

(FAQ's Continued)

Q: *Why is there so much waiting time?*

A: In most cases the judge and lawyers are dealing with issues that would compromise a jurors impartiality. Often, the mere presence of a jury facilitates a much quicker and less costly resolution of the case.

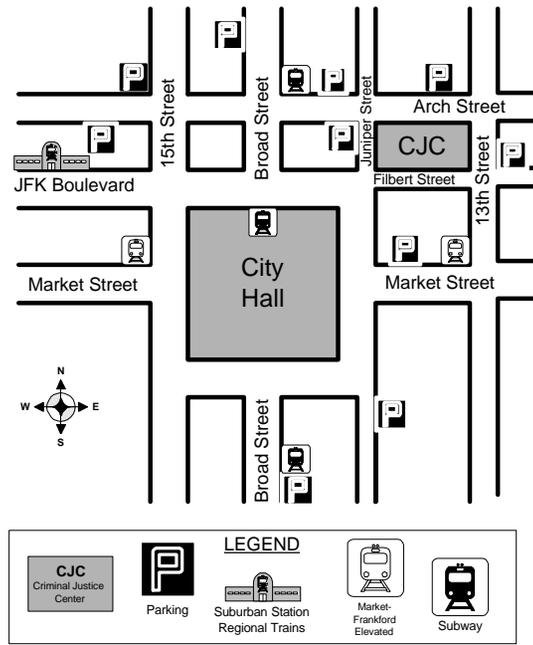
Q: *How do I get picked for a trial?*

A: After you register at the Jury Assembly Room (Room 101, Criminal Justice Center), you will likely be assigned to a jury panel and escorted to a court room by a Court Officer. In the court room you will be questioned by the trial judge and the trial attorneys (This is called *voir dire*). Based on your answers and the impressions you make, you may be selected to sit as a juror on that trial. If you are not selected, you will return to the Jury Assembly Room where you may be assigned to another jury panel and repeat the process. If, by the end of the day, you have not been selected to sit as a juror in a trial, you will be paid and dismissed.

EMPLOYER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Court wishes to extend our deepest appreciation to all public and private employers who support the jury system. Without your support and cooperation, our ability to provide a basic right of citizenship would not be possible.

CENTER CITY TRANSPORTATION



*Court of Common Pleas
Hon. C. Darnell Jones, II
President Judge
Room 386, City Hall*

*Trial Division
Hon. D. Webster Keogh
Administrative Judge
Room 516, City Hall*

*Jury Selection Commission
Roger Gordon, Esq.
Jury Commissioner
Room 204, Criminal Justice Center*

*Comments or Questions?
Please call the Jury Commission at
(215) 683-7170
or
e-mail: jury@courts.phila.gov*

First Judicial District of Pennsylvania



JURY SERVICE IN PHILADELPHIA

The Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas is fully committed to the constitutional right of every citizen to have their disputes resolved by a jury of their peers. This brochure was prepared to encourage participation in the jury process by addressing many commonly asked questions.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: *How did I get picked for jury service?*

A: From a combined list of registered Philadelphia voters and adult licensed drivers, the required number of jurors for a particular day are randomly selected by computer and summoned to appear for jury duty.

Q: *How often must I serve?*

A: If a person serves for one or two days, they need not serve again for a period of one year. If service is for three or more days, the exemption period is three years.

Q: *Why have some people never been called for jury service and I've been called more than once?*

A: As mentioned earlier, selection is a random process. As such, there is always the chance that a person may never be called while another may be called several times. It is truly the "luck of the draw". However, if your name appears one way on the voter list and another way on your driver's license, your chances of being called increase. The court is not permitted to make changes to these lists.

Q: *How long will I be required to serve?*

A: You will be required to serve as a juror for one day or if selected to sit on a trial, you will be required to serve for the length of that trial.

Q: *Will I get paid for serving as a juror?*

A: Yes. Jurors are paid \$9.00 per day for the first three days of jury service and \$25.00 per day for every day thereafter. You will receive a check at the end of your jury service.

Q: *Does my employer have to pay me for time missed from work due to jury service?*

A: Under Pennsylvania law, an employer is not required to pay persons during their period of jury service. However, an employer may not fire you or otherwise harm you for responding to a summons.

Q: *What if the date I'm called to serve is not convenient?*

A: Merely ask for a postponement on the questionnaire and return it to the Jury Commission. You can even pick your date of service.

Q: *What should I bring when I report?*

A: You should bring the summons portion of the questionnaire with you. Also, you may bring something to read during waiting periods.

Q: *What if I fail to return the questionnaire or report for service?*

A: You may be required to appear in court and you could be held in contempt and fined. However, by making jury service as flexible as possible, we hope to avoid using this power.

Q: *What should I wear?*

A: Casual attire should be worn as long as it is in keeping with the dignity of court proceedings. Ties are not required. Slacks, sport shirts, and casual dresses are all appropriate.

Q: *Where can I park?*

A: There are numerous parking lots convenient to the Criminal Justice Center. However, parking is expensive. The Criminal Justice Center is located near stops on the Broad Street Subway (City Hall), the Frankford Market Elevated (13th Street), and Septa Commuter Rail Lines (Market East or Suburban Station)