



APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GUIDELINES FOR RESUMING GRAND JURY AND JURY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS

APRIL 5, 2021

Committee Members:

Superior Court Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver, Chair
Superior Court Judge John E. Worcester
Superior Court Judge Mary E. Priest
District Attorney B. Alison Sosebee
Circuit Public Defender Clinton Hooker
Attorney Kayann H. West, President of the Appalachian Bar Association
Attorney John Luke Weaver, Vice-President of the Appalachian Bar Association
Attorney Michael Ray
Pickens County Sheriff Donnie Craig
Fannin County Sheriff Dane Kirby
Gilmer County Sheriff Stacy Nicholson
Fannin County Clerk of Court Dana C. Chastain
Pickens County Clerk of Court Jennifer E. Jordan
Gilmer County Clerk of Court Amy E. Johnson
Judicial Law Clerk Cami Fowler
Gregory Goldman, Systems Engineer
Investigator Travis Greene, Pickens County District Attorney's Office
Investigator April Killian, Gilmer County District Attorney's Office
Investigator Steven Whitley, Fannin County District Attorney's Office
Dr. Zachary Taylor, MD, MS, District Health Director, North Georgia Health District
Pickens Commission Chair Kris Stancil
Gilmer Commission Chair Charles Parish
Fannin Commission Chair Jamie Hensley

GRAND JURY and JURY TRIAL GUIDELINES

By Order entered September 23, 2020, Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver established and appointed a COVID-19 Jury Committee to assist the courts with conducting in-persons proceedings, in particular grand jury and jury trials. The Committee was charged with seeking to ensure the health and safety of all persons involved in the court system, while protecting constitutional and statutory rights for defendants, witnesses, and victims. The Committee met as a whole on October 23, 2020. The guidelines were emailed to each member for final approval on February 22, 2021. Final approval was received on February 26, 2021. The members were emailed a draft copy of the revised guidelines on March 31, 2021, for review and approval. The revised guidelines were approved by the full committee on April 5, 2021.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Summons

When jurors are initially summoned, the Clerk of Court will mail:

- A Summons directing jurors to report to the respective jury assembly room at staggered times in each courthouse.
- A Juror Questionnaire with Covid-19 screening questions and information on the safety procedures in place. It will also provide a contact person to call with health-related questions or concerns. **See copy of Juror Questionnaire on page 10.**
- The modified AFFIDAVIT OF JURY EXEMPTION that temporarily waives the requirement that it be notarized before submission. **See copy of modified AFFIDAVIT OF JURY EXEMPTION on pages 13, 14 and 15.**
- The existing Information Form in each county that requests information generally asked by attorneys when selecting a jury.

Excusals and/or Deferrals

Prior to jurors reporting on the date of their service, the court and Clerk's office will work cooperatively to determine whether any prospective juror should be excused or have their service deferred due to medical concerns. Any deferral or excusal will be solely at the discretion of and upon approval of the assigned judge.

- The Affidavit of Jury Exemption (attached hereto) is modified to temporarily waive the requirement that it be notarized before submission. The current Excusal form used in each county will also be modified by the Clerk to temporarily waive the requirement that it be notarized before submission. Jurors will be excused based upon their information and answers provided on the forms or as provided in OCGA 15-12-1.1(a)(1). **See copy of OCGA 15-12-1.1 Exemptions from Jury Duty on page 16.**
- Jurors will be instructed to call the Clerk's office if they have COVID-19 related questions and/or are seeking an excusal for COVID-19 related reasons. The Clerk will also instruct prospective jurors that in order to be considered for a deferral or excusal, the form must be returned 7 days prior to their date of service.
- The Clerk of Court will be available by phone on the day of the reporting as well, so that prospective jurors who wake up feeling ill can receive instructions before coming to the courthouse.

Guidelines for Resuming Grand Jury and Jury Trials

Appalachian Judicial Circuit

Check-In

On the morning of service, jurors will encounter the following safety precautions:

