

JURY SUMMONS

Prospective jurors are chosen randomly from the court's master jury list, comprised of names of licensed drivers and registered voters. The court is working to expand these lists to include property owners and state income tax filers as well.

Although everyone would like to serve at a convenient court location, state law requires jurors to be randomly selected from the countywide population. Requests to be transferred to another court cannot be granted. Responding to your jury summons on-line via the Court's website is encouraged as it will save time and postage.

To respond on-line simply go to: www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov and click the jury badge icon.

LENGTH OF SERVICE

The Superior Court uses a "One Day, One Trial" jury system. This means individuals selected to be part of a jury will serve for the duration of just one trial.

Most trials conclude within three days. Trial jurors do not have to serve again for at least two years. Prospective jurors not selected for trial are dismissed at the end of the day and their jury service is complete for 18 months.

GRAND JURORS

The Jury Office summons jurors for both county and state grand juries. The County Grand Jury meets two days a week for four months a year. State grand jurors serve four or five days a month for six months and do not have to serve again for at least two years.

PAYMENT OF JURORS

Many employers support the jury system by providing wages for employees serving on jury duty. Employers are not required by law to compensate employees while they are on jury duty. Please check with your employer regarding your company's policy. State law prohibits an employer from discharging or discriminating against an employee for taking time to serve as a juror if the employee gives reasonable notice prior to serving. Jurors are paid a mileage allowance based upon their home zip code. Grand jurors and trial jurors selected to serve receive a daily fee plus mileage. Checks are mailed every two weeks.

Trial jurors serving on trials in excess of 5 days are eligible to apply for documented lost income up to \$300 per day. Applications for the Arizona Lengthy Trial Fund must be received prior to the 30th day of the conclusion of trial service in order to be considered. Many jurors elect to make tax-deductible donate of their fees and mileage reimbursements to the Jury Donation Fund. Proceeds of the Fund are used exclusively for the benefit of juror services, amenities, and programs.

The jury assembly room is the waiting area for prospective jurors. Jurors will view an orientation video for jury service and will be informed of locations of food/restaurants in the local vicinity, snack and drink vending machines, kiosk for payment for jurors serving longer than 3 days, noise-free workspace, and pay per use wireless internet service.

JUROR SELECTION

If your name is called as a prospective member of a jury panel, you will be escorted from the jury assembly room to a courtroom by court staff. Once seated in the courtroom, you will be asked to take an oath to truthfully answer all questions regarding your qualifications to serve as a juror. This process is called "voir dire" which in French means "to speak the truth." There are a number of reasons you may not be considered a fair and impartial juror in a case.

JURY EMPANELMENT

In every case, each party has a certain number of "peremptory" challenges to dismiss jurors without cause and without any reason. If this happens, it is not a reflection on you personally, but is merely another way the parties assure selection of a fair and impartial jury. When the "voir dire" process is over, the required number of jurors will be seated or "empaneled" in the jury box and sworn to try the case. If you are not selected, please return to the Jury Assembly Room for further instructions.

WAITING SERVES A PURPOSE

Sometimes prospective jurors are asked to wait in the Jury Assembly Room, the courthouse hallways or in jury deliberation rooms.

The time jurors spend waiting is often caused by pre-trial matters that the court must resolve before jury selection can begin or the trial can proceed. Sometimes a case settles during pre-trial proceedings. Knowing that jurors have been assembled and are ready to begin trial often prompts parties to settle.

SEQUENCE OF A JURY TRIAL

- Selection of the jury
- Judge instructs jurors about their responsibilities during trial
- Opening statements by counsel
- Presentation of evidence through witness testimony, documents and exhibits
- Closing arguments by counsel
- Judge issues final instructions on the law
- Jury selects a presiding juror (foreperson) and discusses the evidence to reach a verdict
- The verdict

PARTICIPANTS IN THE COURTROOM

Bailiff: The bailiff is responsible for keeping order in the courtroom during proceedings. The bailiff also assists the jury.

Clerk: The clerk in the courtroom administers the oath to jurors and witnesses to tell the truth, marks exhibits when received as evidence and prepares legal documents summarizing court events.

Counsel: Also called a lawyer or attorney, this is the legal representative of a party in a trial.

Court Reporter: The court reporter keeps a record of everything that is spoken in the courtroom. In new, electronic courtrooms, the record may be created using video or audio records instead of a court reporter.

Defendant: In a civil case, the defendant, also called the respondent, is the person against whom the lawsuit is filed. In a criminal case, the defendant is the person charged with a felony and is also referred to as the accused.

Judge: The judge has many duties in connection with a trial. The judge must see that the trial is conducted in an orderly manner according to rules of law covering jury selection, the presentation of evidence, the lawyers' arguments, jury instructions and the rendering of the verdict. The judge also rules on objections and other legal issues raised during the trial.

Plaintiff: The plaintiff in a civil case is the person who files a lawsuit and is also called the petitioner. In a criminal case, the plaintiff is the State of Arizona.

Prosecutor: The county attorney or the attorney general prosecutes criminal cases and represents the State of Arizona.

Witness: A witness is a person who gives testimony under oath concerning the case.

JUROR BADGES

Jurors are asked to wear a badge that identifies them as jurors at all times while in the courthouse. Wearing this badge is intended to prevent jurors from overhearing facts pertaining to trial. Such chance conversations can cause a mistrial.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Prospective and empaneled jurors have the right to privacy and confidentiality. At the conclusion of trial, jurors are not obligated to divulge any information about the deliberations, the verdict or opinions about anything concerning the case—unless ordered to do so by the court.

Occasionally, the media will ask the judge to photograph or videotape courtroom activities. If the judge approves, the media are instructed to be unobtrusive and not to film jurors.



Once the trial ends, news reporters may ask to interview the jurors. It is a juror's decision whether or not to consent to an interview.

IN AN EMERGENCY

First Day Jurors: In case of a family emergency, a juror may be reached at the Jury Assembly Room. Call 602.372.5879 and a staff member will assist from 8 am to 5 pm.

Selected Jurors: Contact the judge's staff if an emergency occurs and you cannot return to court. All judge's office phone numbers are listed on the Superior Court's website at: www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

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A GUIDE TO JURY SERVICE



“Trial by jury is more than an instrument of justice and more than one wheel of the constitution: it is the lamp that shows that freedom lives.”

Sir Patrick Devlin
1956



www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov