



JURY SERVICE AND COVID-19

Please do not ignore your Summons for Jury Duty. It is important for you to respond even if you are hesitant to come to the courthouse.

The Delaware Courts appreciate this has been a difficult time in our country and you naturally have some concerns, questions or hesitation to serve as a juror during these times. However, the Court undertook a comprehensive study of how to reopen safely and conferred with health care professionals, including an infectious disease expert, and has implemented public health and safety measures to minimize the risk of infection for jurors and other court users.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ENTER THE COURTHOUSE

- No electronic devices (other than medical)
- No glass bottles
- No metal utensils
- No weapons or cutting tools of any kind
- All bags and packages will be x-rayed
- **No Phones** are allowed in the courthouse

ADDITIONAL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SCREENING PROCEDURES:

Everyone entering the courthouse must:

- Wear a face covering (covering nose and mouth)
- Maintain 6-feet of social distance from others
- Submit to a temperature scan
- Answer “no” to the following questions:

Are you currently experiencing, or have you experienced within the last 14 days, any of the following symptoms that were not due to a known chronic condition such as asthma, sinusitis, or COPD?

- Fever or shaking chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Severe sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches

Within the last 14 days, have you:

- Been in close contact with (i.e. within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) with a person with a confirmed COVID-19 infection?
- Traveled internationally?

If your response to any of these questions is yes or you have a fever exceeding 100 degrees, additional testing and questioning will occur before you will be admitted.

Precautions are being taken to protect the health and wellness of everyone entering the courthouse. Your cooperation is most appreciated. Please:

- Follow the directional arrows as marked throughout the courthouse
- Limit the number of people in an elevator (signs indicating maximum capacity are posted)
- Use touchless hand sanitizer stations that are available throughout the courthouse. **You may also bring your own hand sanitizer if you wish.**
- **Please wear your mask at all times as you move around the courthouse.**

For more information on Delaware's Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) please refer to the information on the Court's website at <https://courts.delaware.gov/aoc/covid-19>, and for more information on the state's response to COVID-19 please visit: <https://coronavirous.delaware.gov>

Jury Trials

Jury Trials are fundamental to our system of justice and an individual's constitutional right to a jury trial does not end during a pandemic. You play a critical role in ensuring that the court can continue its obligations under the law and ensure justice is available to everyone.

We appreciate your willingness to serve, but if you have any concerns about serving as a juror due to COVID-19, you MUST complete the Juror Qualification Questionnaire either online at <https://courts.delaware.gov/juror> or complete and sign the questionnaire form and return it to us in the envelope you received. You must complete the form before the Court will consider any request you may have about your service. If you do not complete the form, you will be required to report for jury duty as scheduled.

To request an excusal or postponement of your jury service, you must provide detailed information regarding the reason why you are unable to serve as a juror at this time. Information regarding the documentation requirements to support some particular request for excusal or postponement is on the reverse side of your Summons for Jury Duty.

The Court will review your request and if your request is granted, a confirmation notice will be mailed to you advising you of your new jury reporting date or confirming your excusal.

If you still have questions regarding your jury service, you can contact Jury Services for your county:

New Castle County

Email: jurynewcastle@delaware.gov

Phone: 302-255-0824

Kent County

Email: jurykent@delaware.gov

Phone: 302-735-1900 Press 1, Ext. 58021

Sussex County

Email: jurysussex@delaware.gov

Phone: 302-855-0755 Press 5

Frequently Asked Questions about Jury Duty and COVID-19

Q I am an essential worker in the healthcare field, how can I be excused?

A You may request an excusal by completing the questionnaire and including a letter from your employer confirming the urgent need for you to remain on the job. Thank you for serving our community.

Q My child's school / daycare is closed; I have no one to watch him. Can I bring him with me?

A Delaware's courthouses do not provide any type of play area or daycare services. The Court does not encourage anyone to leave a small child unattended. Please complete the questionnaire and request an excusal from jury duty at this time. Your excusal request should explain your circumstances.

Q I live with, or am a caregiver for, a family member who is considered a high risk. Can I be excused?

A You may request an excusal by completing the questionnaire and requesting an excusal. Your request should describe the circumstances that make it difficult for you to serve jury duty at this time.

Q Why can't the courts just use volunteers as jurors?

A The Court is unable to accept volunteer jurors because, by Delaware law, jurors' names must be randomly selected from the Motor Vehicle, Voter Registration and State ID lists. Additionally, Delaware law mandates that the Court's jurors be a representation of the community in which they live.

Q I just returned to work after a lengthy COVID-19 related shutdown. I cannot really ask for time off right now. Can I do jury duty next year instead?

A You may request an excusal by completing the questionnaire. Your request should describe the circumstances that make it difficult for you to serve jury duty at this time. We can reschedule your jury duty for a later date.

Q I am very backed up on my bills due to not working during COVID-19 quarantine. I need to go to work.

A The Court does not want jury duty to create a financial hardship for anyone. You may request an excusal by completing the questionnaire and including a letter from your employer that confirms that you do not have paid-time-off for jury duty.

Q I am afraid of being exposed to the Corona Virus and taking it home to my kids. Do I really have to come in?

A The Court recognizes that not everyone is comfortable going into public places at this time. If reporting for jury duty will cause you severe anxiety, please request an excusal by completing the questionnaire and explain your circumstances.

Q Wearing a face mask for any length of time makes me feel claustrophobic. Will I be able to lower my mask if there is no one within six feet of me?

A The current guidelines require that everyone in the courthouse wear a face covering and maintain a 6-foot spacing from others. If you are unable to wear a face covering for the entire time you are at the courthouse, you should ask to be excused or rescheduled. Please put your request in writing and simply explain the reason why you are unable to serve while the COVID-19 related restrictions are in place.

Q Can I serve as a juror if I have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past?

A Yes. As long as it has been 14 days since you tested positive and are having no symptoms, you can serve.