

199th Judicial District, Hon. Angela Tucker
219th Judicial District, Hon. Jennifer Edgeworth
296th Judicial District, Hon. John Roach, Jr.
366th Judicial District, Hon. Tom Nowak
380th Judicial District, Hon. Benjamin N. Smith
401st Judicial District, Hon. Mark Rusch
416th Judicial District, Hon. Andrea Thompson
417th Judicial District, Hon. Cynthia Wheless
429th Judicial District, Hon. Jill Willis
468th Judicial District, Hon. Lindsey Wynne



469th Judicial District, Hon. Piper McCraw
470th Judicial District, Hon. Emily A. Miskel
471st Judicial District, Hon. Andrea K. Bouressa
County Court at Law No. 1, Hon. Corinne A. Mason
County Court at Law No. 2, Hon. Barnett Walker
County Court at Law No. 3, Hon. Lance S. Baxter
County Court at Law No. 4, Hon. David Rippel
County Court at Law No. 5, Hon. Dan K. Wilson
County Court at Law No. 6, Hon. Jay A. Bender
County Court at Law No. 7, Hon. David Waddill
County Probate Court No. 1, Hon. Weldon Copeland

RE: Your Upcoming Jury Service in the Era of Coronavirus

Dear Prospective Jurors:

This letter is in addition to the Summons directing you to appear for Jury Service at the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building at 2100 Bloomdale Rd., McKinney, Texas 75071. These will be some of the first jury trials we have undertaken since the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic. We want to assure you that every reasonable precaution will be taken to enhance the health and safety of the jury, the parties, the lawyers and the Court staff during jury selection and the jury trial to follow.

So that you won't be surprised when you arrive, please be aware of the following:

Each prospective juror will have their temperature taken via a hand-held thermometer as they enter the courthouse, to ensure that no one with fever or an elevated temperature is admitted;

Once you enter the building and pass through the initial security screening, you will be directed to the central jury room and seated to achieve the maximum distancing possible;

Masks will be distributed, or you may wear your own when you enter the courthouse. Until the final jury is actually selected, seated and sworn, everyone appearing as a prospective juror will be required to wear a mask;

Latex gloves will be available for those who wish to wear them, but gloves are not required. If you would like gloves, ask the staff for them when you are seated in the Central Jury Room;

Please do not bring more personal items than you can hold in your lap at all times. You will not be permitted to place personal items on surrounding chairs;

Hand sanitizer (alcohol based) will be available to you at multiple locations inside the courthouse and Central Jury Room, and you may ask Court Security Officers to make it available at your seat, once you are selected to the final jury and seated in the courtroom;

Those selected for this jury should know that the six (6) to fourteen (14) jurors will be seated during the trial in the gallery of the courtroom, not the jury box, to achieve the maximum distancing possible. The gallery of the courtroom ordinarily seats 65;

The courtroom, jury room and jury room bathrooms will be cleaned each evening when the court recesses, and this will continue throughout the trial;

Individual lunches will be provided to the selected jurors during each day of the trial to minimize any travel in and out of the Courthouse and to minimize juror's interaction at local restaurants. You are also free to bring your lunch.

If you:

- a. have been diagnosed by a licensed physician as having Coronavirus anytime within the past 30 days;
- b. are actively caring for a family member or loved one who has tested positive for the Coronavirus, or
- c. are now in self-quarantine status and that status will continue during the date on your jury summons

Then,

in any of these situations: please immediately advise the jury clerks at 972-548-4315. They may ask you to furnish documentation regarding such from your physician, for the court.

The longest we anticipate you being required to serve is 5 days, but it is our expectation that the average length of service will be 1-3 days. That being the case, if you have a scheduled surgical procedure for yourself or a dependent that can't be rescheduled, or if you have some other pre-existing obligation that would make it extremely difficult and create a real hardship for you to be here as requested, then you should immediately advise the jury clerks at 972-548-4315 as soon as possible.

Please be aware that the right to trial by jury is one of the cornerstones of our democracy, and jury trials necessarily involve sacrifice from those citizens called upon to serve. This has always been true, but it is especially true during these unique and trying times. It is our personal conviction that jury service is the second highest form of

public service that any American can perform (second only to service in the Armed Forces). The right to trial by jury has been enshrined within the Seventh Amendment to our U. S. Constitution since 1791, and it was one of the stated principles in the Declaration of Independence which fueled our struggle to become an independent nation. Only those with extreme hardships should seek to be excused based on pre-existing obligations.

It is vital that you appear and present yourself for jury service as summonsed; however, the Courts want you to know that we are mindful of these challenging times and we will take every reasonable precaution to maintain your health as well as that of the parties, lawyers and Court staff during this upcoming trial.

We hope this letter is helpful and informative, and we look forward to seeing you in our courthouse soon.

Respectfully,

The Collin County District and County Court Judges