

## Jury Duty FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

- 1. Why is Jury Service important?** The U.S. Constitution guarantees all people, regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status, the right to trial by an impartial jury. Justice ultimately depends to a large measure upon the quality of the jurors who serve in our courts. That is why you are important.
- 2. What is my duty as a Juror?** As a juror, you must be fair and impartial. Your actions and decisions must be free of any bias or prejudice. Your actions and decisions are the foundation of our judicial system.
- 3. What are the eligibility requirements to serve as a juror?**
  - Be a citizen of the United States.
  - Be a resident of Oakland County.
  - Be 18 years or older.
  - Be conversant with the English language.
  - Be physically and mentally able to carry out the functions of a juror. Temporary inability shall not be considered a disqualification.
  - Not have been paid as a juror, in a court of record, during the preceding 12 months.
  - Never have been convicted of a felony.
  - A person 70 years of age or older may claim exemption from jury service and shall be exempt upon making the request.
  - All other persons are expected to be available to serve and should follow the Reporting Instructions on their summons.
- 4. How was I selected for jury?** Potential jurors are selected randomly from the State of Michigan Driver's License list or Personal Identification Cardholder list for individuals residing in Oakland County. The selection method is designed to produce a cross section of the community. Men and women over 18 years of age and from all walks of life have an equal opportunity to be called for jury service.
- 5. Do I have to respond to the summons for jury service?** Yes. The summons to appear for jury service is an official court summons. If you do not respond, you could be held in contempt of court!
- 6. What if I no longer live in Pontiac?** If you no longer live in the City of Pontiac, please email your new address along with a copy of your updated Driver's License or State ID to [juryrequests@pontiac.mi.us](mailto:juryrequests@pontiac.mi.us) or by U.S. mail to 70 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, Michigan 48342 ATTN: Jury Clerk.
- 7. Can Jury Service be rescheduled?** Jurors may be allowed one deferral of their jury service. You must make your request in writing and provide the Jury Clerk with supporting documentation. To request a deferral, e-mail your request to [juryrequests@pontiac.mi.us](mailto:juryrequests@pontiac.mi.us) or immediately send via U.S. Mail to 70 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, Michigan and write ATTN: Jury Duty on envelope. You may defer for up to three months depending on the deferral reason. If there are extenuating circumstances and you will not be available for a longer period, you must call the above number and speak directly to the Jury Clerk or supervisor. If you are a college student, you may request to be deferred to a date either during breaks between semesters or summer months. It is important to take into consideration your class schedule, as only one deferral will be granted. If your jury service is deferred you will receive a new Juror Summons for the rescheduled date.

- 8. What if I have a medical condition that would prevent me from serving jury duty?** In order to be excused for medical reasons, you must provide a written request for excusal, a doctor's note and an email address if applicable. Your request for excusal must be e-mailed to [juryrequests@pontiac.mi.us](mailto:juryrequests@pontiac.mi.us) or immediately send via U.S. Mail to 70 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, Michigan 48342 and write ATTN: Jury Duty on the envelope. Your request will not be considered without a doctor's note. You may check the status of your request three business days prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of jury duty date by calling 248-758-3808.

If you are a nursing mother and you are requesting excusal, you must provide documentation from a doctor, lactation consultant, or certified nurse midwife.

- 9. How long am I on call for jury duty?** The term of service is one trial. If you are not selected to serve by the end of the first day of duty, and you are not ordered to return for the second day of jury selection, your service is complete. If you are seated on a case, you will serve as long as the case lasts. The average criminal case lasts 3 days. The average civil case lasts 4 days. However, some cases start and finish in one day.
- 10. What hours will I serve?** The first day of your jury service, you should report to the courthouse by 8:30 a.m. At that time, you will be given further instructions. If seated on a jury you will receive instructions from the presiding judge as to the hours he or she conducts court. Normal business hours for the 50<sup>th</sup> District Court are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Prospective jurors should make arrangements to remain the entire day. Jurors are given a lunch period from approximately noon to 1:00 p.m. Jurors are allowed to leave the courthouse during their lunch break or they may bring lunch and snacks. Coffee will be provided. Courtroom hours vary, but there are no evening or weekend sessions. Jurors are not sequestered (kept overnight).
- 11. What about my job?** Your employer cannot fire, demote, or otherwise penalize you for missing work while performing jury service. Many employers will continue to pay your salary while you are in jury service. Contact your employer to find out what the policy is at your place of employment.
- 12. Will I receive proof of my jury service each day for my employer?** Proof of jury service is available each day upon request.
- 13. Will I be compensated for jury duty?** Effective April 2, 2018 - For the first day of service, you will be paid \$15.00 for a half-day and \$30.00 for a full day. For additional days, you will be paid \$22.50 for a half-day and \$45.00 for a full day. You will also be paid round trip mileage of 40 cents per day. Juror compensation checks are printed and mailed to the juror within 14 business days.
- 14. What is the dress code?** Your appearance as a juror reflects the seriousness of the proceedings. The dress code includes no shorts, halter-tops, tank tops, sweat suits, camouflage garments, swimsuits, swim trunks, or exercise garb in the courtroom. Hats, caps and hoods must be removed in the courtroom. Law Enforcement and First Responders are NOT permitted to wear uniforms when reporting for jury service.