

## **Ochiltree County Justice of the Peace – Duties and Responsibilities**

The Justice of the Peace serves as a local judicial officer for Ochiltree County and performs duties as established under the Texas Constitution and Texas statutes. The office handles a variety of judicial and magistrate responsibilities that serve the community and support local law enforcement.

### **Court Responsibilities**

(Pursuant to the Texas Government Code and Texas Rules of Civil Procedure)

- Hear traffic and other Class C misdemeanor criminal cases punishable by fine only
- Preside over civil cases involving disputes of up to \$20,000 (Texas Government Code §27.031)
- Hear landlord and tenant disputes, including eviction cases (Texas Property Code Chapter 24)
- Address truancy matters involving minors (Texas Education Code Chapter 25)

### **Magistrate and Judicial Duties**

(As authorized under the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure)

- Perform magistrate duties (Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 2.09)
- Conduct inquests (Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 49)
- Sign mental health commitments when required by law (Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 573)
- Issue blood search warrants and felony arrest warrants

### **Availability**

- The Justice of the Peace may be on-call during nights and weekends to assist law enforcement with warrants and other magistrate duties as needed.

The Justice of the Peace works to ensure fair, accessible, and efficient administration of justice for the residents of Ochiltree County.