- Staggered Reporting Times – Because of the potential of a large number of jurors at security, jurors will be instructed on their summons to report at staggered times. Jurors reporting more than five minutes before their summoned time will be directed to wait outside, or in the lobby area if uncrowded, until their report time arrives.
- Controlled Check-In – Jurors will check in with the Clerk at a temporarily located table on the first floor near the entrance of the courthouse.
- Health Screenings – Everyone entering the courthouse is screened for illness and COVID-19 exposure. Any prospective juror prohibited from entering on the date of their service will be instructed to fill out an information form that includes their name, address, phone number, and juror number. The form will be given to the Clerk and Judge so that service can be deferred. If any juror reports having been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days, or in contact over the previous 14 days with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or they are concerned they may have been exposed or infected, they will not be permitted to enter. If any juror reports having experienced a persistent cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell or taste or fever above 100.4 degrees within the previous three days, they will not be permitted to enter. ***See “Exhibit A” attached to juror questionnaire beginning on page 11 concerning current CDC guidelines regarding quarantine requirements and also includes guidelines for a person who has received the Covid -19 vaccination(s). These requirements are subject to change by the CDC.***
- Masks – All jurors are required to wear masks upon entering the courthouse, and they must remain in proper position over nose and mouth, unless instructed by a judge to remove them. All courthouse deputies, bailiffs, and other staff will remain vigilant and politely ask anybody in the court area without a mask to put it back on. Any jurors that arrive without a mask will be provided one at the security checkpoint.
- Hand Sanitization Stations – Hand sanitizer dispensers are available prior to and after security check-in, as well as outside the courtrooms and jury assembly room.
- Social Distancing – The Jury Assembly Room (JAR) has been set up with a reduced capacity of 24 jurors, with chairs placed 6 feet apart. Floor decals have been placed on the first floor and third floor to assist visitors with maintaining proper distance.
- Disposable Badges – Jurors will be provided disposable badges in order to eliminate the need to disinfect the reusable ones ordinarily provided.
- Stairs Encouraged – Jurors will be encouraged to use the stairs. For jurors who need or prefer the elevator, a bailiff will assist in allowing only two persons to take the elevator at a time.
- Overflow Seating – In the event more than 24 jurors report during their staggered time, overflow jurors will be directed to a pre-designated space where seating has been spaced out and is able to accommodate approximately 24 persons.
- Nightly Deep Cleaning – Facilities Maintenance will sanitize the jury assembly room, courtrooms and other publicly used areas each evening.

GRAND JURIES

Impaneling Process

The objective is to identify and impanel 40 qualified jurors.

- Depending on the county, the Clerk will summon 175 to 200 total jurors.
- Expected reporting percentages are unknown at this time, but the reporting times below will allow for an orderly check-in of a traditional 45-50% response rate.
 - 9:00am – 25 Jurors (not already excused or deferred)
 - 9:30am – 25 Jurors (not already excused or deferred)
 - 10:00am – 25 Jurors (not already excused or deferred)
 - 10:30am – Remaining Jurors (not already excused or deferred)
- Seating
 - The first 24 jurors will be seated in the Jury Assembly Room.
 - Any overflow will be directed to sit in socially distanced seating provided in the pre-designated area.
- Qualification
 - After 24 jurors are checked-in, the Clerk will notify the assigned judge to come to the Jury Assembly Room. The Judge will ask the statutory required questions.
 - Non-qualified and excused jurors will be excused and their service concluded. The qualified jurors will be directed to a pre-designated area.
 - The Clerk will call in 24 additional jurors from the designated waiting area. The same process as stated above will be used until such time that 40 jurors are qualified.
 - Remaining jurors, up to and including 40 jurors, will be sworn in and the Judge will give the grand jury charge to the jurors.
 - The District Attorney will give further instruction regarding when and where to report for the first session.
 - At least 3 or more bailiffs will provide support for the Clerk in all of the procedures outlined.
 - Sheriff's deputies will provide necessary security and support in all of the procedures outlined.

In Session

In order to accommodate social distancing guidelines, the District Attorney will assess and may conduct grand jury sessions in a courtroom or jury assembly room rather than the ordinarily-used Grand Jury Room.

- Confidentiality
 - All cameras and audio devices in the room will be disabled prior to jurors reporting.
 - Glass windows in the entrance doors will be covered by non-transparent paper.
 - Signs will be posted on the entrance doors clearly stating, "Grand Jury in Session". A bailiff will be stationed at each entrance door in order to prevent any unauthorized person from entering the room.

- District Attorney Station
 - Staff and witnesses will set up in a pre-designated location, out of hearing of any proceedings in the room.
 - Staff and witnesses will socially distance while they wait to appear.
 - Face shields and/or masks will be required of everyone in the room.
 - Witnesses shall wear face shields and/or clear masks.

TRIAL JURIES

Impaneling Process

The objective is to qualify no less than 60 jurors, depending on the type of case being tried. The Clerk will summon from 200 to 300 jurors depending on the county. The presiding Judge and Clerk will confer as to the number of jurors to summon based upon the type of case to be tried and the return and appearance rate of potential jurors in that county.

