



Petit Jury Orientation

Thirteenth Judicial District Court
Valencia County Petit Jurors

Welcome to Jury Service!

Valencia County

James Lawrence Sánchez

District Judge, Division I

Allen R. Smith

District Judge, Division III

Cindy M. Mercer

District Judge, Division VI

Valencia County District Court

505-865-4639

lludjuror@nmcourts.gov

How do I know when to report?

- Your juror number will be mailed to you, report when your number is called
- Check the Jury Message Phone at 505-865-4639, ext 4 or website every Friday after 5:00 PM
- The message will tell you when to report or give you further instructions
- Verify attendance the night before jury selection by checking the Jury Message Phone or website

Qualifications to Serve as a Juror

- ▶ You are qualified to serve as a juror if you meet the following conditions:
 1. United States Citizen
 2. 18 years of age or older
 3. Not currently on felony probation or parole
 4. Must be a resident of the county where you are called to jury service

Notify the jury clerk if you do not meet these conditions

Term of Service

- ▶ Petit jurors in the Valencia County serve for a term of 2 months
- ▶ You only report for service when your juror number is called during your 2 month term

How was I selected for jury service?

- ▶ Section 38-5-3 NMSA 1978 provides for the selection of jurors
- ▶ Jurors are selected from a list of **registered voters, licensed drivers and personal income tax filers**

Difficulty hearing? Need an interpreter?

- ▶ Assistive listening devices are available at all times for any juror who requests one
- ▶ Interpreters are scheduled when a juror requests one on their questionnaire
- ▶ If you need a sign language interpreter, let the jury clerk know and one will be provided

Juror Compensation and Hours

- ▶ Jurors may receive compensation for jury service at \$6.25 per hour
- ▶ Jurors may receive \$0.29 round-trip mileage
- ▶ Court hours are 8 AM-5 PM with a lunch hour
- ▶ There are numerous breaks in the morning and afternoon of trials

What if I'm a public employee, federal employee or a public school teacher?

- ▶ Public employees, city, state, county, public universities, or public school employee are paid by their employer for jury service during their normal working hours
- ▶ Federal employees will be paid unless they otherwise notify the court
- ▶ Contractors working for the government you may be paid, ask for more information

Certificates of Attendance

- ▶ Jurors may request a certificate of attendance for their employer from the court
- ▶ Employers can also request a juror's specific attendance record

Meals

- ▶ The court only provides meals during final deliberations
- ▶ Court security will allow jurors to bring in meals, snacks or bottled water as long as items can be scanned by court security.

Electronic Devices and Other Prohibited Items

- ▶ Court security prohibits cell phones, weapons of any type and any other item not allowed by their protocol
- ▶ Attorneys, court officers and occasionally news media may bring in electronic devices with the judge's permission or for use in conducting business before the court

Juror Attire

- ▶ Jurors are representatives of the court and should dress comfortably and avoid distracting others by their attire
- ▶ Shorts, tank-tops or cutoffs are not appropriate attire for a courtroom
- ▶ Formal dress is not required and men are not required to wear coats and ties

How a Trial Proceeds

- ▶ Details of the trial process can be found in your Jury Handbook on pages 5 through 7
- ▶ Legal terminology that will be used in court can be found on pages 7 through 9

Consideration for Postponement

Considered

- ▶ Full-time students: **Class schedule**
- ▶ Medical conditions which prevent you from serving: **Doctor's note**
- ▶ Caregiver: **Doctor's note**
- ▶ Age: 75 or older may request permanent exemption
- ▶ Out-of-county residents: proof of residency
- ▶ Non-citizens: proof of citizenship

No postponements without documentation

Not Considered

- ▶ Planned vacations
- ▶ Work-related training or travel
- ▶ Scheduled doctor appointments
- ▶ Too busy
- ▶ Know a judge or judges
- ▶ Know police officers
- ▶ Taking online courses
- ▶ We will work with scheduling conflicts but will not excuse you from serving

Planned Vacations? No Worries!

- ▶ Submit dates you are unavailable before your juror number is called



Planned medical appointments? No Problem!



- ▶ Submit dates you are unavailable before your juror number is called

Illness or Emergency on Day of Trial

- ▶ Contact information for the jury clerk is listed on the first slide
- ▶ If illness or other emergency requires that you be delayed please call or email the jury clerk as soon as possible

Don't Forget!

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AS A JUROR

- ▶ Those chosen for jury service should take pride in performing this most important duty to their country and to their fellow men and women.
- ▶ When you give the best combined efforts of your mind, heart and conscience you are making a substantial contribution to freedom under our government.