

Only in
EXTREME EMERGENCIES
will deferments be
granted to jurors the week of their jury service.



CLAYTON COUNTY TAKES JURY DUTY SERIOUSLY!



Those who are deemed eligible to serve & yet neglect their civic duty may have a contempt case filed against them. Punishments rendered in the past have included an imposed fine, jail time (or a combination of both) **and** the individuals were still required to serve on jury duty.

JUROR REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a Clayton County resident
2. Must be 18 years of age or older
3. Must be a United States citizen

Georgia Law O.C.G.A. 15-12-10 states, "If any person is drawn as a juror and duly summoned to appear as such at court, or summoned as a tales juror, and neglects or refuses to appear, or if any juror absents himself or herself without leave of the court, said neglect, refusal, or absence may, after notice and hearing, be punished as contempt of court. "

Please keep your personal items with you at all times. The Clerk's Office nor any county department is responsible for lost or stolen items.

IMPORTANT!

- *Are you a current resident of Clayton County?
NO? Please go to the window immediately.
- *Are you a United States citizen?
NO? Please go to the window immediately.
- *Are you 70 years of age and do not want to serve?
YES? Please go to the window.
- *Have you been convicted of a felony & your civil rights have NOT been restored?
YES? Please go to the window immediately.

The "Do's" of Jury Duty:

- ◆ Do be on time and prepared to still until 5:00 p.m.
- ◆ Do pay close attention to instructions
- ◆ Do respect those around you
- ◆ Do have all electronic devices (including phones) turned off or on silent while in courtroom
- ◆ Do appreciate the honor & privilege of serving as a juror.

The Don'ts of Jury Duty:

- ◆ Don't wear shorts, uniforms, or clothing too revealing or inappropriate
- ◆ Don't be late (You could be held in contempt!)
- ◆ Don't ask when you'll be leaving. You will know when we know.
- ◆ Don't try to get out of jury duty. The law allows very few excuses & we are obligated to uphold the law.



Clayton County Jury Division 770-477-3400
Jury Instruction Line 678-479-5335 (Call only if instructed to do so; information is updated only as needed.)
For information regarding closures/ delays in opening due to weather, tune in to WSB-TV for official announcement.



Understanding JURY DUTY in Clayton County, Georgia

Superior Court Judges:

Honorable Robert L. Mack (Chief Judge)
Honorable Geronda V. Carter
Honorable Shana Rooks Malone
Honorable Aaron B. Mason
Honorable Jewel Scott

State Court Judges:

Honorable Michael T. Garrett (Chief Judge)
Honorable Tammi Hayward
Honorable Margaret Spencer
Honorable Shalonda Jones-Parker
Honorable Sonyja George

Clerk of Superior Court:

Chanae Q. Clemons

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT ON THE FIRST MORNING?



You will check in with a Clerk's office staff member. (Make sure you have a picture ID with you.) You'll be given a debit card which will be funded with your compensation at the end of your service. You'll also be provided a barcode which will be used to check in the remainder of your service.

Some of the judges will come and speak with the jurors on the first morning. The judges will explain the important role jurors play as well as what takes place in preparation of a jury trial. After the judges leave for their courtroom, the Clerk of Superior Court will be on hand to answer any questions not covered by this pamphlet.

You will remain in the Jury Assembly Room until a judge and the parties involved in a case are ready for jurors to be questioned.

HOW DOES JURY DUTY WORK? Our office remains on standby with all of the judges hearing cases this week. When a judge is ready for jurors, a call will be placed to our office indicating what type of case is to be heard (civil or criminal) and how many jurors are requested. At that time, we input the information into the computer & a list of jurors is randomly selected. Those jurors are taken to a courtroom where they'll be questioned as a group and, possibly, individually. The answers you gave on your questionnaire are provided to the court at this time.

The attorneys representing both parties will then make their selection of jurors. If you are chosen as a juror for that case, you will need to follow all instructions given to you by the judge until the case is concluded. The judge will tell you when and where to report. **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU REPORT AS INSTRUCTED!**

If you are not chosen to serve on that case, you will return to the Jury Assembly room and wait for further instructions.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT THIS WEEK? Every week is different. There can be one judge or up to ten judges hearing cases within a week. Clayton County does NOT operate on the one day/ one trial system. **Jurors are summoned for the entire week and should make provisions to be here all week; however, you may or may not be required to report each day.** Jurors will be given instructions each day as to what they are to do the following day. You are to resume your normal routine (for example, report to work) on the days you are not required to appear for jury duty. Your certificate of service will list only those dates which you are required to appear for jury duty. Your certificate of service will list only those dates which you are required to appear in person.

WHAT TYPES OF CASES ARE HEARD BY JURORS?

Jurors may be selected on civil and/or criminal cases. A civil case involves one person suing another person. Civil cases can arise from a divorce, a car accident, a failure to abide by a contract, or any type of dispute where a money judgment is requested. A criminal case involves the State of Georgia bringing charges against someone for violating the law. Examples of criminal cases include driving under the influence, possession of marijuana, forgery, burglary, murder. If you are chosen to serve as a juror, the judge will explain your responsibilities & what the legal requirements are in reaching a verdict.

WHEN WILL WE BREAK FOR LUNCH? Normally the lunch break is from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. for those jurors in the Jury Assembly room. If you are in a courtroom, the judge will dismiss you for lunch at their discretion.

Restrooms are located in the Jury Assembly Room in the hallway next to the vending area.

WHY WERE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE? The questions on the questionnaire are general questions that attorneys ask during jury selection in most trials. None of the questions are meant to be invasive; but it is important for the attorneys to have as much basic information as they can about those individuals selected who will determine the outcome of their case.

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WHEN WILL I BE PAID & CAN I GET DOCUMENTATION FOR MY EMPLOYER STATING I WAS HERE? You will be given a debit card on your first day of service. When your service is completed, the debit card will be loaded with \$25.00 for each day that you were required to appear whether you are selected as a juror or not. A certificate of service will be given to you on your last day of service and will list the dates you have been required to appear for jury duty. *NOTE* Any attempt to alter the certificate of service in ANY way may constitute a criminal act which will be prosecuted.

I AM NOT GETTING PAID BY MY EMPLOYER WHILE ON JURY DUTY. CAN I BE EXCUSED? According to Georgia law, this is not a valid reason to excuse or defer a juror.

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CAN I LEAVE IF I NEED TO OR STOP REPORTING FOR JURY DUTY? No. Each juror is vital to the court system. Jurors who are absent or unaccounted for cause great delay & may be held in contempt of court.

What if?

- **I DON'T UNDERSTAND OR SPEAK ENGLISH.** You still must serve. Georgia law doesn't allow you to be excused.
- **MY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS PREVENT ME FROM JUDGING OTHERS.** According to Georgia law, this is not a valid reason to excuse or defer a juror.
- **I HAVE AN EMERGENCY THIS WEEK.** If you are unable to report because of an emergency, please call 770-477-3400 as soon as you can.