

Juror Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** I have a conflict with my dates of proposed jury service. Can I be excused?
- A.** You may file with the court a request to be excused using the form included with the packet of information you received. The only statutory reasons for which a person is excused from service are; 1. Not a resident of Allegan County, 2. Convicted of a felony, 3. Full time attendance in high school, and 4. If a person is over 70 years of age. Other reasons such as a conflict with work, lack of child care, lack of transportation or personal prejudices or biases are not reasons for which a person is excused from jury service.
- Q.** I have previously served as a juror. Do I have to serve again when other people I know have never had to serve?
- A.** You are not required to serve more than once per year. The jury selection process is a random process based upon all Allegan County residents holding a valid Michigan drivers license or Michigan Identification card.
- Q.** I have a disability that would make participation on a jury difficult. (i.e. hearing or sight impairment) Can I still serve on the jury?
- A.** If you have certain disabilities, but you want to serve the court must make every effort to accommodate you to allow your participation. If the court is unable to provide an accommodation that would allow you to fully participate you would be entitled to be excused from your service.
- Q.** I have a vacation scheduled during the time of my jury service. What should I do?
- A.** You may notify the court providing the exact dates of your planned vacation. The court will make every effort to accommodate your vacation plans by modifying your dates of jury service, but until you are notified in writing by the court that your service dates have changed you must plan to serve as directed.

- Q.** My employer doesn't pay me for time I miss to serve on a jury. Will the court pay me lost wages during my time of service?
- A.** The court is not allowed to require your employer to pay you for time you are not at work. You will be paid \$25 for your first day of jury service and \$40 per day for each consecutive subsequent day plus \$.10 per mile for your round trip travel to and from the court.
- Q.** I want to participate in jury service, but I have a conflict with the proposed dates of my service. Can I change my dates of service?
- A.** You may submit a written request to change your dates of service, but only within the month of your current service. For example, if you are currently selected to potentially serve between the 1st to the 15th of a month you may ask to have your time of service switched to the 16th through the last day of the month.
- Q.** Am I allowed to bring work materials or personal items with me to use while participating in the jury selection process?
- A.** Prior to the beginning of the jury selection process you will be asked to wait in the jury assembly room. During this time you are free to perform work tasks and use your cell phone (the court has computer workstations and wireless access available for your convenience). You are also welcome to bring small personal items to occupy your time while waiting. Once entering the courtroom to begin the selection process you must discontinue use of all electronic and other work or personal items.
- Q.** I sent in a request to be excused, but my request was denied. What can I do?
- A.** If you have not been excused by the court you must report as directed for your jury service. When you go through the selection process you will be given an opportunity by the court and the attorneys in the case to state any reason you believe would prevent you from being able to fulfill your duties as a juror or anything that would pose a severe hardship on you if you are selected to serve as a juror. Failure to report for jury service when directed to do so may result in the Court ordering you to appear before the court to show cause why you should not be held in contempt.