

A JUROR'S GUIDE... TO JURY SERVICE

WELCOME! You've been chosen for jury service in the Winnebago County Circuit Court. The right to a trial by jury is the cornerstone of our country's justice system. As a juror, you have a vital role to play in this state's court system!

Have Questions? This brochure's purpose is to answer some of the most common questions asked. More questions? Please feel free to call **(920) 236-4853** to talk to a jury clerk.

Why Me?

Why not? Trial by jury is a cherished constitutional right. Every resident of an area served by a circuit court who is at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and able to understand English is qualified to serve as a juror.

No person who is qualified and able to serve may be excluded on the basis of sex, race, color, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, family status, income, age, ancestry or physical condition.

A person selected for jury service must be selected at random from a master listing using the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's list of people with motor vehicle licenses or identification cards who live in the area served by that circuit court.

All qualified people must have an equal chance to be considered for jury duty...and the obligation to serve as jurors when summoned.

Do I have to serve?

Yes – in most instances. The law requires all qualified state citizens be available to serve as jurors. Not all persons summoned actually serve as a juror. A person may not be selected as a result of a process known as “voir dire” (vwa deer) whereby the parties in the case (and the judge in some circumstances) ask questions to determine a potential juror's qualifications or degree of impartiality to serve on a particular trial.

The court may excuse a person from jury service if the court determines the person cannot fulfill the responsibilities of a juror. If the court determines jury service would entail undue hardship, extreme inconvenience, serious obstruction or delay of justice, the court may defer service to a later date set by the court. The court may require a person document the basis for any excuse or deferral.

If serving during the week for which you were summoned is a problem, you can arrange to serve a different week by calling (920) 236-4853. **This request should be made at least one week prior to your start date. Only one request for deferral will be granted.**

How long do I have to serve?

You will be on call for a period not to exceed 30 days. If the Code-A-Phone message cancels your service for the first week of service, you will be given a second week to serve. If your service is not required the second time you are on call, your service is complete.

The orientation session will give you an opportunity to have any questions answered prior to going into court for selection. Please feel free to bring materials with you in which to occupy this time.

The selection process will begin after orientation. If you are selected, you will remain for the length of the trial. Most trials are completed that same day or within a few days.

So I'm summoned to jury duty... What's next?

Enclosed is your summons for jury duty. This summons lists the day and time you need to report. As cases can settle prior to trial, **it is very important that you call the code-a-phone (Oshkosh 920-236-4998 or Neenah 920-727-2898)** between 6:00 p.m. the night before and 7:00 a.m. the day you are to report. You will be told whether you should still report, if there has been a change in the time to report, or any other information that could effect your service. Please listen carefully to all the information given.

Do I get paid?

Yes. Every juror summoned is paid an amount set by the county board. Currently the rate is \$25/day, plus mileage, for each day of attendance. The mileage rate is \$0.485/mile round trip based on your response to the juror questionnaire.

What about my job?

Jury service is a civic duty. State law protects your job. Your employer can't fire you, demote you, threaten or intimidate you because of jury service.

What if I have a disability?

If you have a disability which will require an accommodation by the court to allow you to serve as a juror, please contact the Jury Clerk at (920) 236-4853 or the Clerk of Court at (920) 236-4849 as soon as possible.

Will I be waiting long?

Resolving legal disputes can be complex and unpredictable work. Often, cases are settled at the very last minute. When the jury is actually ready to hear the case, the parties often work out a last-minute compromise rather than gamble on what the jury will decide. These settlements may seem very inconvenient to you, but such settlements usually save time for all trial participants-and saves the taxpayers' money. And yes – you may want to bring something to read – it will help make the time pass.

What should I wear?

Dress comfortably, but avoid extremes in dress; for instance, ragged cutoff jeans/T-shirts or clothing with inappropriate or offensive writing on them. There are usually no prescribed dress codes, but judges have been known to order people to reappear in appropriate attire.

Can I go home at night?

Most trials last only one day. When a trial does last longer, the judge usually adjourns so that you can return home each day at a reasonable hour. Advance notice would be given if you would be required to stay overnight.

More questions or concerns about your jury service? Call the jury clerk at (920) 236-4853. We are ready to help.

We look forward to meeting you and hope, as most do, that meeting your civic responsibility to serve as a juror is an interesting, educational and rewarding experience.

Diane M. Fremgen
Winnebago County Clerk of
Circuit Court

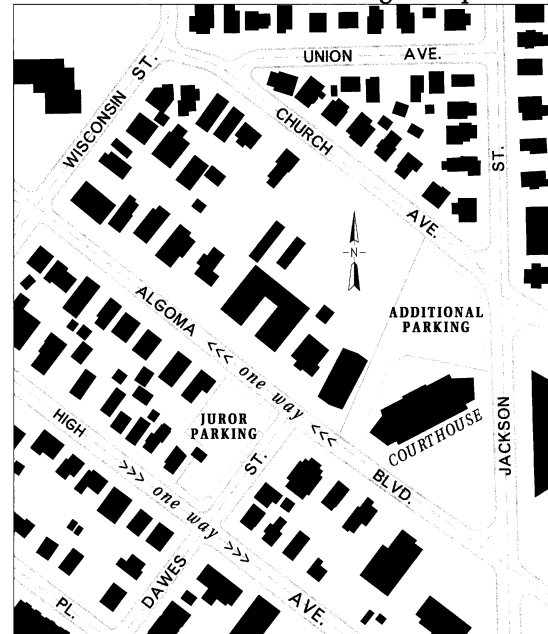
WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JURY SERVICE AND COURT TRIALS?

Visit the Wisconsin Court System website at <http://wicourts.gov> and look for *The Wisconsin Jury Handbook*.

Courthouse Location Map



Courthouse Parking Map



PARKING...

Parking is provided in the parking lot on the corner of Algonia Boulevard and Dawes Street across from the courthouse. Place this brochure with the word "AUTHORIZED" facing out in your window or you may be subject to a parking ticket. Additional parking is available in the Courthouse lot at 415 Jackson Street, which can be entered from Jackson Street, Church Avenue or Algonia Boulevard.

A JUROR'S GUIDE TO JURY SERVICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Why me? ... and other common questions about jury duty.

June 2007