

The Court recognizes that a summons for jury duty disrupts your daily schedule and every effort will be made to respect and make the best use of your time.

COURTHOUSE ENTRY & EXIT

- 1 . Jurors-** enter Courthouse through Main Entrance-on Court Street
- 2 . Parking-**Jurors may park around Central Park and other parking areas adjacent to the Courthouse without fear of ticketing. Honesdale Borough refrains from ticketing cars parked in the general vicinity of the Courthouse during trial terms. If chosen as a jury member, a parking pass is provided for future concerns.
- 3 . Handicap entrance-**Prospective jurors requiring physical assistance enter the Courthouse through the Handicap entrance in the Courthouse Annex behind the Main Courthouse entrance. Court employees will be available to answer questions and offer assistance.
- 4 . Security Issues:** Prospective Jurors will be subject to entrance via metal detection. Jurors are asked not to bring cell phones, pagers, laptops, weapons or any unnecessary metal objects that would impede the entry process.

QUALIFICATIONS OF JURORS (PA. C.S.A. §4501)

1. Must be of required minimum age for voting (18)
2. Must be a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Wayne County.
3. Must be able to read, write, speak and understand the English language
4. Must not have a mental or physical infirmity which would render him/her incapable of efficient jury service
5. Must not have been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year (felony or misdemeanor 1 or 2) unless a pardon has been granted

Jurors are selected by elected juror commissioners who select names from various sources including voter registration, tax roles and, most recently, licensed drivers over the age of 18 residing in Wayne County. The Jury Commissioners alternate selections from townships and boroughs throughout the County to insure equal representation and selection from all municipalities within the County.

JUROR SERVICE



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Wayne County Court of Common Pleas

22nd Judicial District

Hon. Raymond L. Hamill, President Judge

Linus H. Myers, Court Administrator

JUROR SERVICE

An important responsibility of a citizen in a democratic society is serving as a member of a jury. A defendant in a criminal trial and parties in civil actions are entitled to having their cases heard by a jury of their peers. Your participation in the process is the hinge pin upon which the civil and criminal justice system revolve.

Serving on a jury panel is a valuable civic **obligation**. The only statutory exclusions for jury service are:

1. Unable to read, write speak and understand English.
2. Incapable of rendering jury service due to mental or physical infirmity (allowing for ADA standards)
3. Those convicted of crimes punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year. (Any felony or Misdemeanor 1 or 2).

Prior law enforcement employment or experience does **not** automatically excuse you from service.

SELECTION PROCESS

If you are called for Jury duty, you will be asked to initially report for one (1) day. All juries will be selected that day and if you are not chosen for any jury, your service is complete.

If you are selected for a jury, you will be given written instructions and a phone number to call each evening to check on the scheduling of your trial. All trials will be heard during the two-week trial term. Most criminal and civil trials last only 1-3 days and the workday runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In most cases, if selected as a juror you will serve on only one trial. However depending on the number of prospective jurors appearing and the number of cases to be heard, there is the possibility of sitting on more than one trial. The Court will attempt to accommodate most reasonable requests to be excused however excusals are determined by the nature of the excuse, the amount of business and available jurors

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MAY NOT BE POSSESSED DURING JURY SERVICE AND WILL BE KEPT FOR JURORS BY COURT STAFF IF BROUGHT.

VOIR DIRE ???

The process of *voir dire* or “to speak the truth” is the questioning process in which attorneys ask a variety of questions to prospective jurors in order to select an objective and impartial jury. There are no right or wrong answers. Questions are asked to the body of prospective jurors and rarely (except in death penalty cases) are jurors examined, personally and in depth regarding their personal attitudes. The questions are generic and usually deal with:

- Your familiarity with the parties, counsel or knowledge of the crime or civil action.
- Whether you have had similar experiences as the parties involved in the case to be tried.

Jurors are paid \$9/ day for each day served increasing to \$25/ day after the third day. Jurors receive 17¢/ mile mileage reimbursement to and from your home.

*Jury Commissioners
Judy Romich, Patricia Biondo.*