

MASS. J9,2:ST94

A Student's Guide to Jury Duty

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UMASS/AMHERST



GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

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JURY SERVICE

in the

Commonwealth
of Massachusetts



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Q. AS A HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE STUDENT,
MUST I SERVE AS A JUROR?**

A. EVERY U.S. CITIZEN 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER WHO IS A MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENT OR AN INHABITANT FOR MORE THAN 50% OF THE TIME IS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS A JUROR.

Q. BUT I AM FROM OUT OF STATE.

A. IF YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF ANOTHER STATE BUT A STUDENT AT A MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE, YOU ARE AN INHABITANT FOR MORE THAN 50% OF THE YEAR AND THEREFORE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS A JUROR IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Q. I AM A RESIDENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, BUT ATTEND AND RESIDE AT SCHOOL IN A DIFFERENT MASSACHUSETTS COUNTY. IN WHICH COUNTY AM I ELIGIBLE TO SERVE JURY DUTY?

A. YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE SUMMONSED TO SERVE IN EITHER COUNTY. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE SUMMONSED AND SERVE JURY DUTY IN ONE COUNTY, YOU ARE DISQUALIFIED FROM SERVING IN THE OTHER.

Q. AS A STUDENT, IT WOULD BE A HARDSHIP FOR ME TO SERVE BECAUSE I WOULD MISS CLASSES OR EXAMS. CAN I BE EXCUSED FROM SERVING BECAUSE OF THIS?

A. ONLY A JUDGE MAY EXCUSE YOU FROM JUROR SERVICE FOR A HARDSHIP. YOU MUST REPORT TO THE COURTHOUSE ON THE SCHEDULED DATE OF YOUR SERVICE IF YOU SEEK TO BE EXCUSED FOR HARDSHIP. WHEN YOU ARRIVE, TELL THE OFFICIAL IN THE JURY POOL YOUR PROBLEM, AND THAT PERSON WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE YOU SEE A JUDGE.

Q. ON THE DAY I AM SCHEDULED TO APPEAR, I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT CLASS, LECTURE, OR EXAM THAT I CANNOT MISS. WHAT CAN I DO?

A. EVERY PERSON SUMMONSED HAS THE PRIVILEGE OF ASKING FOR AND RECEIVING ONE POSTPONEMENT. YOU MAY REQUEST A DIFFERENT DATE ON THE JUROR CONFIRMATION FORM THAT IS IN YOUR SUMMONS PACKAGE, OR YOU MAY CALL OUR JUROR INFORMATION LINE AT 1-800-843-5879 (1-800-THE-JURY). IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, YOU MAY CONTACT US VIA OUR TTY LINE AT 1-800-328-3202. BOTH LINES ARE AVAILABLE FROM 9AM TO 4:30PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

Q. THE COURTHOUSE YOU HAVE ASSIGNED ME TO IS QUITE A DISTANCE AWAY FROM WHERE I LIVE. I HAVE NO CAR AND THERE IS NO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE. WHAT CAN I DO?

A. IF YOU HAVE SUCH A HARDSHIP, YOU MAY REQUEST A HARDSHIP TRANSFER TO A CLOSER COURTHOUSE IN THE SAME COUNTY IF ONE IS AVAILABLE. YOU MAY REQUEST A HARDSHIP TRANSFER BY PROVIDING DETAILS OF THE HARDSHIP ON THE JUROR CONFIRMATION FORM THAT IS IN YOUR SUMMONS PACKAGE OR YOU MAY CALL OUR JUROR INFORMATION LINE AT 1-800-843-5879 (1-800-THE-JURY). IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, YOU MAY CONTACT US VIA OUR TTY LINE AT 1-800-328-3202. BOTH LINES ARE AVAILABLE FROM 9AM TO 4:30PM. PLEASE NOTE THAT THOSE PEOPLE SUMMONSED FOR GRAND JURY SERVICE DO NOT HAVE THE OPTION TO TRANSFER AS THERE IS

ONLY ONE GRAND JURY SESSION IN EACH COUNTY.

Q. WILL I BE COMPENSATED FOR PERFORMING JURY SERVICE?

A. IF YOU ARE EMPLOYED, THEN DURING THE FIRST 3 DAYS OR PART THEREOF THAT YOU SERVE, YOUR EMPLOYER IS OBLIGATED TO PAY YOU AS IF YOU HAD WORKED YOUR ASSIGNED HOURS. FROM THE 4TH DAY ONWARD, THE COMMONWEALTH WILL PAY YOU \$50 PER DAY. ALL EMPLOYEES—BE THEY FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, TEMPORARY, OR CASUAL EMPLOYEES—*MUST* BE COMPENSATED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS FOR REGULAR WORK HOURS MISSED AS A RESULT OF PERFORMING JUROR SERVICE. FAILURE OF EMPLOYERS TO COMPLY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

IF YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED, YOU MUST COMPENSATE YOURSELF. WHEN YOU APPEAR TO SERVE, YOU MAY APPLY TO HAVE YOUR TRANSPORTATION AND/OR CHILDCARE COSTS REIMBURSED TO YOU FOR THE FIRST 3 DAYS OF YOUR SERVICE. PLEASE NOTE THAT SUCH COMPENSATION CANNOT EXCEED \$50 PER DAY.

Q. HOW LONG WILL I SERVE?

A. MOST JURORS COMPLETE THEIR SERVICE IN THREE DAYS OR LESS; ABOUT 85 PERCENT ARE FINISHED IN ONE DAY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF HOW THE JURY SYSTEM WORKS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, PLEASE REFER TO OUR TRIAL JUROR'S HANDBOOK.

THE JUROR

INFORMATION LINE

1-800-THE-JURY

(1-800-843-5879)

HEARING IMPAIRED:

TTY = 1-800-328-3202

*THESE LINES ARE AVAILABLE
MONDAY—FRIDAY
9AM—4:30PM*

BOTH OF THE ABOVE NUMBERS ARE
ACCESSIBLE ONLY WHEN CALLING FROM WITHIN
MASSACHUSETTS.

FAX:

1-617-422-5869

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

OFFICE OF JURY COMMISSIONER
560 HARRISON AVENUE SUITE 600
BOSTON MA 02118-2447



Many courthouses are
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.
Look for the wheelchair symbol
next to the courthouse name on
our forms.

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FOR THE COMMONWEALTH



OFFICE OF JURY COMMISSIONER
560 HARRISON AVENUE SUITE 600
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