Ex Officio Justices of the Peace in Sri Lanka

Statutory Appointments under the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978 and Ministerial Orders

In Sri Lanka, Justices of the Peace (JPs) holding office ex officio derive their legal authority directly from the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978 (as amended) and specific orders promulgated in Extraordinary Gazettes by the Minister of Justice pursuant to Section 45(1)(a) of the Act. This document compiles the comprehensive official schedules governing ex officio JPs for the entire Republic, designated territorial portions, and specialized administrative appointments.

Schedule V:

Ex Officio Justices of the Peace for the Republic of Sri Lanka

Under Schedule V of the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978, the following designated officials hold statutory authority as Justices of the Peace for the entire territory of Sri Lanka during their tenure:

- Chief Justice
- Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
- Judges of the Supreme Court
- President of the Court of Appeal
- Judges of the Court of Appeal
- Deputy Speaker of Parliament
- Deputy Ministers
- Deputy Chairman of Committees
- Members of Parliament
- Attorney General
- Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers
- Secretary to the President
- Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Secretary-General of Parliament
- Secretaries to the various Ministries
- Judges of the High Court
- Inspector General of Police
- Solicitor General
- Additional Secretaries to the various Ministries
- Bribery Commissioner
- Additional Solicitor General
- Additional Legal Draftsman
- Public Trustee
- Registrar General
- Deputy Solicitors General
- Senior Assistant Secretaries to the various Ministries
- Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament
- Registrar of the Supreme Court
- Registrar of the Court of Appeal
- Deputy Inspectors General of Police
- Senior State Counsel
- State Counsel and Assistant Secretaries to the various Ministries
- Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court
- Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal
- Superintendents of Police and Assistant Superintendents of Police (other than Probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police)
- Registrar of the High Court
- Secretary to the Leader of the House of Parliament
- Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

- Legal Draftsman
- Secretary of the Labour Tribunal

Schedule VI:

Ex Officio Justices of the Peace for Specified Portions of Sri Lanka

Under Schedule VI of the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978 and subsequent enactments, the jurisdiction of the following ex officio Justices of the Peace is geographically limited to their respective judicial, administrative, or local government areas:

Designation / Office	Territorial Jurisdiction
District Judges, Family Court Judges, Magistrates, Primary Court Judges, and Presidents of Labour Tribunals	The respective judicial division or area within which they exercise their legal jurisdiction.
Quazis serving within the jurisdiction of District Courts	The respective judicial Districts within which their courts operate.
Members of the Board of Quazis residing within the judicial jurisdiction of District Courts	The specific administrative/judicial Districts in which they reside.
Additional Registrars of the High Court	The territorial jurisdiction of the respective High Court zones.
Registrars of District Courts, Family Courts, Magistrate's Courts, Primary Courts, and Assistant Secretaries of Labour Tribunals	The jurisdiction of their respective courts or tribunal authorities.
District Secretaries / Government Agents	The respective Administrative District in which they serve.
Additional District Secretaries	The respective Administrative District in which they serve.
Divisional Secretaries	Their respective Divisional Secretariat areas of authority.
Pursuant to the Judicature (Amendment) Act No. 29 of 1991: All Members of Provincial Councils; Members of Municipal Councils and Urban Councils; Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, and Members of Pradeshiya Sabhas	Their respective electoral and territorial local authority jurisdictions.

Schedule VII:

Ministerial Orders under Section 45(1)(a) of the Judicature Act

Pursuant to powers vested under Section 45(1)(a) of the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978, the Minister of Justice has issued statutory orders appointing specific public officers as ex officio Justices of the Peace, as published in the Government Gazette:

No.	Official Title	Territorial Jurisdiction	Gazette Notification
01	Commissioners of Examinations	Whole Island	Gazette Extraordinary No. 2226/12 dated 03.05.2021
02	Deputy Commissioners of Examinations	Whole Island	Gazette Extraordinary No. 2226/12 dated 03.05.2021
03	Grama Niladhari	The Divisional Secretariat Division to which the appointed Grama Niladhari Division belongs	Gazette Extraordinary No. 1954/34 dated 18.02.2016
04	Probation Officers of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services	The Administrative District of the Province to which they are appointed	Gazette Extraordinary No. 2347/10 dated 29.08.2023
05	National Integration Coordinating Officers	The Administrative District to which the appointed Divisional Secretariat Division belongs	Gazette Extraordinary No. 2347/10 dated 29.08.2023
06	Administrative Grama Niladhari	Whole Island	Gazette Extraordinary No. 2339/06 dated 04.07.2023
07	Mediators appointed by the Mediation Boards Commission	Appointed Mediation Board area of authority	Gazette Extraordinary No. 2440/27 dated 13.06.2025

Summary & Legal Scope: Ex officio appointments grant public servants and designated officials statutory powers to administer oaths, affirmations, and statutory declarations within their designated jurisdictions without requiring individual personal warrants, ensuring efficient administrative and judicial operation across Sri Lanka.