

do not understand any portion of the trial, they should ask the judge to explain.

- **Do not talk about the case.** Jurors should not talk with anyone about the case. This includes the clerk, attorneys, judge, bailiff, and other jurors, unless jurors have retired to the jury room for deliberations. If anyone tries to talk to jurors about the case, or attempts to influence jurors, this should be reported to the judge immediately.

**12. What type of clothing is appropriate?**

Business attire is appropriate for both men and women. Shorts are not considered appropriate. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Because courtrooms are air conditioned, you may wish to bring a sweater or light jacket. Bring an umbrella in case of rain.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Clerk's Office, Liberty County Courthouse, 10811 NW SR 20, Bristol, FL 32321, (850) 643-2215, within two working days of your receipt of the jury summons; if you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711 via the Florida Relay System.

850-643-2215

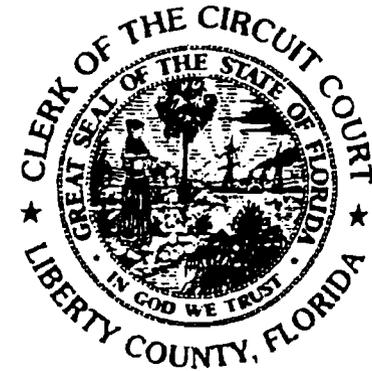
Please call the Jury  
Confirmation number  
after 5:00 pm the night  
before you are  
expected for jury duty.  
850-643-5188 ext. 124

Liberty County Courthouse  
10811 NW SR 20  
P.O. Box 399  
Bristol, FL 32301

Please visit our home page at

<http://www.libertyclerk.com>

# A GUIDE TO JURY SERVICE



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BRISTOL, FL 32321

# A GUIDE TO JURY SERVICE

## **1. What qualifies a person to be a juror?**

A juror must be at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, a legal resident of Florida and Liberty County, and possess a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV).

## **2. Can a person qualify as a juror without a driver's license or identification card?**

Yes, if all other qualifications are met, you may complete an affidavit, which may be obtained by calling the Clerk of Court's Office at (850) 643-2215, or by visiting the office located on the North side of the Liberty County Courthouse.

## **3. How are jurors summoned?**

Jurors' names are selected randomly from the list supplied yearly by DHSMV.

## **4. Who may not serve as jurors?**

- Persons who are under prosecution for any crime.
- Persons who have been convicted in Florida, federal court, or any other state, territory, or county, of bribery, forgery, perjury, grand theft, or any other felony offense, **unless** civil rights have been restored.
- Persons who serve as the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, a Cabinet officer, clerk of court, or judge.

## **5. Who may be excused as jurors upon request?**

Florida law exempts the following persons from jury service if they so request:

- Expectant mothers or parents who are not employed fulltime and have custody of a child under the age of 6.

- Persons employed as full-time federal, state, or local law enforcement officers, or investigative personnel for these entities.
- Practicing attorneys or physicians, or persons who are physically infirm.
- Persons who were summoned and who reported as prospective jurors in any court in their county of residence, within 1 year before the 1<sup>st</sup> day for which they are being considered for jury service (exemption for 1 year from the last day of service)
- Persons who are 70 years of age or older.
- Persons who are responsible for the care of those who, because of mental illness or retardation, senility, or physical or mental incapacity, are incapable of caring for themselves.

## **6. Can a person be excused if jury service would cause a hardship or inconvenience?**

Yes, judges have discretion to excuse persons for this reason. However, such excusals are carefully reviewed and are not granted automatically.

## **7. Will jurors paid for their service?**

- If a juror receives regular pay from an employer during jury service, the juror is not entitled to compensation for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 days of service. If a juror will not receive regular pay, the jury is entitled to \$15 per day for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 days of service. All jurors will receive \$30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> day and each day thereafter.
- Jurors excused by their own requests are not entitled to compensation.

## **8. How long does jury service usually last?**

The first day of service is normally limited to jury selection for trial held the following day.

Jurors selected to serve on cases will be asked to return and serve on the dates of that trial. Trials could last for one day or up to several weeks. The presiding judge will advise jurors of the expected length of the trial.

## **9. In what types of trials can jurors expect to participate?**

Jurors may serve on civil or criminal cases that come before the circuit and county courts. Criminal trials can involve traffic, misdemeanor, felony, and capital (death penalty) cases. Civil trials can involve small claims, personal injury, and medical malpractice cases.

## **10. How are jurors selected for trials?**

The judge and attorneys will ask about jurors' backgrounds. These questions are not meant to embarrass, but help the attorneys decide which jurors to select. Excusals from jury service should not be taken personally. When jurors are excused, it means only that there are proper and lawful reasons for the excusals.

## **11. What rules should jurors follow after being selected and sworn?**

Jurors should observe the following general rules of conduct:

- **Be on time for court.** The trial cannot proceed until all jurors are present.
- **Sit in the same seat in the jury box.** This allows the clerk, judge, and attorneys to identify jurors more easily.
- **Listen carefully.** It is important that jurors hear every question asked and every answer given, since the verdict will be based on the evidence presented. If jurors