
THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF JUROR LUNCHES
DURING CONDENSED TRIAL
SCHEDULE

GENERAL ORDER
22-012

The court has proven the value of a condensed jury trial schedule over decades of experience. Most judges conduct jury trials from 8:30 or 9:00 am to 2:30 p.m. with two fifteen-minute breaks and one thirty-minute break for lunch, taken in the jury room.

- Jurors prefer the condensed jury trial schedule because they can often maintain basic duties of their employment and home life.
- Counsel and witnesses are better prepared and tend to move more expeditiously than in a full day trial schedule.
- Juror fatigue is reduced and attentiveness is increased.
- Counsel and the court are able to handle other unrelated matters in the afternoon.
- Criminal sentencings are not delayed by reason of trial schedules.
- The number of transcript pages from a condensed schedule equals or exceeds the number of pages from a full-day schedule.
- Security delays when entering the courthouse through a single point of entry are reduced by keeping the jury in the courthouse.

- Instances of jurors, parties, and witnesses circulating while coming in and out of a single point of entry at the courthouse are substantially diminished.
- Due to the distance of restaurants and parking, a relatively long time is required for an offsite jury lunch. And the relatively small number of restaurants in the area means that jurors and counsel and witnesses may be at the same restaurant.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, subject to the order of a judge presiding in a jury trial, that:

1. Juries will be **PARTIALLY SEQUESTERED** and will remain together in the courthouse during the lunch break and other breaks to facilitate the condensed trial schedule.
2. Lunch for the jurors will be obtained by court personnel and delivered to the jury room.
3. The Clerk of the Court is **DIRECTED** to expend funds pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1871(e) to provide for lunches to jurors and to provide guidelines for the assisting court personnel.

SO ORDERED this 10th day of August, 2022.

BY THE COURT:



ROBERT J. SHELBY
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE