

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS GENERAL AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION JURY DUTY INFORMATION

PICKAWAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
207 SOUTH COURT STREET
CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113
(740) 474-6026

MATTHEW H. CHAFIN, JUDGE



ALL LOCAL RULES AND FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT WWW.PICKAWAY.ORG

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JURY DUTY INFORMATION

Dear Juror:

As a registered voter of Pickaway County, you have been selected to serve as a petit juror in the Pickaway County Common Pleas Court for an upcoming 3-month term of Court. The Court is located on the 2nd floor of the Pickaway County Courthouse at 207 South Court Street, Circleville.

You have not actually been selected for a specific date yet. When your name is selected, you will be notified by mail of the specific date and time to appear. Jury trials are normally scheduled on Mondays and Thursdays and typically last one or sometimes two days.

Any and all medical excuses, vacation requests and/or requests for discharge from jury duty should be completed on the Juror Excuse Form below and returned with the completed questionnaire in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided.

Please do not request to be permanently excused from jury duty for any other reasons than listed on the Juror Excuse Form below. As Judge of the Pickaway County Common Pleas Court, I am the only person who can excuse a juror, and I cannot excuse you under Ohio law except for the reasons listed below. Please remember only a limited number of jurors are called for specific dates, therefore it is very important that you appear as Ordered. Your summons is a Court Order and any failure to comply with the Order can result in the imposition of sanctions provided under Ohio law. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (740) 474-6026.

Sincerely,
Matthew H. Chafin, Judge

There are four terms of Court per year: January, April, July and October. At each term of Court a new jury panel is selected. Juror names are submitted by the Board of Elections, Pickaway County, Ohio from the voter registration, using a key number that is selected in August of each year. There are 500 names drawn as Petit Jurors and 50 names drawn as Grand Jurors.

Grand Jury is in Session once a month. On occasion, there may be a need for a Special Grand Jury Session during the Term, however, that is very infrequent. At least once during the Grand Jury Term it is necessary that the Grand Jurors inspect the Pickaway County Jail to ensure that the prisoners are receiving adequate treatment. After this tour is completed the Jurors

will reconvene in the Grand Jury Room and submit a written report to the Court. A copy of the Grand Jurors Report is then forwarded to the Pickaway County Commissioners Office for their review.

Petit Jurors are called for jury duty on an as-needed basis. Jurors are only summoned in when there is an actual jury trial scheduled. Petit Jury may consist of a criminal trial or a civil trial. If the case being tried is a criminal case, 12 jurors will be seated with usually one or two alternates. If the case being tried is a civil case, 8 jurors will be seated with one alternate. Most trials (criminal and civil) last two days. However, there are occasions when a trial may take a week, but that is rare.

Jurors are summoned to report for jury duty at 8:30 A.M. The first part of the trial will be the selection of the jury. This is called Voir Dire. Once the jury is seated, usually a 10 minute recess will be taken. Then the Court will commence with Instructions of the Court and opening statements of counsel. Once opening statements are completed, witnesses will be called to the witness stand, and exhibits will be offered during the trial. Once the testimony is completed, the attorneys will make closing arguments, the Court will give the Charge of the Court, and then the jury will commence deliberations. Once the jury has reached a verdict, the foreperson will knock on the jury room door and announce to the Bailiff that the jury has reached a verdict. At that time the jury will be returned to the courtroom, the verdict will be announced, after which the jury will be excused.

The Court usually schedules one 10-minute recess in the morning and one 10-minute recess in the afternoon, with one hour for lunch. The jurors are on their own during the lunch hour.

(For consideration to be excused from jury duty, print out and complete Form A, Excuse from Jury Duty.)

FORM A – JUROR EXCUSE FORM

Return by fax, email, or regular mail.

Fax to: (740) 420-5422

Email to: jury@pickaway.org

Mail to:

Jury Commissioner

Pickaway County Common Pleas Court

207 South Court Street, 2nd Floor

Circleville, Ohio 43113

Name _____ Juror # _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

I claim exemption from jury service because:

- _____ I am no longer a resident of Pickaway County.
(Attach new street address, city, state, zip and phone number.)
- _____ I am a student attending college outside of Pickaway County.
(Attach proof of registration.)
- _____ I have served on jury duty in Common Pleas Court within the previous 12 months.
(Attach last date of jury service.)
- _____ The interest of the public will be materially injured by my attendance.
(Attach detailed explanation.)
- _____ The recent death or dangerous illness of my spouse or near relative (state relationship).
(Attach medical documentation.)
- _____ I am an active member of a cloistered religious organization or a recognized Amish sect.
(Attach detailed explanation.)
- _____ I have a mental or physical condition that renders me incapable of performing jury service.
(Attach Form B, Physician's Release, found on next page)
- _____ Jury service would cause undue or extreme physical or financial hardship.
(Attach detailed explanation.)
- _____ I am over 75 years of age and request to be excused.
(Attach date of birth.)
- _____ I am actively serving in the military
(Attach copy of orders.)

FORM B – PHYSICIAN’S RELEASE FORM

Return by fax, email, or regular mail.

Fax to: (740) 420-5422

Email to: jury@pickaway.org

Mail to:

Jury Commissioner

Pickaway County Common Pleas Court

207 South Court Street, 2nd Floor

Circleville, Ohio 43113

NOTE TO THE PHYSICIAN: Postponing jury service is preferred to excusing a prospective juror. Unless the original summons states that the service cannot be rescheduled, prospective jurors may request a temporary postponement of the jury service for circumstances such as pregnancy, broken bones, surgery, recovery or other temporary conditions. Prospective jurors should contact the Pickaway County Common Pleas Court directly for instructions on rescheduling their original term of service.

I hereby certify that _____ is a patient under my care. This patient suffers

(Please print or type name in full.)

from a physical and/or mental condition that would make service as a juror dangerous to the patient’s health and/or well-being.

Please provide a detailed description of the medical condition and how it would adversely affect this person’s ability to serve on a jury.

Is this condition permanent? *(circle one)* **Yes** **No** Patient’s age: _____

If the condition is temporary, when will the patient be able to serve? *(circle one)*

30 days **60 days** **90 days** Other (please specify) _____

SUBMISSION OF THIS CERTIFICATE TO JUDGE MATTHEW H. CHAFIN, PICKAWAY COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT, CERTIFIES UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, BY THE SUBMITTER, THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Physician’s Signature (Original signature ONLY)

Date

Please print or type your name

Full Address

Phone