



Jury Duty

Your Part in the Administration of Justice in Tasmania

You have been selected as a potential juror and may be chosen to serve as a juror. As this could be a new experience for you the following information may help you to understand and appreciate your responsibilities in performing this civic duty. By means of the jury the people of the community participate directly in criminal and civil trials. Although it may at times be personally inconvenient it is an important civic obligation.

On behalf of the judges I thank you for your contribution to the justice system and welcome you to the Court.

The Honourable Justice
Ewan Charles Crawford

Chief Justice



HOBART

Salamanca Place, Hobart
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Facsimile: 03 6223 4258
Jury Message: 1800 657 232

LAUNCESTON

Cameron Street, Launceston
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www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au

Supreme Court of Tasmania 2008



Supreme Court of Tasmania

Jury Duty

Do I have to do jury service?

Yes, unless you have good reason or are disqualified or otherwise ineligible or you are unable to carry out your duties as a juror because of illness or you do not understand the English language well enough for this purpose.



Supreme Court of Tasmania Jury Duty



Disqualification

Persons who have committed serious offences or have been in prison for three years or more or who are currently in prison on remand or under a court order are disqualified from performing jury service.

Ineligibility

Some people are not allowed to do jury service because of the work they do. This includes people who work in the justice system, eg practising lawyers etc.

Good Reason

Persons could be temporarily or permanently excused where it is impractical for them to serve as a juror. This could include illness, family responsibilities, religious beliefs, planned overseas holidays, work commitments.

Age

Persons over 70 can be excused from jury service either temporarily or on a permanent basis. They are, however, welcome to serve.

What should I do if I am ineligible, disqualified or wish to be excused from jury service?

You will need to fill in the declaration form on the reverse of the summons and post it or deliver it to the Sheriff's Office as soon as possible – please do not leave this until the time you are required to attend as we need to replace you.

How was I selected?

You were randomly selected from the electoral roll. Being selected is like a lottery – some people are called a few times during their lifetime, while others may never be called to serve as a juror.

Does work have to release me?

Yes, you should notify your employer as soon as possible that you are required for jury service.

How long will jury service last?

You are on call for jury service for a period of up to three weeks. However, if you are on a trial that has not finished at the end of the three week period you will be required to continue until the end of the trial.

Will I be required every day?

No. There may be days when you are not selected for a trial. You will find out whether you will be required for jury selection by telephoning a number that will be given to you when you attend on the first day.

What are the normal hours?

Courts usually sit from 10.00am until 4.00pm from Monday to Friday. Lunch is between 12.45pm and 2.15pm. In rare cases sittings may go longer. Jurors are free to return home at night unless the judge directs that the jury be kept together overnight while considering their verdict.

What happens if I do not turn up?

Jury service is compulsory. Any person who receives a notice to serve as a juror and does not attend (without being deferred or excused by the Sheriff) is liable to be arrested and brought before the Court.

How much do I get paid?

Jurors who are currently in employment will receive some compensation for their loss of wages and jurors who are not in current employment will receive a base rate depending on the length of jury service. In addition, you will be entitled to reasonable travelling expenses, child minding and parking fees. A meal allowance is paid if you are empanelled on a jury. Full details of payment rates are available on the Supreme Court website. (www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au)

Are meals supplied?

No, except when the jury is considering its verdict.

What can I do with my children?

You can organise childcare for your children and be reimbursed for reasonable costs incurred outside your normal childcare arrangements.

Where can I park my car?

No parking facilities are supplied by the court. If you choose to park your car in a parking station, reasonable costs will be reimbursed. Please ensure you keep receipts. Please do not leave your car on a parking meter, as you may have no opportunity to leave the court during the day.

Where do I go on the first day?

You will need to go to the court location specified on your jury service notice. See the address on the last page. When you arrive you will go through a security system similar to airport security where you and your bags will be searched for any metal devices. This is to ensure the safety of everyone in the courts.

What should I wear/What should I bring?

There are no formal dress requirements. However, most jurors wear neat comfortable clothes. You do not need to bring anything with you for jury service. Please leave any metal items at home. If you forget, for the safety of everyone in the court, the Sheriff's Officers will look after these items for you. They will return them to you at the end of the day.

What happens when I attend?

On arrival a court official will explain the various administrative aspects required for your jury service and will answer any questions you may have.

How is a jury selected?

From the persons assembled for jury service, names will be drawn at random. If your name is called you should answer and take your place in the jury box. The accused and the Crown have a right to nominate that they do not wish certain potential jurors to serve on the jury.

No reason need be given for this. If you are challenged or asked to stand aside you leave the jury box and take a seat in the back of the court room. The fact that you may be challenged or stood aside is not a personal reflection upon you; it may be for any number of reasons. The selection process continues until twelve jurors have been finally selected and taken the juror's oath or affirmation.

If you are stood aside or challenged, this does not necessarily mean that you will not be required for another trial so please do not think that you need not attend should this occur.