

What to expect...
JURY DUTY

in the

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F L O R I D A

*The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court
of Florida in and for Orange County
Office of the Court Administrator*

COURT ADMINISTRATION
425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2130
Orlando, Florida 32801
(407)836-2050

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The jury process can often be perplexing for a prospective juror. Your participation in this process is extremely important to our common law system of justice. This system affords all persons going to trial the opportunity to have the facts of their case determined by a jury of their peers. The following has been prepared to assist you in understanding the jury process. The Court hopes that you will find jury duty a pleasant and rewarding experience.

JURY DUTY

In the past, the list of prospective jurors had been drawn from the voter registration list. Beginning in 1998, the pool of prospective jurors will be persons who possess Florida driver's licenses or identification cards issued by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or who have executed a certain affidavit.

Jury service encompasses one day of service or the completion of one trial. If a prospective juror is not selected for a panel on his/her summoned date, credit will be entered for services rendered for one full year from the summoned date. A request for a deferral must be received in the Jury Room ten days prior to the juror's report date. It is important to note that the Court has a lenient postponement policy. Jury duty can be postponed (only once) to a more convenient time if work or family responsibilities conflict.

With respect to compensation, jurors who are regularly employed and who continue to receive regular wages while serving as a juror are not entitled to receive compensation from the State for the first three days of jury service. Jurors who do not continue to receive regular wages while serving as a juror are entitled to receive \$15 per day for the first three days of jury service. Jurors will be asked to check the appropriate box on the questionnaire regarding compensation. All jurors who serve more than three days are entitled to be paid by the State for the fourth day of service and each day thereafter, at the rate of \$30 per day of service, even if receiving compensation from their employers. No mileage reimbursement is given.

Prospective jurors should call a recorded telephone message (836-2048) after 5:00 p.m. on the business day before they are to report. The Court is attempting to bring in only the number of jurors necessary to meet the needs of the courts. Also, an informational video for prospective jurors is shown daily on Orange County Government's cable access station. Please check local listings for times.

The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court hopes this information has helped you understand the jury process. We welcome your inquiries; please feel free to call the Jury Room at (407) 836-2206 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING JURY DUTY

1. How long do I have to serve?

Jury duty will normally last one day or the completion of one trial. A trial may last for one day or a number of days. If not selected to serve on a jury trial after the first day of your service, you will most likely be excused.

2. Do I get paid?

Jurors who are regularly employed and who continue to receive regular wages while serving as a juror do not receive compensation from the State for the first three days of jury service. Jurors who do not receive regular wages while serving as a juror are entitled to receive \$15 per day for the first three days of jury service. All jurors who serve more than three days are entitled to be paid by the State for the fourth day of service and each day thereafter, at a rate of \$30 per day of service, even if receiving compensation from their employers. No mileage reimbursement is given. Jurors are not paid the same day as their service.

3. Where do I report and what number do I call?

The Jury Assembly area is located in downtown Orlando at 425 North Orange Avenue, Orange County Courthouse, First Floor, Room 180. Call 836-2206 during regular business hours. Jurors should call a recorded telephone message (836-2048) after 5:00 p.m. on the business day before they are to report.

4. Can I bring my pocketknife or knitting needle?

Please leave all weapons or items that could be used as weapons, at home. Items that are commonly removed from individuals entering the courthouse are: scissors, pocketknives, mace, fingernail files, knitting needles, key chains with associated knives, etc. Confiscated items will not be returned. Please note that all persons entering the building are subject to a security search and will be required to pass through metal detectors.

5. Does the court provide child care?

Child care is not provided by the court. However, you can request an excuse from jury duty if you are a parent, not employed full-time, with custody of a child under six years of age.

6. Is there free parking?

Parking is free. Please park in the Centroplex II Garage just east of the Orlando Arena (located at the corner of Hughey and Amelia). A map is located on the juror summons. The Lymmo bus will take you to the Orange County Courthouse. The free Lymmo buses run about every 5 minutes during the business hours, and run every 10 minutes after hours.

