

Need a Justice of the Peace (JP)? – Information for Upper Hutt residents

POWERS and FUNCTIONS of a JP

In New Zealand, Justices of the Peace may only use powers expressly given to them by the law. Justices of the Peace have two main functions:

- To take oaths and declarations under the provisions of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 or any other enactment.
- To carry out such functions and exercise such powers as is conferred on Justices by the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 or by any other enactment.

The functions and powers of Justices of the Peace (JPs) can be classified under two headings – Judicial Duties and Ministerial Duties. This information sheet focuses on Ministerial Duties.

Ministerial Duties include:

- Witnessing of land transfer and other documents
- Taking of statutory declarations, affidavits or affirmations
- Citizenship applications and administering the Oath of Allegiance
- Oversight of the counting of votes in a general election.

Justices of the Peace can be asked to carry out some functions such as being present at the drawing of a raffle, witnessing a will or swear the supporting affidavit, attached to an application for marriage dissolution. Justices of the Peace may also be called upon to act as a nominated person when children or young persons are interviewed by police or asked to witness the committal of a patient under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 by their local District Health Board.

You can find out a lot more about JPs on the internet – just visit www.jpwellington.org.nz. There is also a listing of local JPs that you can access through the Yellow Pages, or in the Upper Hutt A – Z.

Here in Upper Hutt we are fortunate to have two providers of free JP clinics. Details of the clinics are provided below:

▶ **Citizens Advice Bureau** offers a free JP clinic most Friday mornings and at other times by arrangement

Ph 528 9040

Where? 18 Logan Street, Upper Hutt

Email cabuppht@globe.net.nz

www www.upperhuttcommunity.net/cab

▶ **Upper Hutt Central Library** provides a free clinic on alternate Thursdays, from 10.30am – 11.30am

Ph 527 2117

Where? Upper Hutt Central Library, Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

Email library@uhcc.govt.nz

www www.upperhuttlibrary.co.nz



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Upper Hutt City Council