

Summit County Common Pleas Court, General Division
209 South High Street, Akron, Ohio, 44308

On Date

Dear Prospective Juror,

You have been summoned for jury duty. Jury duty is important because it safeguards one of the most crucial rights of the American legal system and protects the safety and security of our community. The Court must continue to rely on civic-minded jurors like you for help in ensuring fairness and providing constitutional and statutory rights to fellow citizens.

The Court takes public health and safety 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 courthouse or alternate venue. We have taken the following precautions:

1. Masks will be made available for jurors who do not have their own - you are encouraged to bring your own. You will be required to wear a mask or cloth face covering, unless you are unable to medically tolerate a face covering. The Summit County Sheriff and/or his deputies are authorized to deny entry to any person or persons who refuse to wear a mask or cloth face covering, or who is screened out following questioning/screening for COVID-19.
2. Jurors will have enough space to distance themselves from other people in the room by at least 6 feet.
3. Many of the courtrooms are equipped with plexiglass barriers as additional protection.
4. Jurors will not be asked to touch any surfaces, documents, or objects that have previously been touched by another person without being sanitized.
5. The overall number of people inside the courthouse and the courtroom, or alternate venue, will be restricted. Only people with essential business will be permitted in the courthouse/alternate venue, so you will have to come by yourself.
6. The courtroom and the courthouse, or alternate venue, will be sanitized regularly.
7. Jurors will be able to sanitize or wash their hands as often as they feel is necessary.
8. No one who has tested positive for coronavirus or exhibits any symptoms will be permitted to attend jury service.
9. No one under public health department or medical observation or supervision for COVID-19 will be permitted to attend jury service.
10. A complete list of all precautionary measures being taken is included for your review.

It is recommended that all jurors either bring their own lunch and drinks each day, or order their lunch and drinks from Street Treats, located in the courthouse. Street Treats will deliver to the courtrooms.

We have collaborated with the local health department and the steps the Court has taken have been approved by the local health department.

You cannot simply ignore a summons to jury duty - you must respond to a jury summons. You can respond either by reporting for jury duty or by contacting the Court in writing requesting to be excused. You must also fill out and return the jury service questionnaire included with this mailing within five (5) days of receipt.

Upon request, you may be excused if you or any immediate member of your household:

1. Are currently required to self-quarantine.
2. Are 65 years of age or older. If you wish to serve, you are still permitted to serve. Please advise us of your decision.
3. Have any of the following conditions: **chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease or undergoing dialysis, liver disease, hemoglobin disorders, pregnant, breastfeeding**, or are immunocompromised by: **cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications**.
4. Are residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility.
5. Have been notified by any health department that you, or a household member, have been in contact with an individual who tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.
6. Have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus within the last 14 days and/or have any test results pending regarding the COVID-19 virus.

While these reasons are the basis for excusal, **you MUST request an excuse in writing and provide documentary proof of your requested excuse**. You will only be contacted if your request to be excused has been denied.

On the Sunday prior to your service date, you are instructed to call (330) 643-2286, for long distance 1-800-531-2112, or check the Website at www.summitpcourt.net for jury instructions, venue location and report time. If you are feeling ill the day of your jury service please call (330) 643-8173 to report your condition.

Your response to your summons is vital to the ongoing process of the judicial system and we look forward to working with you!

We're all in this together,

Honorable Amy Corrigan Jones
Honorable Alison Breaux
Honorable Christine Croce
Honorable Alison McCarty
Honorable Kelly L. McLaughlin

Honorable Kathryn Michael
Honorable Tammy O'Brien
Honorable Joy Malek Oldfield
Honorable Susan Baker Ross
Honorable Mary Margaret Rowlands

Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judges