7. What about lunch?

Lunch is approximately from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. This time is subject to change. It's a good idea to bring money with you to purchase lunch or bring a "brown bag" lunch. There are many restaurants located within walking distance of the courthouse. Please, no alcoholic beverages. For your convenience, the Jury Assembly room is equipped with snack and drink machines.

8. What do I wear?

Please dress appropriately for court. Be comfortable, but neat. Ties and jackets are not required. A good rule to follow is to dress as if it were your case being heard.

9. What about wheelchair access to the courthouse and in courtrooms?

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in any proceeding should contact Court Administration at 425 North Orange Avenue, Room 2130, Orlando, Florida 32801. Telephone (407) 836-2303.

10. What if I do not speak English or have hearing difficulties?

The Court will provide a sign interpreter for individuals with hearing difficulties when requested. If hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. If you do not understand English well enough to follow court proceedings, please contact 836-2303 no later than seven days prior to the summoned date.

11. How are jurors summoned?

The pool of prospective jurors is drawn from the Department of Motor Vehicles list.

12. What number can I be reached at in case of an emergency?

The number you should provide to anyone wishing to contact you while serving on jury duty is 836-2206.

13. What about bad weather?

Unless there is truly severe weather, please make every effort to report for jury duty.

14. Can I bring reading materials and work from my office?

Yes. Feel free to bring reading materials or other work materials.

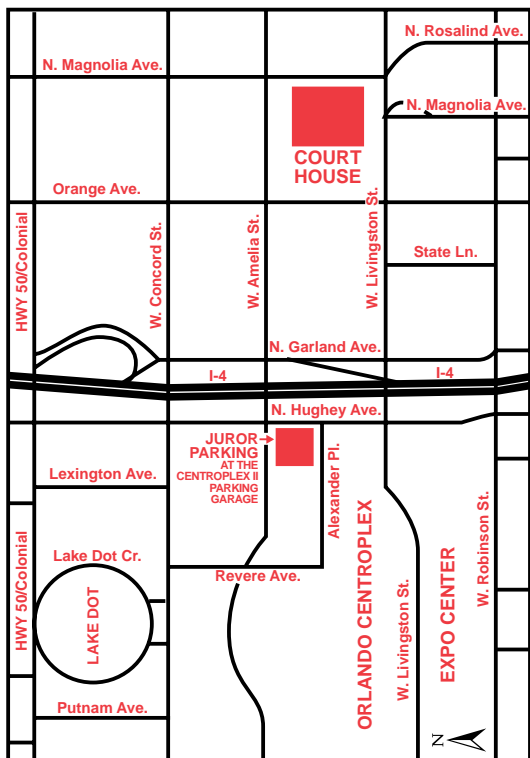
15. What if I ignore my summons for jury duty?

Pursuant to Chapter 40 of the Florida Statutes, any person duly summoned as a juror who fails to attend as directed, without sufficient excuse, shall pay a fine not to exceed \$100.00 and, in addition, may be held in contempt of court.

16. What is the recorded message?

A recorded telephone message provides jurors with specific reporting information including whether or not they will need to show up for jury duty. You must call 836-2048 after 5:00 p.m. on the business day before you are to report. If the telephone message is not operational, report for duty as directed by your summons. If you do not have a touch tone phone or need assistance, please call 836-2206 before 5:00 p.m. on the business day before you are to report.

PARKING



Park in **“CENTROPLEX GARAGE II”** on Alexander Place, just east of the Orlando Arena. Upon entering the garage, please pull a ticket and park on the second floor or above. Ride the “LYMMO” to the courthouse and report to the first floor Jury Assembly room. In order to validate your ticket, please take your ticket with you and present it to the jury staff when reporting for duty.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Jury Room	(407) 836-2206
Hearing Impaired	1-800-955-8771
Recorded Telephone Message	(407) 836-2048
Court Administration	(407) 836-2050

NOTE: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in jury duty, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2130, Orlando, Florida, 32801, Telephone: (407)836-2303 within two (2) working days of receipt of the notice to ensure that reasonable accommodations are available. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.