

[Texas Uniform Jury Handbook](#) - Available for jurors serving in a civil and/or criminal case to help promote the understanding of jury service and their role in a jury.

FAQ

Is jury service mandatory?

The United States Constitution and the Texas State Constitution guarantee the right to trial by jury. State law obligates all qualified residents to serve as a juror.

The also law says that failure to report for jury service carries a penalty of up to \$1000 fine, and in some instances, the judge can hold you in contempt of court and order jail confinement.

What if I qualify for an [exemption](#) or [disqualification](#)?

If you claim an exemption or disqualification, then you are excused and will **not** have to appear on your summons date.

Where does the district clerk office obtain names of prospective jurors?

Jurors are randomly selected from a compiled list of Fisher County residents whose names are annually furnished by the county's elections/voter registration office and Texas Department of Public Safety.

I can no longer fulfill my duties as a juror. Can you permanently delete my name from your records?

State law does not allow us to permanently remove you from our records unless you are 75 years of age or older, or no longer reside in Fisher County.

How do I request a postponement from jury service?

A juror may request to be postponed by calling 325/ 776-2279

Can my employer prevent me from serving as a juror?

State law prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee for taking time off to serve as a juror.

Note to employers: Pursuant to Civil Practice and Remedies Code Sec122.001 Juror's Right to Reemployment; Notice of intent to Return.

A. A private employer may not terminate the employment of a permanent employee because an employee serves as a juror.

B. An employee whose employment is terminated in violation of this section is entitled to return to the same employment that the employee held when summoned for jury service if the employee, as soon as practical after release for jury service, gives the employer actual notice that the employee intends to return.

How long will I serve as a Petit juror?

If you are selected as a juror to participate in a trial, the trial will begin immediately after jury selection unless otherwise ordered by the judge. Your jury service will end when the trial is completed. If you are not selected as a juror, your service will be finished at the end of jury selection on the date you appear.

How long will I serve as a Grand Juror?

In Fisher County, Grand Jurors serve for a Term which consists of four months. Each month, if notified to come in, they meet on a designated morning. Attendance is required until all matters have been presented and heard. Your service ends at the end of said Term.

Do I get paid for my jury services?

You will receive your payment from the Fisher County Treasurer on your arrival. If you are chosen during a Selection process, you may collect your pay from the Treasurer after being released that day.

Can I bring food or drink?

Food or drink are not allowed in the Courtroom. Water is provided in the Jury room.

Are business and economic reasons a valid reason to be excused from jury service?

No. State law does not allow a person to be excused for economic or business reasons. Hardships or concerns may be addressed in the court to which you are assigned.

Can a person serve as a juror if he/she has a misdemeanor theft or felony?

A person is **disqualified** if they have been convicted of misdemeanor theft or a felony; or is under indictment or other legal accusation for misdemeanor theft or a felony **unless:**

- the person has successfully completed a deferred adjudication,
- the person has completed a term of probation and the conviction has been dismissed under Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 42.12, § 20

If the person is currently serving a term of deferred adjudication supervision for a felony or misdemeanor theft, they are **disqualified** because they are still under the legal accusation.

What should I wear to report to jury service?

All persons entering the court are to be dressed appropriately. Sleeveless shirts, shorts, excessively baggy pants, sunglasses, hats of any kind, and flip-flop shoes **will not be allowed** in the courtroom. Clothing with pictures, suggestive language or depictions are **prohibited**. Business casual is acceptable. Nice jeans are also allowed. Final approval of appropriate dress will be determined by court personnel.

What if I have health issues that prevent me from attending?

Fisher County can try to accommodate anyone with a medical problem or a disability to help them complete their jury service. Please call 325/ 776-2279.

If asking to be excused for a medical/ health issue or disability, a juror must present a **Juror Disability & Medical Certification Form** to their physician to be completed and returned to our office. Otherwise, the juror's name will be placed back in the jury pool for summons in the near future.

Certification forms can be mailed to District Clerk P.O. box 88 Roby, Texas or brought to the District Clerk's Office in the Courthouse.

WARNING: BEWARE OF TELEPHONE SCAM

Criminals, posing as county court or law enforcement officials, are calling victims to collect fines for failing to appear for jury service. In most cases the impersonator(s) instruct their victims to pay the “fine” by using prepaid debit cards.

We have received phone calls from Fisher County residents who are upset and inquiring after resolving a warrant.

Our Office doesn’t call anyone or mail out any documents that would require you to pay fines over the telephone, via use of a pre-paid card, or disclose your credit card information in an insecure manner.

If you receive any notices or phone calls making these claims and requesting payment, call our office 325/ 776-2279. If you are able, come into our office.

While the law does provide for a fine of \$100 to \$500 for failing to appear for jury service, no law enforcement official will ever contact potential jurors over the phone to demand they make a payment. Only through normal court proceedings can a judge order a potential juror either be arrested or pay a fine for failing to comply with the law.

County residents are asked to be vigilant and to help stop this type of criminal activity by reporting similar incidents.

To avoid becoming a victim of these scams remember:

- You can only be ordered to pay a jury fine by a judge through court proceedings.
- District court or law enforcement officials will never ask for credit or debit card information over the phone.
- District court and law enforcement officials will never threaten arrest for not making a payment over the phone.

Hon. Gina Pasley, District Clerk

Fisher County, Texas