- Expected reporting percentages are unknown at this time, but the reporting times below will allow for an orderly check-in of a traditional 45-50% response rate.
 - 9:00am – 25 Jurors (not already excused or deferred)
 - 10:00am – 25 Jurors (not already excused or deferred)
 - 11:00am – 25 Jurors (not already excused or deferred)
 - 1:30pm – Remaining Jurors (not already excused or deferred)
- Seating
 - The first 24 jurors will be seated in the Jury Assembly Room.
 - Remaining jurors will be directed to the socially distanced seating in a pre-designated area.
 - After 24 jurors are checked-in, the Clerk will notify the assigned judge to come to the Jury Assembly Room.
- Qualification
 - The Judge will ask all required statutory questions with no more than 24 jurors in the room. If any jurors are dismissed after answering the statutory questions, additional jurors will be brought into the jury assembly room in order to have 24 qualified potential jurors.
 - Non-qualified jurors may be immediately excused and their service concluded.
 - The qualified 24 jurors will be placed in panels of 12 and excused with directions to call back in at a time decided by the Judge.
 - This process will continue until such time that no less than 60 jurors are qualified.
- Release
 - Qualified jurors after the first 60 will be released subject to recall, with instructions to call in after 6 p.m. for further direction.
 - These jurors, even if not called back, will be checked-in for attendance purposes and given verification of attendance for their employers.
 - At least 3 or more bailiffs will provide support for the Clerk in all of the procedures outlined.

Jury Selection

Jury Selection (voir dire) will take place in the Jury Assembly Room or in the courtroom, at the discretion of the presiding Judge, if all social distancing and CDC guidelines can be implemented when using the courtroom.

The seating arrangements will be discussed and decided upon by the Judge, Sheriff, Clerk, and Counsel for the parties in advance of the trial. Pictures of the room arrangement will be taken for purposes of perfecting the record.

- The court will strike a jury from no less than sixty (60) qualified jurors. Twelve (12) jurors plus two (2) to six (6) alternates will be selected. The number of jurors required will be determined by the number of alternates to be selected.
- During voir dire by the attorneys, all but eighteen (18) jurors will be excused from the room but instructed to remain in the courthouse in a designated area. They will be reminded to continue to wear their mask, socially distance and seat themselves in the predesignated areas. They will be instructed each time they leave the jury assembly room or courtroom to refrain from talking about the case in which they have been questioned. OCGA § 15-12-131 requires that the court place a panel of 12 in the jury box “upon the request of either party.” In order to ensure there are no issues raised later, the Court shall ask on the record if either side objects to proceeding with a panel of 18 potential jurors at one time in this manner.
- A bailiff will be stationed outside the entrance and allow the next jurors to enter the Jury Assembly Room or courtroom as requested by the Judge. All jurors, members of the public and all court personnel must use hand sanitizer each time that enter the jury assembly room or courtroom.
- Backup Panel
 - After any jurors from the panel of 60 are dismissed for cause, the Court will assess whether additional jurors are needed in order to allow for peremptory strikes.
 - If so, the Court, with the assistance of the Clerk, will call in an additional panel of a sufficient number of jurors from the backup panel waiting in the building.
 - The process will then repeat as outlined above, with statutory questions at the beginning and voir dire questioning to follow.
 - If it appears that the remaining potential jurors will not be needed, the judge may dismiss those jurors for the day with instructions to call back in after 6:00pm for further instruction.
- Striking a Jury
 - After voir dire has been completed, the attorneys will be given the required 15 minutes to review their notes prior to striking a jury. The Judge will call in 24 potential jurors at a time. The Clerk will call out the panel number and juror number of the potential juror and the State will make their announcement concerning the juror followed by the defendant. After the attorneys have made their announcements at to the 24 jurors, the Court will inquire on the record as to whether the State or the Defendant has any objection to the method of selection. If either side says yes, the Court will request that the jurors be taken to a predesignated area and will rule on any objections. If neither side has an objection, the

Court will dismiss for the week any jurors from these panels not selected to serve on the jury. The jurors selected will be given the standard instructions concerning to not talk about the case and to have no contact with any witnesses, etc. They will be instructed to call the juror number after 6pm for further instructions. This procedure will continue until such time that 12 jurors and 2 to 6 alternates have been selected.

- If jury selection is finished on Monday, the trial jurors will be told to report Tuesday morning at 9:00am to begin the trial.
- After a jury has been selected, the judge shall provide jurors with a point of contact if potentially exposed to COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. They should not be required to report for jury duty.
- After a jury has been selected, any juror who does not pass the temperature check or COVID screening questions shall be brought to the Judge's attention immediately. Those not passing the temperature check shall not be permitted to enter the courthouse.
- Modifications
 - More complex cases may not lend themselves to the exact times described above, and jury selection may take two days or more.
 - The procedures may also be modified in the case of a misdemeanor trial, where a panel of 20-25 jurors is sufficient.

