

RULE 3. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

a. Each Justice of the Peace will, as an official duty:

(1) complete within one year after taking office, an 80-hour live course of instruction from the Texas Justice Court Training Center in the performance of the duties of office; and

(2) complete in the second year after taking office, a 20-hour continuous live course of instruction from the Texas Justice Court Training Center in the performance of duties of office, including not less than 10 hours of instruction regarding substantive, procedural, and evidentiary law in civil matters provided by the Texas Justice Court Training Center; and

(3) in each fiscal year thereafter, complete 20 hours of instruction approved by a justice court education committee in the performance of the duties of office. Ten of the required hours must be met by attending a live course, provided by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, that covers substantive, procedural, and evidentiary law in civil matters as required by Section 27.005a(2) of the Government Code. The remaining hours shall consist of any live instruction provided by an approved entity with no more than four hours achieved by electronic means through course(s) provided by the Texas Justice Court Training Center; and

(4) in every fiscal year that ends in 0 or 5, complete two hours of course instruction related to understanding relevant issues of child welfare and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as required by Section 22.1105 of the Government Code. See Rule 12a. The training may consist of either a course of instruction provided by the Texas Justice Court Training Center at which instruction is achieved by electronic means or any live course of instruction.

b. Except for the limitations provided in Rule 3a, a justice court education committee may not deny course credit to a Justice of the Peace who receives approval for such credit through another justice court education committee. A justice court education committee may approve or pre-approve courses taken from the following list of qualifying entities for courses in performance of duties of office:

(1) Texas Justice Court Training Center

(2) V.G. Young Institute of County Government

(3) Texas Department of Health and Human Services

(4) National Judicial College, Reno

- (5) Local, state, or national bar association
- (6) Texas District and County Attorney's Association
- (7) Texas Municipal Court Education Center
- (8) Texas Association of Counties
- (9) Office of Secretary of State
- (10) Any accredited law school
- (11) Texas Trial Lawyers Association
- (12) Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- (13) (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- (14) Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
- (15) The Texas Center for the Judiciary
- (16) Texas Justice Court Judges Association

i. Grant funds may not be used to pay for the cost of training from the aforementioned training entities, except for the Texas Justice Court Training Center.

c. A person who serves in the dual capacity as a Justice of the Peace and as a municipal judge may be permitted to receive credit toward fulfillment of the requirements of the Rules of Judicial Education for each office by attending a course of instruction for either office, provided that the curriculum is pertinent to the duties and responsibilities of each office. The determination of the applicability of the course to each office shall be made on a case-by-case basis by a judicial education committee having jurisdiction over the office in accordance with that committee's procedures.

d. Only courses of instruction completed through a continuing education program approved by a justice court education committee can be utilized to satisfy the requirement of Rule 3a(1).

e. The Texas Justice Court Training Center will be the keeper of records for credit hours approved for all justices of the peace for the purpose of fulfilling Rules 9b and 10.

f. A justice court education committee may make rules regarding attendance at their training events and may deny costs for an attendee who violates those rules.

g. Once Rule 3a(1) has been satisfied, Justices of the Peace who are also licensed attorneys may:

(1) obtain training sponsored by the organizations listed in Rule 2c in order to satisfy the educational requirements of Rule 3a(2). If training used to satisfy the educational requirements of Rule 3a(2) is obtained from an organization listed in Rule 2c, the required hours of course instruction may be obtained by attending either a single live course of instruction or multiple live courses of instruction;

(2) obtain training sponsored by the organizations listed in Rule 2c in order to satisfy the educational requirements of Rule 3a(3), including up to four hours of education achieved by electronic means in each fiscal year;

(3) obtain training sponsored by the organizations listed in Rule 2c in order to satisfy the educational requirements of Rule 3a(4), including education achieved by electronic means.

h. Justices of the Peace who have been out of office for 4 or more years and then return to office must satisfy Rule 3a(1).

i. Temporary appointees under Section 27.055 of the Government Code are exempt from Rule 3.

j. Justices of the Peace who are appointed to fill an absence or vacancy under Section 27.052 of the Government Code must satisfy Rule 3, beginning at the date of appointment.

k. Justices of the Peace who have been suspended by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct are also suspended from the requirements of Rule 3 for the pendency of their suspension.