

Will I have to stay overnight?

Only rarely is a jury "sequestered." These jurors must then remain with the Court through all meal times and overnight. The Court will provide meals, lodging, and the retrieval of jurors' personal items for them from their homes. You will be told in advance if a jury is to be sequestered.

What is the difference between a Grand Jury and a Petit Jury?

A petit, or trial, jury is generally 12 people sworn to try a criminal or civil case, hearing evidence and rendering a verdict. In some cases additional jurors can be chosen as alternates. Some types of cases may use a jury of six (6) people. A grand jury, so named because it is comprised of a greater number of people (16) than a petit jury, is sworn to hear evidence presented by the prosecution and determine if it is sufficient to require the accused to stand trial.

I do not know the law, how can I be a juror?

You do not need to know the law. You must be able to reach conclusions about each aspect of the case based on your own, impartial, independent recollection of the evidence, and then apply the laws as the judge explains them to you. To do this you must pay attention and listen closely as the evidence is presented in court. You must not make snap decisions or pre-judge, but wait until the attorneys have completed their cases. Then it is your job to consider the evidence and determine the facts of the case. The judge will instruct you in his "charge" as to what laws apply to the case and what they mean.

What is the difference between a Civil and a Criminal case?

Most of the courtroom and jury selection procedures are the same. A criminal case is prosecuted by the State's Attorney's Office on behalf of the citizens of Illinois. The defendant has been charged with a violation of a criminal law. The defendant denies the charge by pleading not guilty. The jury then decides whether the defendant has been proven guilty as charged. The defendant in a criminal case has the right to be represented by an

attorney. The defense attorney has the duty to protect the defendant's rights and interest at all stages of the trial. The State has the burden of proving the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and this burden remains upon the State throughout the trial. A defendant is presumed to be innocent of the charges against him and is not required to prove his or her innocence. This presumption remains with him throughout the trial and during deliberations on the verdict. It is not overcome unless, from all the evidence in the case, you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty.

A civil case is when one person, a group of persons or a corporation sues another for a personal injury, damage to property, or failure to complete a contract. The burden of proof in most civil cases is by a preponderance, or greater weight, of the evidence.

Juror Information Line (Telephone Call – In)

After your first day of service, and if you are not selected for a trial, you must call the 24-hour telephone answering machine in the Jury Commission twice a day for further instructions.

The number is 847.249.5879 (249-JURY)

You must call at or shortly after 11:15 AM to receive instructions for the 1:30 PM call that same afternoon. You must call again, after 4:15 PM, to receive instructions for the following day. Listen carefully for instructions. Listen to the entire message. Please note that failure to appear when instructed to do so may result in your being deferred to another week of jury service. Jurors who find that they can not comply with the conditions of the call-in system will be asked to report to the Assembly Room each day, until the need for jurors for that day is determined. If the machine should malfunction or you are unable to understand the message, call 1.847.377.4600.

This system has reduced the inconvenience of jury duty for jurors, and the cost of jury duty for their employers, as well as save tax dollars. Your cooperation is needed for its continued success.

Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Lake County Jury Service

"Helping to keep the scales of justice balanced"



Lake County Jury Commission

Nineteenth Judicial Circuit
18 North County Street, Room 110
Waukegan, IL 60085-4359

Phone: (847) 377-4600

Fax: (847) 984-5885

TTD: (847) 625-7416

Juror Info Line: (847) 249-5879

Introduction

This booklet is a description of the responsibilities and duties of jurors in Lake County, Illinois. These juror guidelines are rules for jurors. We ask you to obey them not only so that we may operate the Courts as efficiently as possible and meet all the requirements for impartial juries, but that we may maintain the security of those citizens serving as jurors, as well.

We hope the following information can answer some of the questions you may have concerning your service as a juror. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to ask the Assembly Room Clerk or the Jury Commission Staff for help.

Do not make an independent investigation.

Jurors are expected to use the experience and common sense they possess, but are not to rely upon private sources of information. Therefore, you should never inspect the scene of any occurrence involved in a case except under supervision of the Court. The jury's verdict can only be based upon the testimony heard and evidence viewed in the courtroom during the trial.

Do not talk to participants during the trial.

Do not talk to any of the attorneys, parties, reporters or witnesses about anything. It may be only a comment on the weather, but if seen by people who cannot hear what is said, it may be misunderstood. It is better to say nothing.

Do not discuss the case during the trial.

Jurors are not to discuss the case among themselves until the testimony is complete and deliberations have begun. It would be unfair to the parties, the other jurors and yourself to reach conclusions or influence each other before all the evidence has been presented.

During the trial you must not discuss the case with your friends, family or others. The reason for this is that you must base your decision only upon the evidence. The opinions or comments offered by

others are not proper evidence in the case. If you are asked to discuss the case by persons outside the courtroom, you should say that the law does not allow you to do so. If anyone persists in discussing the case or tries to influence you in any way, it is your legal duty to report this to the judge right away. You should avoid newspapers, radio, and television programs that may feature accounts of the trial or information concerning one of the people in it. These media reports may be biased or incomplete and are not evidence. After you have been released as a juror, you may discuss your experiences with the attorneys, investigators or other persons. Please be aware, however, that you are not required to do so, and the choice is yours.

Questions Jurors Usually Ask:

Who may serve?

To qualify for jury duty, a person must:

- Be a United States Citizen
- Be a resident of Lake County, Illinois
- Be able to read, speak and understand the English language
- Be physically and mentally capable.

How was I selected?

In Lake County, jurors are selected from lists of licensed drivers (at least 18 years of age) and registered voters. For each week of jury service enough names are chosen at random from that list to provide jurors.

Will I be paid for Jury Duty?

As set by the Illinois General Assembly and the Lake County Board, jurors are paid a fee each day they report to the courthouse, and a mileage amount for travel. Mileage is determined by the distance between the Post Office where you receive your mail and the Main Post Office in Waukegan.

What if I have an emergency during Jury Duty?

Should you become ill while serving as a juror or an emergency arises, inform the Assembly Room Clerk, or the judge if you are sitting on a trial. When you explain the situation, they will make every effort to find a solution. You may be excused from the rest of your service, or deferred to another time.

How are trial juries selected?

When a judge is ready for a jury, his Court Security Officer requests the Assembly Room Clerk to use the computer to randomly select the number of jurors he needs from those available in the Assembly Room. In the courtroom, jurors are questioned in a process called "*voir dire*." If a juror is "*challenged*," it means he or she is excused from that trial and returns to the Assembly Room to wait to be called for another trial. To be challenged is no reflection on the juror's integrity or usefulness.

Why are there delays in the jury process?

During trials, delays may occur for many reasons. For example, a witness may be delayed, or the judge may take time to look up the law on a point that has just been raised, or the lawyers may be presenting an argument or point of law to the judge that must be argued away from the jury. You may never learn the reason for the delay and should not guess at it. Very often a delay actually saves time and brings the case to an end more quickly. Please be patient.

