantiated, refer the complaint to the relevant head of jurisdiction with recommendations regarding action; or
- if satisfied there is a statutory ground to do so, dismiss the complaint.

Making a complaint

Anyone can make a complaint. A complaint must be in writing and meet certain formal requirements (see [How to lodge a complaint](#) information for more detail).

You are encouraged to contact the JCO by phone or email first (see details below) to discuss the nature of your complaint, the requirements for making a valid complaint and your options for lodging a complaint.

Judicial Commission Office

Phone: (08) 8999 1951 or 1800 965 099

Postal Address: GPO Box 1344, DARWIN NT 0801

Website: judicialcommission.nt.gov.au

Email: judicialcommission@nt.gov.au