

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT JURY SERVICE IN THE FEDERAL COURT

Welcome

Welcome to jury service for the United States District Court for the District of Utah. Jury service is an obligation of every citizen. The right to trial by a jury of our peers is guaranteed to each of us by the United States Constitution. We hope that you will find your term of service an interesting and satisfying experience. This pamphlet is intended to answer practical questions regarding your service. We look forward to welcoming you at the Court and appreciate your willingness to serve.

Federal Court Jury Trials in St. George Utah

You are being noticed for a Federal Court Jury trial. This trial will be held in St. George, Utah, not in Salt Lake City, where most of our trials are held. We are holding this trial in St. George to accommodate our Southern Utah jurors, parties and attorneys. By holding this trial in the Fifth District Courthouse in St. George we hope to make your jury service a little more convenient, as well as allowing us to save time and money.

Reporting for Duty

You have been sent a Notice to Appear instructing you to report on a certain day and time for jury selection. It is important that you report on time. The doors to the Fifth District Courthouse, in St. George do not open until 8:00 a.m. Jury selection can take up to five hours. If you are not selected to serve for this trial, you will be permitted to leave after the selection process. **If selected, you may be required to remain at the courthouse for the remainder of the day, and you will need to return each day until the trial is finished.**

Call before you report!!

Cases that are set for trial frequently settle or are re-scheduled on very short notice. This frequently happens **after** the **Notice to Appear** has been mailed. You **must** call the message line for your final instructions. The message will tell you if you absolutely need to report, or it may ask you to call back later. Please listen carefully to the entire message when you call. **If you neglect to call and then appear for jury duty for a trial that has been rescheduled, the Court cannot reimburse you for mileage or other costs. Therefore, it is very important that you call before leaving your residence. The recorded message will be available after 2:00 p.m., including evening hours, and on weekends.**

The Jury message phone number is 1-801-524-6940 or 1-800-775-7703.

Excuses

Federal law allowing excuse from jury service is very strict. However, the court realizes that occasionally jurors may need to request a temporary absence from jury service. These absences are generally requested for medical appointments, scheduled vacation time, business trips, etc. Because the Court will make every effort to accommodate temporary absences during your jury term, these absences **DO NOT** constitute a valid reason for being excused from the entire term. If you receive a Notice to Appear and have an extreme hardship or conflict, please contact the Jury Office as soon as possible. When requesting a temporary absence, you may need to provide a written request and/or documentation supporting your need to be temporarily excused. If you have a severe hardship or excuse request, or if you have immediate questions or concerns regarding your Notice to Appear please contact the Jury Administrator as soon as possible at 801-524-6285

Length of Service

Your term of service is an “on-call” term of six (6) months. This does not mean that you will be reporting every day for six months. However, you may be called at any time during that period. If you report for jury duty and are not selected, you may receive another notice to appear at a later date during your six-month term.

Jurors Fees

An attendance fee of \$50 per day is paid for each day you report for jury duty, unless you are a federal employee. You will also be reimbursed for your round-trip mileage at the current government rate. **Please make note of your round-trip mileage, as you will need to report it when you arrive at the courthouse.**

If you live over 80 miles, one way, from the Courthouse you may want to arrive in St. George a day before you are scheduled to report. Your meal and hotel costs will be reimbursed at the current daily government rate, plus the \$50 jury duty allowance. **You must submit a receipt from your hotel in order to be reimbursed for your lodging costs; if you stay with a friend or relative, your daily reimbursement will be to cover your meals and incidentals only.**

Failure to Report

Jurors who fail to report for jury service may be served with an Order by the United States Marshal’s Service. Penalties for contempt of the Jury Selection Act range from a \$1000 fine and/or three days imprisonment.

Attendance Certificates

The Court will provide you with a certificate showing the dates and times you served if you request one.

Dress Code

Please dress appropriately for court. Casual attire is acceptable. The temperature can be quite cool in the courtroom, so dress accordingly.

Protection of Your Employment

Federal law specifically prohibits employers from taking any adverse action against employees because they are called to jury service by the United States. Section 1875 of Title 28 of the United States Code begins as follows:

- (a) No employer shall discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, or coerce any permanent employee by reason of such employee’s jury service, or the attendance of scheduled attendance in connection with such service, in any court of the United States.
- (b) Any employer who violated the provisions of this section -
 - (1) shall be liable for damages for any loss of wages or benefits suffered by an employee by reason of such violation;
 - (2) may be enjoined from further violations of this section and ordered to provide other appropriate relief, including reinstatement of any employee discharged by reason of his jury service; and
 - (3) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation as to each employee.

If you have reason to believe that your employment status has changed as a result of your being called to serve as a juror in federal court, please notify the jury administrator.