

FAQs for Florida Jury Duty

What Are The Qualifications For Serving On A Jury?

You must be at least 18, a citizen of the United States, a resident of Florida, and you must have a valid driver license (§ 40.01, Fla. Stat.), or identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor vehicle or an executed affidavit as prescribed in (§ 40.011 Fla. Stat.).

If You Are Called For Jury Duty, Will You Always Serve As A Juror?

No. More people are called than will be chosen as jurors. People may be excused from a jury by the judge or one of the attorneys for a variety of reasons. However, a prospective juror may not be struck from a jury for any reason based on a protected class (women, minorities, hearing impaired).

Who Will Be Excused From Jury Duty?

The judge will excuse a governor, lieutenant governor, a cabinet officer, a sheriff, a deputy, a municipal police officer, a clerk of the court or a judge. A judge will also excuse a person who is involved in the case, who is physically incapacitated, or who is being prosecuted for a crime or has been convicted of certain crimes unless the individual's civil rights have been restored.

In addition, the judge may excuse other persons upon showing of hardship, extreme inconvenience, or public necessity; a person 70 years of age or older; a person who has served as a juror in any court in his or her county within one year; a person who is responsible for the care of a person with certain disabilities, an expectant mother; or a parent of a child under age six who is not employed full-time (§ 40.013, Fla. Stat.).

Do Jurors Get Paid?

Yes. In Florida state court, jurors who are not employed regularly or continuing to be paid are paid \$15 per day for the first three days and \$30 per day starting on the fourth day of jury service and each day afterward, but they are not paid for travel from their home. Jurors serving a federal court are normally paid \$40 per day and 25¢ per mile (§ 40.24, Fla. Stat.). If your circuit allows jurors to donate their service, the juror may irrevocably donate the compensation to one of several specific entities.

Will I Lose My Job Or My Pay When I Have Jury Duty?

You cannot lose your job because of your jury duty, but employers are not required to continue to pay wages to employees who are on jury duty under State law (§ 40.24, Fla. Stat.). However, there are some county ordinances (e.g., Broward County) that require some employers to pay some employees for their

jury service. Check with your county government to find out whether or not your employer is required to pay you wages while you are on jury duty.

How Are People Selected For Jury Duty?

In each county the clerk of the court selects at random enough jurors from driver license lists to fill a jury. If selected for jury duty, you will receive a notice in the mail. You must appear at the location indicated when notified or contact the clerk of the court if you have a problem. Failure to appear may result in a fine not to exceed \$100.00 being imposed by the judge (§ 40.23, Fla. Stat.).