

WHAT DO I CALL THE JUDGE?

	Courts and tribunals	In court	Outside court	Beginning a letter	Addressing an envelope
STATE	Supreme Court of Victoria				
	Chief Justice	Your Honour	Chief Justice	Dear Chief Justice	The Honourable Chief Justice <i>surname</i>
	President of the Court of Appeal	Your Honour	President <i>surname</i>	Dear Justice <i>surname</i>	The Honourable Justice <i>surname</i> , President of the Court of Appeal
	Judge (including Judges of Appeal)	Your Honour	Justice <i>surname</i>	Dear Justice <i>surname</i>	The Honourable Justice <i>surname</i>
	Associate Judge	Your Honour	Associate Justice <i>surname</i>	Dear Associate Justice <i>surname</i>	The Honourable Associate Justice <i>surname</i>
	Judicial Registrar	Judicial Registrar	Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>	Dear Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>	Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>
	County Court of Victoria				
	Chief Judge	Your Honour	Chief Judge	Dear Chief Judge	The Honourable Chief Judge <i>surname</i>
	Judge	Your Honour	Judge <i>surname</i>	Dear Judge <i>surname</i>	His/Her Honour Judge <i>surname</i>
	Magistrates' Court of Victoria				
	Chief Magistrate	Your Honour	Chief Magistrate	Dear Chief Magistrate	The Honourable Chief Magistrate Justice <i>surname</i>
	Deputy Chief Magistrate	Your Honour	Your Honour	Dear Deputy Chief Magistrate	Deputy Chief Magistrate <i>surname</i>
	Magistrate	Your Honour	Your Honour	Dear Magistrate <i>surname</i>	His/Her Honour Magistrate <i>surname</i>
	Judicial Registrar	Judicial Registrar	Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>	Dear Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>	Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>
	Children's Court of Victoria				
	President	Your Honour	Judge	Dear Judge <i>surname</i>	His/Her Honour Judge <i>surname</i> , President of the Children's Court of Victoria
	Magistrate	Your Honour	Your Honour	Dear Magistrate <i>surname</i>	His/Her Honour Magistrate <i>surname</i>
	Judicial Registrar	Judicial Registrar	Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>	Dear Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>	Judicial Registrar <i>surname</i>
	Coroners Court of Victoria				
	State Coroner	Your Honour	Judge	Dear Judge <i>surname</i>	His/Her Honour Judge <i>surname</i>
Deputy State Coroner	Your Honour	Your Honour	Dear Deputy State Coroner	Deputy State Coroner <i>surname</i>	
Coroner	Your Honour	Your Honour	Dear Coroner <i>surname</i>	Coroner <i>surname</i>	
VCAT					
President	Your Honour	Justice <i>surname</i>	Dear Justice <i>surname</i>	The Honourable Justice <i>surname</i> , President of VCAT	
Vice-President	Your Honour	Judge <i>surname</i>	Dear Judge <i>surname</i>	His/Her Honour Judge <i>surname</i> , Vice-President of VCAT	
Deputy President	Sir or Madam	Deputy President <i>surname</i>	Dear Deputy President <i>surname</i>	Deputy President <i>surname</i>	
Senior Member	Sir or Madam	Senior Member <i>surname</i>	Dear Senior Member <i>surname</i>	Senior Member <i>surname</i>	
Member	Sir or Madam	Member <i>surname</i>	Dear Member <i>surname</i>	Member <i>surname</i>	
FEDERAL	High Court of Australia				
	Chief Justice	Your Honour	Chief Justice	Dear Chief Justice	The Honourable Chief Justice <i>surname</i>
	Justice	Your Honour	Justice <i>surname</i>	Dear Justice <i>surname</i>	The Honourable Justice <i>surname</i>
	Federal Court of Australia				
	Chief Justice	Your Honour	Chief Justice	Dear Chief Justice	The Honourable Chief Justice <i>surname</i>
	Justice	Your Honour	Justice <i>surname</i>	Dear Justice <i>surname</i>	The Honourable Justice <i>surname</i>
	Federal Circuit and Family Court (Division 1)				
	Chief Justice	Your Honour	Chief Justice	Dear Chief Justice	The Honourable Chief Justice <i>surname</i>
	Justice	Your Honour	Justice <i>surname</i>	Dear Justice <i>surname</i>	The Honourable Justice <i>surname</i>
	Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)				
	Chief Judge	Your Honour	Chief Judge	Dear Chief Judge <i>surname</i>	His/Her Honour Chief Judge <i>surname</i>
	Judge	Your Honour	Judge	Dear Judge <i>surname</i>	His/Her Honour Judge <i>surname</i>



WHAT DO I CALL THE JUDGE?

