

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: Why is jury service important?**

**A:** The right to trial by jury is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the California Constitution. Jury trials cannot be held unless people, such as you, perform their jury service.

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### **Q: What should I do if I receive a jury summons in the mail?**

**A:** Please read the entire summons thoroughly. It informs you where, when, and how to report for jury service and provides contact information for our office.

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### **Q: What will happen if I do not respond to a jury notice?**

**A:** You may be found in contempt of court, punishable by fine and/or incarceration pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 209.

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### **Q: How do names get selected to be summoned for jury duty?**

**A:** Names are drawn randomly by computer from lists of registered voters and Department of Motor Vehicles driver's license and identification card holders for Orange County. The law requires a fair cross-section of each county's qualified residents to be available each day for jury duty.

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### **Q: How often can I be summoned for jury service?**

**A:** Jurors may be summoned for jury service once every 12-month period. If you receive more than one summons in a 12-month period, please contact the Office of the Jury Commissioner at 714-834-7000.

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### **Q: May I postpone my jury service to a more convenient time?**

**A:** Jury service may be postponed for approximately 4 to 6 months by calling the automated system at 714-834-7000 or by completing the Extension Section and returning your affidavit questionnaire. You also may postpone your jury service through the eJuror online application at <https://ocapps.occourts.org/ejuror>.

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### **Q: Why are some prospective jurors instructed to report to the courthouse while others are told to call in for instructions?**

**A:** Prospective jurors are randomly selected to report to the courthouse on a specific date, while others are randomly selected as call-in prospective jurors. Call-in prospective jurors call a prerecorded message every business day, beginning on a Friday, and continue to call-in for no more than 5 court days. If additional prospective jurors are needed, the recorded message instructs certain groups to report to the courthouse. Call-in prospective jurors may be instructed to report the following morning or midday within 45 minutes of notice.

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**Q: What if I am summoned as a call-in prospective juror and I can't call in each day or leave my job in the middle of the day?**

**A:** If you cannot report to jury service midday or within 45 minutes of notice, you may request a specific date to report. Please call the Office of the Jury Commissioner at 714-834-7000, and you will be assigned a date to report to the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana.

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**Q: How many days will I have to serve as a juror?**

**A:** Jury service in Orange County is for one day or one trial. If you are not selected to serve on a trial by the end of the first day and are not ordered by the Court to return for a second or subsequent day of jury selection, your service will be complete. If you are selected to hear a case that continues beyond one day, you will be required to serve until the trial is complete.

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**Q: How late will I be at the courthouse?**

**A:** The Court's normal hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Prospective jurors should make arrangements to remain the entire day.

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**Q: How can I request to be excused from jury service?**

**A:** Prospective jurors may be excused from jury service only for extreme hardship. Requests to be excused must be in writing and submitted to the Office of the Jury Commissioner prior to the prospective juror's service date. Information regarding requests to be excused from service is on the back of the juror affidavit questionnaire attached to the summons. You also may submit a request for an excuse through the eJuror online application at <https://ocapps.occourts.org/ejuror>.

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**Q: Must I serve if I am not a United States citizen?**

**A:** You are disqualified from jury service if you are not a U.S. citizen. You must inform the court that you are disqualified from service by checking box A on the back of the juror summons questionnaire. Please sign the questionnaire and return to the court address indicated. You also may submit a request for disqualification through the eJuror online application at <https://ocapps.occourts.org/ejuror>.

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**Q: I have moved and no longer live in Orange County. What do I do?**

**A:** You are not eligible for jury service if you are not a resident of Orange County. You must inform the court that you are not a resident of Orange County, provide your new address, and check box C on the juror summons questionnaire. Please sign the questionnaire and return to the court address indicated. You also may submit a request for disqualification through the eJuror online application at <https://ocapps.occourts.org/ejuror>.

Please change your residence information with the Department of Motor Vehicles and Orange County Registrar of Voters so you will no longer be summoned for jury service in Orange County.

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**Q: Do I have to perform jury service if I'm over 70 years of age?**

**A:** There is no age exemption for jury service. If you are 70 years of age or older, the California Rules of Court allow you to be excused due to a medical condition without a doctor's note. You must inform the court that you are not able to serve. Check box H on the back of the juror summons questionnaire and briefly state your medical condition. Please sign the questionnaire and return to the court address indicated. You may also submit a request for an excuse through the eJuror online application at <https://ocapps.occourts.org/ejuror>.

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**Q: Will I be paid for jury service?**

**A:** Starting with the second day of service, jurors are paid \$15.00 per day and 34 cents for each mile traveled, one-way. Mileage is computed by an automated system based on your zip code. The system computes the straight-line distance from your home to the court to which you have been summoned.

Jurors employed by a federal, state, local government entity, school district, Regents of the University of California, public authority or by any public entity as defined in California Code of Civil Procedure section 481.200 who receive regular compensation and benefits while performing jury service, are not paid juror fees.

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**Q: How soon will I receive my jury payment after I've completed my jury service?**

**A:** Jurors generally will receive their payment checks 5 to 21 days after they complete their service. Depending on dates of jury service, you could receive more than one check for total payment of all your jury service dates.

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**Q: Does my employer have to pay me while I perform my jury service?**

**A:** Employers are not required by law to compensate employees during their jury service. Once you receive your summons you should inform your employer regarding the dates of service and ask what (if any) written policies your employer has regarding jury service pay.

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**Q: Can my employer prevent me from serving as a juror?**

**A:** California Labor Code section 230(a) prohibits an employer from discharging or discriminating against an employee for taking time off to serve as a juror. The employee, prior to taking such time off, must give reasonable notice to the employer of the requirement to serve as a juror.

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**Q: May I be transferred to another court location?**

**A:** Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 191, prospective jurors are randomly selected by a computer to serve at a designated court location. Transferring jurors from one court location to another alters this random selection. Therefore, only a true hardship is considered for transfer. The Jury Commissioner staff considers each request on an individual basis.

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**Q: Are jurors subject to search when entering a court facility?**

**A:** All courthouses are equipped with airport style weapon screening. Please do not bring any knives, metal forks (plastic forks are permitted), scissors, handwork needles, metal fingernail files, tools, metal chains, handcuff keys, or any items that may be deemed dangerous by the Sheriff's Department.

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**Q: What should I wear to court?**

**A:** Business attire is suggested. Shorts and tank tops are not permissible attire. As the room temperature of the jury assembly areas and courtrooms can be unpredictable, you may want to bring a sweater or jacket.