



WANT A CHALLENGE?

BECOME A MAGISTRATE

Come and Join Us

Greater Manchester Advisory Committee are recruiting Magistrates for the Greater Manchester Bench, to sit in the Criminal or Family Court.

Who can Apply?

All applicants must be aged between 18-65 & must not have a criminal record. No formal qualifications are needed however, for both Courts you cannot apply if you work in the small number of jobs where there could be a conflict of interest. These jobs are different for the Criminal & Family Court so if you are unsure, please contact us on:

GM-Advisory@Justice.gov.uk

What should I do before I apply?

It is a requirement to undertake a minimum of two court observations for the criminal court before submitting your application. Criminal Courts have a public gallery where viewings are allowed. It is best to check with your local court whether courts are running on the day you intend to visit.

Family Courts are not open to the public, so it is not possible to observe a session. Instead you can watch videos about the Family Court on YouTube, produced by HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) and other organisations. CAFCASS publish information on their role at: <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/about-cafcass/>

When should I apply?

Applications are currently being accepted for Magistrates sitting in the Greater Manchester area.

For more information & to download an application form, please visit:

www.gov.uk/become-magistrate

What do Magistrates do?

Magistrates in the **Criminal Court** are advised by a Legal Advisor during cases and generally sit as a bench of 3. Every criminal case starts in the Magistrates' Court & while more serious cases are referred to Crown Courts, magistrates can give punishments such as fines, unpaid work in the community or prison. Typical cases include motoring offences, theft, alcohol & drugs offences, and assaults. Magistrates also hear Bail Applications, Local Authority & Private Prosecution Cases. Greater Manchester Magistrates' Courthouses are based on Crown Square Manchester, Bolton, Stockport, Tameside & Wigan.

Magistrates in the **Family Court**, deal with a variety of cases relating to children, child protection, family breakdown and related issues and are directly involved in decisions that try to keep children safe and to protect them from harm. They are part of the team which aims to create family environments and resolve family disputes in ways that allow children to grow, to thrive and, hopefully, to achieve their full potential. You do not need any legal, or social work qualifications or experience, (although these would be welcome) just the ability to apply common sense and compassion to the cases put before you.

Family Magistrates are advised by the Family Court Legal Advisor, the Children and Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS) and the child's Guardian during cases. There will be some reading of documents prior to the cases but the paperwork is vital and not excessive. The Greater Manchester Family Magistrates' Court is based at Bridge Street West, Manchester.

A detailed knowledge of the law is not necessary for either role, but you must be able to demonstrate at interview the 6 key qualities required to become a magistrate. We encourage and welcome diversity from all sections of our community for both roles in order to represent the whole of our community.

What is the commitment?

The minimum sitting requirement for all magistrates is 13 full days per year plus mandatory training, which is a minimum of 4 days in the first year. The average number of sittings is higher for those able to make the commitment & justices are often required to sit at more than one location. Magistrates are expected to commit to service for at least 5 years from appointment and retire at age 70.

If you apply to the Family Court and are appointed, you would sit **only** as a Magistrate in the Family Court and likewise for the Criminal Court.

Will I get paid?

Justices are not paid but you will be able to claim expenses, including loss of earnings where appropriate.

MEET THE MAGISTRATES



RECRUITING NOW FOR MAGISTRATES IN GREATER MANCHESTER

We're all ordinary people.
Anyone aged between 18-70
can sit as a magistrate and you
don't need any formal qualifications
as full training is provided.

Travel and subsistence is paid
and if you are employed you are
legally entitled to take time off
for the role.



**Could you offer
14 or more days a year?**

Find out more at
[GOV.UK/become-magistrate](https://www.gov.uk/become-magistrate)