

# Complaints about judicial officers and tribunal members

## Factsheet

The NSW Attorney General has a range of responsibilities in relation to the administration of justice in New South Wales. However complaints about judicial officers and tribunal members cannot be considered by the Attorney General or by the NSW Department of Justice.

The law gives sole responsibility for handling such complaints to specific bodies or agencies, which are explained below.

### Changing a court or tribunal decision

Making a complaint about a judicial officer or tribunal member will not result in a change to any court or tribunal decision that has been made.

### Judicial officers (judges and magistrates)

The Judicial Commission of NSW is responsible for considering complaints about NSW judicial officers. A judicial officer means:

- a judge or associate judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales
- a member (including a judicial member) of the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales
- a judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales
- a judge of the District Court of New South Wales
- the President of the Children's Court
- a magistrate, and
- the President of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

It includes acting appointments to a judicial office but does not include arbitrators, registrars,

chamber registrars, members of tribunals or legal practitioners.

The Judicial Commission requires that complaints be in writing and be verified by a statutory declaration. You must also sign the complaint form and have your signature witnessed by a Justice of the Peace (JP) or other person according to the Oaths Act 1900.

The Commission has no power to examine complaints against federal judicial officers or a person who is no longer a judicial officer.

Complaints should be addressed to the Chief Executive, Judicial Commission of NSW, GPO Box 3634, Sydney NSW 2001. More information is available on the Commission's website at [www.judcom.nsw.gov.au](http://www.judcom.nsw.gov.au).

Neither the Attorney General nor the Department of Justice can intervene in or review the investigations or decisions of the Judicial Commission of NSW.

### Members of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)

Complaints about the conduct of tribunal members of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) should be made in writing and addressed to the President of NCAT, the Hon Justice Robertson Wright, at Level 9, John Maddison Tower, 86-90 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

NCAT includes the former:

- Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT)
- Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) and
- Guardianship Tribunal.

Further information about NCAT can be found at [www.ncat.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ncat.nsw.gov.au).

## **Allegations of corruption by NSW Judicial Officers**

Allegations of corruption by NSW Judicial Officers or NSW public officials should be raised with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). Complaints to the ICAC may be made using the [online form](#) at the website [www.icac.nsw.gov.au](http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au), by email to [icac@icac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:icac@icac.nsw.gov.au), by writing to the ICAC at GPO Box 500, Sydney NSW 2001, or by sending a fax to (02) 9264 5364.

## **Federal judicial officers**

Complaints about judicial officers of federal courts should be addressed to the head of the relevant court. Federal courts include the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia, and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

Contact details for federal courts are available on the website of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department at [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au).

**For further information**

Visit [www.justice.nsw.gov.au](http://www.justice.nsw.gov.au)