

# **Jury Service, A Civic Duty**

## **Commonly Asked Questions & Information**

***Please DO NOT wear metal or have any metal items with you when you enter the Judicial Center for Jury Duty.***

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones must be silenced while in the courtroom. Cell phones are not allowed during deliberation.

### **Dress Code**

During the periods you are called to serve as a juror, we ask that you use good judgment in attire and dress professionally (no shorts or tank tops, no profanity or offensive attire, always remove hats, must wear shoes, etc.).

### **Emergency**

In case of an emergency while serving as a juror, your family may contact you by calling the Clerk of District Court's office at 1.307.684.7271 and we will deliver a message to you.

### **Formality of the Court**

Please observe the rules of etiquette in the Courtroom to maintain the dignity and formality of the Court. No food or drinks (with the exception of bottled water with lids) allowed in the Courtroom.

### **Medical Excusal**

If you are requesting a medical excuse, you must have a note from a doctor. The Court cannot call and verify your medical condition with your doctor. For your convenience, your medical provider is welcome to fax the note to 1.307.684.5146.

### **Notice to Appear**

Jurors will be notified by mail about 7 to 10 days before a scheduled Jury Trial. It is then your responsibility to call the Jury telephone line for updates the night before the scheduled trial beginning day. Often trials are settled or postponed at the last minute and by calling 1.307.684.9295 the evening before your requested appearance, you may save yourself an unnecessary trip to the Judicial Center. We will make every effort to keep you updated on the trial schedule via the recorded message.

**How was I selected?**

Jurors are randomly selected, at the State level, from current lists of persons ages 18 and older, living in Johnson County, Wyoming, and are either registered voters or have a driver's license. Some people are chosen several times during their lifetime; others are never chosen. So long as you are either a registered voter or have a driver's license, you have the same chance of being chosen as anyone else who meets the criteria.

**Who is exempt from jury service?**

A salaried and active member of an organized fire department or an active member of a police department of a city, town or law enforcement agency of the county or state; or an elected public official.

**How do I request to be excused from jury service?**

A juror may not be excused for a trivial cause or for hardship or inconvenience to his business, but only when material injury or destruction to his property or property entrusted to him is threatened, or when his health or the sickness or death of a member of his family requires his absence. A person may be excused at his request if he is over seventy-two (72) years of age. A person may be excused from jury duty when the care of that person's young children requires his absence. Any person who has served on a jury shall, upon request, be excused from further jury service in that court for the remainder of that jury term. Generally, to be excused from jury service for other than health reasons, you must write a letter to the judge. To be excused for health reasons, a written statement from your physician is required. If you have a scheduled vacation or business obligation, the District Judge makes every effort to accommodate these requests as well. A written statement requesting to be excused can be brought to the court, mail or may be faxed to 1.307.684.5146. The District Judge is the only one that can excuse you from jury duty. Failure to honor the jury summons may subject you to a fine for contempt of court.

**What if I have a doctor appointment, planned vacation, seminar, etc.?**

The Court realizes that from time to time jurors need to request to be absent from jury service. These absences are generally for appointments with a physician, scheduled vacation time, business obligations, etc. The court will make every effort to accommodate temporary absences during your term, but these absences DO NOT constitute a valid reason for being excused for the entire term. A request form was enclosed with your Jury Summons and additional forms may be obtained from the Clerk of District Court Office.

Each request needs to be in writing, in advance of notification to appear for a scheduled trial, and must be presented to:

**Clerk of District Court  
Johnson County Judicial Center  
620 West Fetterman Suite 208  
Buffalo, WY 82834**

**What happens if I have been summoned for jury duty, but I decide not to report for service?**

You may be held in contempt of court and you can be fined for failing to respond to a jury service summons. We hope that you will reconsider. The jury system is an important part of democracy in the United States. Rather than relying solely upon Judges to decide the facts in a dispute, whether civil or criminal, our judicial system relies upon a group of citizens chosen from the community to make those decisions. The jury system can only work well if jurors are chosen from a diverse cross-section of the population. We work hard to make sure that no qualified citizens of our community are excluded from jury duty, whether through self-selection (i.e., failing to show up) or otherwise. Even though I have received a summons, is it still possible that I will not be required to come to court on the date shown for jury service? Yes. Some of the jury trials that are scheduled do not take place because the cases have been settled, dismissed or otherwise resolved without the need for a jury trial. We may not know if the case has settled until the last minute. For this reason, you should follow the instructions on your jury summons and call on the evening specified in your summons to see whether you need to appear the next morning.

To listen to this recording, please call 1.307.684.9295. Listen to the recorded message and follow the instructions. The machine is not equipped to receive messages; it is only for transmission of messages to you.

**What is the pay for jury service and how is it set?**

Jurors are paid \$30 per day plus mileage (depending on distance from the Johnson County Judicial Center) for their service. The Wyoming Legislature sets these rates of reimbursement.

**Does my employer have to pay me?** No. There is no Wyoming law requiring employers to pay their employees while they are serving on a jury. Some employers have policies under which employees are paid their normal salary while serving on a jury. You'll need to check with your employer about their policy.

**Can I be fired if I don't show up for work when I've been summoned for jury duty?**

Wyoming law provides that no employer may fire or threaten to fire any permanent employee because of the employee's jury service or scheduled attendance in connection with jury service. (Wyoming Statute §1-11-401).

**What if the summons is incorrect or the person is deceased?**

If the address is incorrect, please note your correct address and return to the District Court. We sincerely apologize if you have received a summons addressed to a family member who has died. Jury lists are compiled annually from Department of Motor Vehicle and Voters Registration records. If the summons is unopened, please write "Deceased" on the outside and mark it "Return to Sender".