

VIGO CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURTS
OFFICE OF JURY ADMINISTRATION

33 South Third Street, Courthouse

Terre Haute, IN 47807



Jury Service in the Era of Coronavirus

Dear Potential Jurors:

It is important that you completely and accurately complete all of the questionnaires. We are mindful of these challenging times and will take every reasonable precaution to safeguard your health as well as that of the parties, lawyers and Court staff during this upcoming trial. If you are selected to report for jury duty, you will be directed to a location for jury selection which can accommodate social distancing. Trials will take place in the Courthouse. We want to assure you that every reasonable precaution will be taken at both locations to safeguard the health and safety of the jury, the parties, the lawyers and the Court staff during jury selection and the jury trial to follow.

Please be aware that the right to trial by jury is one of the cornerstones of our democracy, and jury trials necessarily involve sacrifice from those citizens called upon to serve. This has always been true, but it is especially true during these unique and trying times. It is our belief that jury service is one of the highest forms of public service that any American can perform. The right to trial by jury has been enshrined within the U.S. Constitution since 1791, and it was one of the stated principles in the Declaration of Independence which fueled our struggle to become an independent nation. Only those with extreme hardships should seek to be excused from jury duty.

Please be aware of the following:

1. Each prospective juror will have their temperature taken through non-invasive means to ensure that no one with a fever or an elevated temperature is admitted;
2. Maintain proper social distancing from other jurors;
3. Each prospective juror will also pass through a security screening as they enter the building. **LEAVE ALL BAGS AND PURSES LOCKED IN YOUR CAR;**
4. Once you enter the building and pass through the initial temperature and security screening you will be checked in and seated by Court Staff to achieve the maximum distancing possible;

5. Face coverings will be required of everyone entering the building. You may wear your own face covering; however, if you do not have your own, one will be provided for you;
6. Gloves will be available for those who wish to wear them; however, they are not required;
7. Smartphones, iPads or similar electronic devices should be left outside and locked in your car;
8. Hand sanitizer (alcohol based) will be available to you;
9. Those selected to serve on a jury should know that the jurors will be spaced throughout the courtroom to achieve maximum distancing between jurors during the trial;
10. The courtroom will be cleaned each evening when the Court recesses, and this will continue throughout the trial;
11. Individual lunches will be provided to the selected jurors during each day of the trial to minimize any travel in and out of the Courthouse and to minimize juror's interaction at local restaurants.

If you: (a) have been diagnosed by a licensed physician as having Coronavirus anytime within the past 30 days; (b) are actively caring for a family member or loved one who has tested positive for the Coronavirus; or (c) are now in self-quarantine status and that status will continue on the date you're directed to report, then you should immediately advise Lorie Larr, the Court's Jury Administrator, at 812-462-3203. She may ask you to furnish documentation regarding such from your physician for the Court's records.

We hope this letter is helpful and informative.

Respectfully,

The Judges of Vigo County Superior Courts