

Glossary of Jury Terms

Coroner's Inquest:

An examination into the causes and events of any death under violent or suspicious circumstances. An inquest is conducted by the Coroner with the assistance of a six to eight person jury.

Grand Jury:

A panel of 16 people sworn to inquire into crime and determine if there is sufficient evidence upon which to base an indictment and require an accused to stand trial.

Trial (Petit) Jury:

Composed of generally 12 people, a petit or trial jury is sworn to hear testimony and render a verdict in a criminal or civil case.

Preemptory Challenge:

The right of each party in a civil or criminal case to excuse a juror without giving a reason. Each side has a limited number of preemptory challenges.

Venire:

The entire panel of citizens called for jury service from which a jury is picked for a particular case.

Voir Dire:

French for "*to speak the truth.*" The process by which prospective jurors are questioned before being selected to sit on a particular case.

This pamphlet courtesy of:

**Circuit Judges
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County, Illinois**

A Message from the Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

The Circuit Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Lake County, Illinois wish to extend their sincere appreciation to all employers for supporting the jury system.

Without your support, the right to a trial by jury guaranteed in the Bill of Rights would cease to exist, and individuals and businesses would lose a fundamental principle upon which we all depend ... justice!

Jury service is a vital function of democracy, and next to our voting privilege, one of the most important duties of citizenship.

Jury service gives citizens the opportunity to see the courts in action and to participate in the fundamental democratic process.

Thank you for keeping our system of justice strong.

Judge John T. Phillips

Chief Judge

Judge James K. Booras

Judge George Bridges

Judge Valerie Boettle Ceckowski

Judge Patricia S. Fix

Judge Mitchell L. Hoffman

Judge Mark L. Levitt

Judge Margaret J. Mullen

Judge Jorge L. Ortiz

Judge Victoria A. Rossetti

Judge Thomas M. Schippers

Judge Daniel B. Shanes

Judge Christopher C. Starck

Judge Jay W. Ukena

Judge Diane E. Winter



Jury Service



INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS

**NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LAKE COUNTY JURY COMMISSION
PHONE: 847.377.4600
TDD: 847.625.7416**



How Jurors are Summoned

To ensure that a representative cross-section of people will be called to serve, potential jurors for Lake County are selected randomly from the following lists:

- › **Licensed Drivers**
- › **Registered Voters**
- › **State Identification Card Holders**
- › **Disabled Person I.D. Card Holders**

In addition to understanding the English language, jurors must also be:

- › **18 Years of Age**
- › **Citizens of the United States**
- › **Residents of Lake County**

Your employee will receive notification four weeks prior to the date that he or she is required to appear at the courthouse. Once called to serve as a juror, your employee will not be required to serve again for at least four years.

No occupation is exempt from jury service. Requests to postpone service to a later date will be considered on an individual basis by the Jury Commission.

Terms of Service

The length of jury service will depend on whether your employee is chosen as a Trial (Petit) juror, Grand juror, or Coroner's juror.

Trial jurors serve for one week, unless a trial to which they are assigned runs longer. When not assigned to a trial, jurors will be on telephone alert and need not report to the courthouse until notified through the Telephone Call-In System. This allows your employee to go about his or her daily business until needed.

Grand jurors serve one day a week for a period of four months. **Coroner's jurors** serve for one or more days during a one week period.

Jury Facts:

- › **Each year, about 25,000 people receive a jury summons.**
- › **Of these 25,000 people approximately 8,000 are actually called to serve.**
- › **Average jury trials lasts 2.3 days**

Telephone Call-In System

To reduce juror waiting time, the court has instituted a Telephone Call-In System. Under this system, people summoned for jury service must call the **Juror Information Line** (249.5879) after 4:15 p.m. on the Friday before they are scheduled to appear.

This 24-hour recorded message will tell your employee if they need to appear the following Monday. During their week of service, jurors must call the Juror Information Line after 11:15 a.m. and after 4:15 p.m. each day they are not sitting on a trial to receive up-to-date instructions.

Juror Reimbursement

Jurors are paid a nominal sum for each day of service, plus a mileage fee. Although not required by state law, many employers continue to pay their employees for time devoted to jury service.

The upper portion of the juror's check (stub) will certify the dates that your employee was present for jury service.

EMPLOYER INFORMATION LINE
Jury Commissioner: 847.377.4600

JUROR INFORMATION LINE
Hours: 847.249.JURY
(847.249.5879)