This guide makes it easy to know what to call a judge, magistrate or member of a tribunal when you are speaking or writing to them. It is important to remember that what you call them depends on the court or tribunal they are appointed to. It also depends on whether you are in court, outside court or at a social occasion.

What do I call the judge?

In court

When speaking to a member of a court or tribunal address them as 'Your Honour'. Judicial registrars, and some VCAT positions where you use 'Sir' or 'Madam', are exceptions to this.



In court, use 'Your Honour'

! If you are in a court or tribunal and called to address the judge or tribunal member, you should stand when you are spoken to or when speaking to them.

Outside court

What you call members of courts and tribunals outside court will depend on the occasion. If you are unsure, 'Sir', 'Madam' or 'Judge' are all acceptable.

Formal social occasions

When speaking to a member of a court or tribunal at formal social occasions, a range of addresses can be used. For members of the Supreme Court of Victoria, use their position followed by their surname. For example, 'Justice Brown', compared to 'Your Honour' for a magistrate and 'Judge' for the State Coroner.

Informal social occasions

It can be difficult to know the correct etiquette when speaking to members of courts or tribunals at informal social occasions. If you are unsure, 'Sir' or 'Madam' or 'Judge' are all acceptable. 'Judge' is not generally used for magistrates and tribunal members. If in doubt you can always ask them.

In writing

When addressing a member of a court or tribunal in writing include their position and surname. In some circumstances you can also use their title, such as 'The Honourable' or 'His/Her Honour'.

Envelopes and name tags

On envelopes, name tags and similar identifiers for events, full titles are used. You also include any honours (post nominals) the person holds after their surname.



Her Honour Judge Blake AO
State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
Address



The Honourable Justice Matoulas
Supreme Court of Victoria
Address

Beginning a letter

When writing a letter to a member of a court or tribunal, use their position followed by their surname. For example, when addressing a judge of the Federal Court of Australia you write 'Dear Justice Shaw'. For a judge of the County Court you use 'Dear Judge Capuano'. For a VCAT member 'Dear Member Nguyen' is used.



! If you are part of a legal team, a witness or a party you should avoid speaking to the judge, magistrate or tribunal member except in the courtroom or tribunal. You should also avoid writing to them.

What do I call a retired judge?

Many retired judges keep a title based on the position they held at the court. When speaking to a retired judge, as a courtesy you can use the title 'Judge'.

In writing

When writing to, or making name tags for, a retired judge, their title will depend on the court where they sat.

Federal judges

Retired judges of the High Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1 and Division 2) keep the title 'The Honourable' for life. For example, on envelopes and name tags use 'The Honourable Katharine Brooke'. To begin a letter, as a courtesy use 'Dear Justice Brooke'.

State judges

Generally, retired judges of the Supreme Court keep 'The Honourable' as part of their formal title. For example, 'The Honourable Savitri Drake' would be used to address an envelope or similar stationery. To begin a letter, as a courtesy you use 'Dear Justice Drake'.

When writing to retired judges of the County Court, use 'His Honour Michael Finch'. This form of address can be used on envelopes and name tags too. To begin a letter, as a courtesy use 'Dear Judge Finch'.



TURN OVER FOR A SUMMARY OF WHAT TO CALL A JUDGE, MAGISTRATE OR TRIBUNAL MEMBER.



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Pictured on the cover: Chief Justice Anne Ferguson.

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Children's Court of Victoria



VCAT | Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal



FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



FEDERAL CIRCUIT AND FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA