

IMPORTANT JUROR INFORMATION

Q: How long will I have to serve on Jury Duty?

A: You are normally summoned for Jury service for a three-month period. The jury calendar usually last approximately two weeks but may extend into a third week when a case is not yet completed.

Q: How will I know if a case or cases have settled, and Jury trial is cancelled?

A: When you are summoned to serve as a Juror there will be a letter from the Administrative Judge of Fulton County along with the Summons. This letter will inform you of the months you will serve and the dates of the trials. So, in order to avoid a possible unnecessary appearance, you are urged to call the Circuit Clerk's Office at (309)547-3041, Option 9 after 4:00p.m. on the Friday prior to Jury trial date provided to you in the letter.

Q: Will I be on a Jury every day?

A: It is very unlikely. A jury of 12 person and two alternates is chosen for jury trial . Jurors are chosen by the judge and the attorneys involved in the case. You will be called for questioning and bases on your answers, you will either be accepted as a juror, or will be excused and your jury service will be concluded for that month.

Q: What is the Daily Schedule?

A: Each day trial will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 4:00 p.m. No meals will be provided during jury service, but you will be given adequate time to eat lunch.

Q: Will I be sequestered?

A: It is very unlikely. Sequestering juries (keeping the jury together at all times, including the evening) is no longer a requirement in Illinois. Only on rare /special circumstances will a judge sequester a jury. If it is a possibility, the judge will tell you before the jury selection process begins.

Q: Why have been called for Jury Duty?

A: Your name was selected at random by a computer from a list of residents of Fulton County who are registered voters and/or persons who possess an ID card for the Illinois Secretary of State.

Q: Can I qualify for an exemption for jury service?

A: When Illinois abolished the sequestering requirement it also eliminated all exemptions from jury service. Even Judges and Attorneys are now eligible for Jury service. Having special job responsibilities does not create an exemption. On the other hand, while you may not be exempt from jury service, the Judge has the power to excuse you due to “excessive hardship”. Such ‘hardships’ will include family vacation, medical care, including medical appointments, school, and care for young children. If you request to be excused, you must request to be excused in writing addressing your letter to the Judge you received your letter from. **LAST MINUTE REQUEST WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.** Vacation plans and medical appointments must be stated by you in writing and include copy of proof of vacation reservations and medical appointments.

Parking:

It is advisable to arrive at the Courthouse early as parking can become difficult during jury weeks. You may park in the parking lot across from the Lewistown City Hall or in the parking lot behind the old Pratt Furniture Store, as well as on Main Street and side streets, where permitted.

Cell Phones:

Please leave your cell phone in your car upon arrival as cell phones are no longer allowed in the courthouse. You will be allowed to make phone calls as necessary. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but it is part of the courthouse security policy.

Jury Orientation Video:

[Illinois Jury Orientation - YouTube](#)

Petit Juror Handbook:

[Petit Juror Handbook \(windows.net\)](#)

Statewide Guide:

[Statewide Jury Video Guide \(windows.net\)](#)