

Dear Prospective Jurors:

You have been summoned for jury duty for the petit jury. Jury duty is important because it safeguards one of the most crucial rights of the American legal system. As trials continue to take place, the Court must continue to rely on civic-minded jurors like you for help in ensuring fairness and providing impartial viewpoints in cases. As you might think, serving as a juror is an essential function.

The Court takes public health and safety concerns very seriously and has implemented aggressive policies to prevent the risk of infection from coronavirus for jurors and other court users. We would like to assure you that the court has done everything it can to safeguard your health during your time in the Safety Building and courtroom. The following precautions will/are being taken:

1. Masks are discretionary but will be made available for any juror who wants one.
2. Jurors will be distanced as much as possible during voir dire and deliberations. A pre-screening questionnaire has been sent to cover coronavirus concerns and issues. It is essential that the questionnaire be returned so any potential juror with exposure does not expose any other person.
3. Once the jury is impaneled, the jury will be seated in plexiglass dividers.
4. The temperature will be taken of each juror each morning you appear.
5. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available.
6. The overall number of people inside the courtroom is restricted.
7. The courtroom and jury room will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of each day. Periodic cleaning will take place in the courtroom as needed.
8. Jurors will be able to wash their hands as often as they feel necessary.
9. Nobody who has tested positive for coronavirus or exhibits any symptoms will be permitted onto the jury or allowed into the courtroom.
10. Jurors are encouraged to share any concerns with Jury Services Staff or my Court Staff.
11. The Court has consulted with the Miami County Health Commissioner regarding the steps the Court has taken and any recommendations and/or changes from Miami County Public Health.

Please note that it is possible to defer your jury duty. If you are an at-risk person or have other coronavirus concerns preventing you from safely serving on a jury, please contact the Jury Commissioner through the Court Administration Office at **937.440.5992** and return your questionnaires.

Jury Questionnaires may be returned through e-mailing the questionnaire to commonpleasjuryinfo@miamicountyohio.gov or by facsimile at (937) 440-6011. Although you are able to defer jury duty, you cannot simply ignore a summons for jury duty. If you do not contact the Jury Commissioner prior to the date of trial and receive a deferment, you are expected to appear.

Thank you for your important service to the judicial process and for your understanding during these uncertain times. The Court has taken great efforts to ensure the safety of all those involved. If anything changes with regards to a health issue during your service, the Court will immediately address the issue.

Sincerely,

STACY M. WALL, JUDGE

(Rev.Feb. 2022)