

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

The Champaign County Courthouse is CLOSED for regular business. The Court and other offices in the building continue to perform essential functions with limited staff. Jury trials have been suspended until further notice.

These measures are in place to protect your health and safety.

FOR JURORS

Will I be called for jury duty while Governor Pritzker's stay-at-home order is in place?

You may receive your jury summons before the stay-at-home order is lifted, but the date you are required to report for service will fall after authorities have determined that it is safe to proceed with jury trials.

By law, courts must randomly select potential jurors at least 20 days before the day jurors are required to report. Within 5 days of random selection, clerks of courts mail jury summonses to the individuals who have been selected. Because of this requirement for advance notice, some potential jurors will receive their summonses while the courthouse is still closed for regular business.

I received a summons to report for jury duty. What is the court doing to make social distancing possible for jurors?

- The Court takes public health and safety seriously and has implemented aggressive policies to prevent the risk of infection for jurors and other court users.
- Reporting times may be staggered so that fewer people are in one room at the same time.
- Prospective jurors may be directed to report to one of several locations in the courthouse rather than one large room.
- Jury trials will be held in larger courtrooms.
- Voir dire will be conducted in smaller groups.
- Jury deliberations will take place in an adjacent courtroom, which will be used for no other purpose and which will be cleaned and sanitized prior to and after every use.

Will personal protective equipment (PPE) be provided by the court or am I expected to supply my own?

- The Court will supply face masks, but you are welcome to bring your own with you.
- For all other PPE needs, please contact the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) coordinator at (217) 384-0154 to discuss accommodation options.

Will I be required to wear PPE during my service?

- Yes. Until further notice, jurors will be required to wear face masks while they are in the courthouse.

Do I have to sit within six feet of other jurors?

- We will make every effort to enable all citizens reporting for jury duty to maintain a six-foot minimum distance between each other.
- The layout of the courtrooms will make it impossible to maintain a 6-foot distance between all jurors during trials, however.

Will the county provide childcare if I need someone to watch my kids while I serve on jury duty?

- Unfortunately, the county cannot provide childcare.
- If it will create a hardship for you to serve while childcare options are limited due to the coronavirus, you should contact the jury coordinator to discuss available options.

What if I get called back to work after I am called for jury duty? Will I be excused?

- Employers are required to allow employees time off for jury service, but they **do not** have to pay their employees for jury service time off.
- You should talk to your employer about compensation during jury service. If it will create a financial hardship for you to take time off work, you may ask the jury commission to excuse you by attending their monthly meeting.
 - The jury commission meets the third Wednesday of every month, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Will meals be provided?

- Meals are only provided during deliberations.
- At all other times, lunch is on your own. Until we know when restaurants will be allowed to reopen for dine-in service, it is advised that all jurors bring at least a snack with them the first day they report.
- Depending on the circumstances, the Court *may* allow extra time for meal breaks so that jurors can go home to eat lunch.

What if I find out that I or someone I am living with has COVID-19 before or after I am called for jury duty?

- If you or anyone in your household is ill, do not report for jury duty.
- Call the jury coordinator immediately: (217) 531-7408.

What is the estimated length of time for the trial?

- Each trial is different. Unless your jury summons directs you to report for a longer period, you will not need to be on a jury for more than 5 days.

What is the difference between being “excused” from jury duty and being “deferred”?

- If you are unable to serve during the term for which you have been summoned, you may request to have your service *deferred* or postponed to a later date.
 - You are not required to attend a jury commission meeting in order to obtain a deferral.
- To be *excused* means you are removed from the jury pool for the remainder of the calendar year and will not be asked to serve until at least the next year's jury pool has been established.
 - You must attend a meeting of the jury commission to request to be excused. Under limited circumstances, you may be granted a permanent exemption from jury duty. Again, however, this decision is within the discretion of the jury commissioners.

Will I be excused or deferred from jury duty if I am over 60 or if I have an underlying condition making me susceptible to COVID-19?

- Anyone who is a member of a high-risk group as defined by the CDC may have jury service *postponed* to a later date by calling the jury coordinator at (217) 531-7408.
- To be fully excused from jury duty, meaning you will not be summoned to report any time in the future, you must speak with the jury commission at one of their monthly meetings.
 - The jury commission meets the third Wednesday of every month, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

May I be deferred or have my service postponed if I feel uncomfortable serving during the period the coronavirus is active?

- Please call the jury coordinator or the ADA coordinator to discuss any concerns you have about your health and safety while serving as a juror in Champaign County.