

## What is the 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 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 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.

**If you are not sure if the Judicial Commission is the right place to make your complaint or have any other general enquiries, please contact the Judicial Commission Office for further assistance.**

### Contact Us

**Phone:** (08) 8999 1951 or  
1800 965 099

**Postal Address:** GPO Box 1344,  
DARWIN NT 0801

**Email:** [judicialcommission@nt.gov.au](mailto:judicialcommission@nt.gov.au)

**Website:** [judicialcommission.nt.gov.au](http://judicialcommission.nt.gov.au)



NORTHERN TERRITORY  
**JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

## What is the NT Judicial Commission and what does it do?



## What we do

The Judicial Commission deals with complaints about the behaviour or capacity of Northern Territory Judges 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 we can't do

The Judicial Commission can't:

- ✗ change a decision made by a judicial officer or member of NTCAT
- ✗ accept a complaint about court or NTCAT staff, Judges from other Australian jurisdictions, lawyers, or police
- ✗ accept a complaint about a judicial officer or member of NTCAT who has retired, resigned, or died
- ✗ deal with general complaints about the justice system

*The Judicial Commission can't deal with complaints within the jurisdiction of ICAC unless ICAC consents or refers the matter.*

## Who can I complain about?

Your complaint must be about:

- a Judge or Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory
- a Judge of the Local Court of the Northern Territory. This includes, for example, 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.



## How do I raise my concerns?

We encourage people to contact the Judicial Commission Office by phone or email first to discuss the nature of any complaint, the requirements and options for making a complaint.

The Judicial Commission Office can give you information about the complaints process, refer you to another agency if your complaint is something the Judicial Commission cannot deal with, or suggest you seek legal advice if the matter should be dealt with through an appeal.

There is no charge for making a complaint.

## Is there a time limit?

There is no time limit on when you can complain. However, the Judicial Commission may dismiss a complaint if it happened so far in the past that it does not justify further consideration.

## What do I need to include in a complaint?

A complaint must be in writing and include:

- your name and contact information;
- the name or identity of the judicial officer or member of the NTCAT that you are complaining about (for example, the Judge in Courtroom X on [date]);
- the grounds for the complaint; and
- a summary of the facts that are relevant to your complaint.

The Judicial Commission can't accept anonymous complaints.

The more detail and evidence you can provide in support of your complaint, the better. You can attach extra information or documents if you need to.

There is an online form on the Judicial Commission website as well as a printable form you may download to assist you to structure your complaint.

Alternatively you can send us an email or provide your written complaint in person or via post.

## Need Assistance?

We encourage you to reach out to us if you need any assistance with submitting your complaint.



If you need an interpreter, let us know and we can arrange one for you.