

Rusk County Jury Orientation

(Please Retain for Future Use)

The material in this handout is general information only. It is hoped that this information will assist you in performing your duty and promote a better understanding of what is expected of you as a Rusk County juror.

COUNTY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

1. Your name has been provided to us through a random selection by the Department of Transportation. Under Wisconsin Law, jurors are eligible to serve for one month. You **MUST** report to the Courthouse for all summoned dates that you receive unless you are instructed otherwise. If you are selected for a jury panel, you will serve until the case is done. If you are not selected you are usually excused within one or two hours. Most trials only last one day. When a trial does last longer, the Judge usually adjourns so that you can return home each day at a reasonable hour.
2. Jurors are summoned to Court via mail. Jurors may receive several notices for different dates to appear and you need to be aware that you must appear in Court every day for which you receive summons. **When you receive this notice and you have a scheduled vacation or appointment, please contact this office as soon as possible.** If you are unable to serve due to a health problems, you must have your doctor send a letter to this office.

YOU MUST CALL THE CLERK OF COURT OFFICE AT 715-532-2108 THE EVENING BEFORE YOU ARE TO APPEAR, AFTER 5:00 PM. YOU WILL RECEIVE A RECORDED MESSAGE AS TO WHETHER THE TRIAL IS ON OR OFF AND WHETHER YOU SHOULD APPEAR.

3. If the trial does go as scheduled, please report to the Clerk of Court's Office on the third floor of the courthouse and sign in so that you will get paid.
4. Jurors are paid \$10 for a half-day and \$20 for a full-day of service. Mileage is reimbursed at \$.51 per mile round trip.
5. Meals are usually paid by the county for a full day of service.
6. If you inquire about the case with the court staff, and their answers seem vague, we apologize; however, we are not allowed to discuss the case with jurors. The most the court can tell you is the anticipated length of trial.

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Your Duty as a Juror

As a juror you are in a position of responsibility and expected to conduct yourself in such a way that no one may question your impartiality and integrity. Some simple rules to follow are:

- Be prompt.
- Listen carefully.
- Keep an open mind.
- Do not discuss the case until you are told to do so by the Judge.
- Do not read, listen or research on computers as outside media accounts might present biased or unbalanced evaluation of the case. Such accounts might then influence your future evaluation of the facts.
- Do not talk to anyone related to the case.
- Control your emotions. You may be confronted with exhibits or testimony which makes you uncomfortable. Be prepared. You should not show any visual or audible expressions that you have been affected.
- Report any violations of these rules to a member of the court staff or to the judge outside the hearing of any other juror.

The most important qualifications of the juror are fairness and impartiality. You must lay aside all bias and prejudice. You are the foundation of our judicial system, and your actions and decisions should reflect this important role.

If you have any further questions, please consult with the court staff.

Honorable Steven P. Anderson
Circuit Court Judge

Lori Gorsegner
Clerk of Circuit Court

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