

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING JURY DUTY



Jury Duty Service

Jury service is one of the highest duties of citizenship. It is also a very interesting experience and will give you an opportunity to learn more about our system of justice and how it works. The success of our legal system is measured directly by the dedication, impartiality, sound judgment and integrity of those like you who serve as jurors. While it may interrupt your normal schedule, we hope any inconvenience will be minimal. The liberty or the property of another is on trial and as a conscientious person you will want to do your best to make sure that the jury on which you sit returns a verdict that is as fair and impartial as possible.

What should I do with the Questionnaire and Summons?

Fill out both sides, put it in the envelope provided and mail it back to the Jury Board Office within 10 days.

If you are 70 years old or older, you can claim exemption on the questionnaire.

If you are physically or mentally unable to do jury duty, you should include a doctor's statement or have the doctor mail or fax a statement regarding your medical condition to the address or fax number listed on your summons.

If the dates you are summoned are extremely inconvenient, please contact the office as soon as possible to work out a new date.

Please make any corrections of your address or name on the questionnaire.

I received a questionnaire in the mail. When will I be called for jury duty?

You can be summoned for jury duty any time between now and one year after receiving your juror questionnaire.

How was my name chosen?

Your name has been drawn from the driver's license and state ID list of Alpena County residents.

- You are a US citizen.
- You speak and understand the English language.
- You are a resident of Alpena County.
- 18 years of age or older.
- No longer attending high school, and you have not been convicted of a felony.

How do I get excused from jury duty?

In the state of Michigan, no one is automatically exempt from jury duty - everyone who meets the above qualifications is eligible. The Clerk's Office is always available to discuss any condition or scheduling problem you may have which would make your attendance impossible. Please contact the office as soon as possible in order to discuss scheduling. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY YOU ARE TO REPORT.**

If I have a vacation and/or work hardship. Can I be excused?

You must submit your proof of vacation in writing ie. copies of travel reservations, etc. and if it is a work hardship you must get a letter from your employer stating why it would be an extreme hardship for you to serve. They will be reviewed and you will be notified.

What if I forget to appear?

You can expect a show cause to be issued ordering you to appear before the Judge on a specific date and explain why you failed to appear. Often times a fine can be paid in lieu of appearance at the hearing. Please be sure to respond accordingly to avoid a bench warrant being issued against you.

What if I have an emergency or require a postponement?

If there is a grave illness in your family, or equally serious problem that would constitute an undue hardship or extreme inconvenience for you to appear in court at the date specified, you must notify the court as soon as possible by telephoning (989) 354-9520 **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY YOUR GROUP IS CALLED.**



How long do trials last? How long will I be there?

The Judges try to seat their juries in the morning; therefore, if you are not seated on a case, you are normally (but not always) released in early afternoon. If you are a juror on a particular trial, you should plan on being at the courthouse until about 5:00 p.m. The average trial length is 2 to 3 days; occasionally a case will last longer. The judge will inform you of the expected length of the case during jury selection.

Does my employer have to pay me while I am on jury duty?

No, an employer does not have to pay you, but they must release you from work if you are summoned as a juror.

What should I wear?

Please wear clothing that is conservative, clean and comfortable. Shorts, tank tops and bare midriffs are not appropriate.

What else should I bring?

Books, magazines, or small items to use while you are waiting will help to pass the time.

Please **DO NOT** bring food or beverages of any kind as they are not allowed in the courtroom. Also, cell phones must be turned off while in the courtroom.