

What to Expect When You Are Selected For Jury Duty

You have received your jury summons, which states that you have been selected by law to act as an officer of this court by serving as a juror. As citizens of South Carolina and of the United States, each of us has an obligation to make a contribution to the judicial system. Your role as juror, as the "judge" of facts, will require you to carry out your duties attentively, intelligently and fairly.

When you first receive your summons for jury duty, read through the summons, the disqualifications, exemptions, and reasons to be excused from service. Information will be listed on the front and back of your summons.

Please call the court's jury status update line to check the status of the trial date you have been summoned to appear. **We now provide two numbers for your assistance: 843-569-4228 or 843-569-4233.** The recorded message will be updated through 5 pm the day before your summons.

You have been provided with a list of disqualifications, exemptions and excuses along with your summons. Please review each of these carefully. If you feel that one of these applies to you, you must provide proof of the situation by faxing, emailing, mailing, or dropping off in person to the Court. **Only those who are 65 years of age or older may call to use their exemption. All other requests must be in writing with attached proof.**

Jury duty is held at the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center. The building is located at 519 N. Goose Creek Blvd., which is also Hwy. 52. You should arrive no later than 9:15 am and do not need to arrive any earlier than that since the trial does not start until 9:30 am.

Check in with the bailiff when you arrive. You will not need to bring your jury summons with you, however it is helpful to the bailiff. You must also bring photo identification with you.

Mitigating Inconvenience

Every reasonable effort will be made by the court to make your service as a juror comfortable and with as little inconvenience as possible; however plan accordingly before coming to court as you may be in court for quite some time. Cases set for trial may be postponed or settled just as they are scheduled to begin, which can cause delays.

Please help the court operate more smoothly by being patient and cooperative and by being on time as instructed. It may happen that during your service as juror you may never be called upon to actually sit in on the trial or a case; but your very presence and availability as a juror is a contribution of great importance.

Frequently Asked Questions for Jurors

Why did I get selected as a juror?

Jurors are randomly selected by computer program from a database that is compiled each year by the South Carolina Election Commission and the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. It is based on your address at the time that the database is compiled.

How long will jury service take?

In Goose Creek Municipal Court, your service as a juror will last no longer than one day. Please be prepared to spend the entire work day at the courthouse. However, it is important to note that most

cases will be finished by shortly after lunch time if not prior to lunch time. It is rare that a case will take the entire day. If you are required to be there for an extended period, you will be allowed breaks as often as needed and will be allowed to leave for lunch.

Can I bring

Please do not bring beverages, electronic devices other than cell phones, or any third parties with you. Third parties will not be allowed to stay with you if you are selected for a jury and will have to remain in the public areas of the courthouse.

Will I be allowed to use my phone?

Phones must be turned off or put on silent while in the courtroom. If you are selected for a jury, you will be given the opportunity to call to inform anyone who needs to know. You will then need to turn your phone off during the trial and until you are released from service. If there is an emergency where someone needs to contact you while your phone is off, they can call the Goose Creek Municipal Court and speak to clerk staff at 843-569-4230.

What if I ignore my summons or just forget?

If you do not appear and have not been excused from service, you will receive a Rule to Show Cause summons from the Court to appear on another date. At that time, you will have to provide information to the Court as to why you did not appear. Failure to appear for jury service can result in you being found in Contempt of Court, which carried a penalty of up to 30 days in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1087.50.

Why is it important that I appear for jury service?

Other than the potential of being found in contempt, it is important that you appear because without jurors the cases cannot be tried. Every person charged with a criminal offense is entitled to a trial by a jury of their peers. This is one of our most important constitutional rights and it is not possible to move these cases without citizens who are willing to serve as jurors.