TRIAL

General Protocols

The judge is to conduct proceedings in accordance with all constitutional and statutory requirements, seeking to ensure a fair and impartial trial while doing so within the confines of public health guidelines. Due to space and manpower limitations, only one trial will be conducted at a time.

- Masks are required.
 - Judges, court staff, bailiffs, lawyers, and jurors will all wear masks during the trial unless otherwise instructed by the judge.
 - Judges, attorneys, and jurors may be permitted to remove their masks while speaking.
 - Witnesses and attorneys, when speaking, shall wear face shields and/or clear masks.
- Bailiffs
 - Due to difficulties guiding the jurors throughout the courthouse, it is anticipated that trials will necessitate the use of three or more bailiffs.
 - Bailiffs will meet the jurors in the hallway just past security, at the designated time, and escort them to the Jury Assembly Room and/or courtroom. Due to limited elevator capacity, it will require the use of two bailiffs—one on the floor with the jurors getting off the elevator, and one on the ground floor with the jurors waiting to board.

Courtroom Layout

Trials will be conducted one at a time.

- Jury trials

- The Court desires to have a jury of 12 plus 2 to 6 alternates.
- Jury trials will be held in the location designated by the presiding Judge, with everyone seated at least 6 feet apart to comply with social distancing requirements. The gallery will be converted into a jury box. Counsel tables will be rearranged so that the attorneys may view the Judge, witness chair and the jury. Livestream of the trial will be in an adjacent courtroom, if necessary. Seating by the public will be prohibited in the first row of the gallery.
- Plexiglass panels will be placed on all attorney tables, Judge's bench, witness table, clerk's table and court reporter table to protect court personnel.
- In each county, the Defendant's table will be located on the side of the room nearest to the door in which the defendant enters. The defendant, if in custody, will wear a Band-It restraining device, and/or any other device as determined by the Sheriff and approved by the presiding Judge and said restraint or device shall not be visible to the jurors or the audience. He or she will not be moved from their seat unless and until the room is emptied of all jurors and the Judge authorizes removal.
- The Prosecutor will be placed at a table on the other side of the room.
- Adequate court and courthouse security shall be provided at all times by the Sheriff's Office. Jurors should be instructed to let the Judge know if they are having any difficulty hearing or seeing.
- The public may view the trial by way of video conferencing, if seats are not available in the jury assembly room or courtroom. Priority seating shall be given to defendant's family, victim and his/her family and the media.

Evidence Presentation

Trial evidence should be displayed to the jurors in a digital format whenever possible, making use of the large television monitors.

- There will be certain items that cannot be displayed in a digital format and the attorneys will be directed to seek guidance from the Court.
- Attorneys will be provided wipes and will be responsible for wiping down the podium, and anything else they touched, before returning to their table. They will also be asked to wipe down their table at the end of the day.

Jury Deliberation Room

- Existing jury deliberation rooms will not be utilized due to the space restrictions. Instead, a predesignated courtroom will be used as a Jury Deliberation Room.
- All cameras and audio devices in the courtroom will be disabled.
- Glass windows in the entrance doors will be covered by non-transparent paper.

- Signs will be posted on the entrance doors clearly stating, “Jury Deliberation Room.” A bailiff will be stationed at each entrance door in order to prevent any unauthorized person from entering the courtroom.
- Bailiffs will provide a supply table with extra disposable masks, hand sanitizer, paper towels, gloves, tissues, juror pads and pencils, bottled water, and disinfecting spray. Jurors should keep up with their own items, so as to prevent sharing. Clear plastic bags will be provided with each juror’s name placed on an individual bag. The bag will be used to store each juror’s pad, pencil, mask, etc. at each recess, lunch break and when court ends for the day.
- Jurors will be permitted to leave at lunchtime and return. Jurors will be reminded to abide by social distancing guidelines during any lunch break and court recesses.
- Bathrooms will be designated for juror use alone.
- The courtroom used for jury deliberations shall be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.

If you would like to review the Judicial Emergency Orders, see a court calendar, read about the types of courts in our circuit, or review a list of family resources in our community, please visit our circuit website at www.appalachiancourts.com. On our website, you will also find our court Twitter feed updates, which you can follow on Twitter @AppalachianCt for up-to-date information about our court system.

**COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONS FOR
POTENTIAL JURORS**

NAME: _____

Please circle the appropriate answer or fill in the blank as indicated and return the completed questionnaire to the Clerk of Superior Court within ten (10) days of your scheduled date to report for service. If you have questions, please call the office of the Clerk of Superior Court.

1. Please provide a mobile phone number which can be used to reach you: _____
2. What is an email address for you which you check regularly? _____
3. Have you or a family member been diagnosed with COVID-19? If yes, indicate the date of diagnosis and whether you or a family member are currently experiencing symptoms.
YES _____
NO _____
4. Are you or a member of your household a "vulnerable person?" If yes, indicate if the vulnerable person is you and/or what family member. See definition below.
YES _____
NO _____

"Vulnerable Persons" are those individuals who are at increased risk for severe illness from the novel coronavirus as currently defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health as individuals who are over age 60 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised by chemotherapy or other treatments for medical conditions."

5. Within the past ten days, have you experienced symptoms of COVID-19, including: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever above 100.4 degrees or a feeling of feverishness, chills, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea? If yes, please list date and the symptoms.
YES _____
NO _____
6. Have you been in contact with someone known to have COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
YES _____
NO _____
7. Do you have children at home who require your direct supervision due to school and/or daycare closings? *Note: This applies if there is NO ONE else in the household who can provide care during jury service.*
YES _____
NO _____
8. Have you been tested for COVID-19, and what was the date and result of such test?
YES _____
NO _____
9. Do you feel ill or have you taken any medication today for the purpose of reducing a fever? If yes, please explain.
YES _____
NO _____
10. Have you received the vaccine for COVID-19? (See Exhibit "A," attached)
YES (List date(s) of vaccination and name of vaccine) _____
NO _____

Please bring your own mask. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you. A mask is required to enter the courthouse. Please see the quarantine guidelines attached as Exhibit "A".

EXHIBIT A

CDC Guidelines as to When to Quarantine

Updated March 8, 2021

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#print>

Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine or be tested if they meet the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., at least 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or at least 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen)
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure
- Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated, and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Persons who do not meet the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance listed below after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

Updated March 12, 2021

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Who needs to quarantine?

- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or who are fully vaccinated.
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Steps to take

- Stay home and monitor your health
- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

Options to reduce quarantine

- Reducing the length of quarantine may make it easier for people to quarantine by reducing the time they cannot work. A shorter quarantine period also can lessen stress on the public health system, especially when new infections are rapidly rising.
- Your local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if you need to quarantine. Options they will consider include stopping quarantine
- After day 10 without testing
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

After stopping quarantine, you should

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.
- Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash your hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

CDC continues to endorse quarantine for 14 days and recognizes that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. CDC will continue to evaluate new information and update recommendations as needed. See Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing for guidance on options to reduce quarantine. Confirmed and suspected cases of reinfection of the virus that causes COVID-19 Cases of reinfection of COVID-19 have been reported but are rare. In general, reinfection means a person was infected (got sick) once, recovered, and then later became infected again. Based on what we know from similar viruses, some reinfections are expected.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
AMY E. JOHNSON
GILMER COUNTY, GEORGIA
AFFIDAVIT OF JURY EXEMPTION

_____, having been summoned for jury duty for the week of _____,
hereby requests to excused/deferred from jury service due to the following:

You MUST attach all supporting documents

_____ I hereby affirm that I am **70 years of age or older**. I hereby request that my name be removed from the list of eligible grand and trial jurors. DOB _____ OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(b)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am not a resident of Gilmer County. I have attached a copy of my driver's license with my current address or proof of my current address. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a full-time student at a college, university, vocational school or other post-secondary school. I have attached proof of my enrollment. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(2).

_____ I am a primary teacher in a home study program and have no available alternative child care. ****You must provide proof of home study program and school calendar.** OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(4)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a military service member or spouse of a service member on ordered military duty in service to the United States. I have attached proof of active military service. (active military I.D) OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(c)(2)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am the primary caregiver of a child age six or younger. I have active care and custody of said child and have no reasonable alternative childcare available to me. Child's DOB _____ OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(3)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am the primary unpaid caregiver for a person over the age of six with such physical or cognitive limitations that he/she is unable to care for himself/herself, and they cannot be left unattended. I have no reasonably available alternative to provide for their care. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(5)

_____ I hereby affirm that I have a documented permanent disability, physical and/or mental (circle one) that would prevent attendance for jury service. I have attached a statement from a physician stating such. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(1)

_____ The person named on the jury summons is deceased (indicate your name and relationship to the deceased)_____.

_____ I hereby affirm that I am not a U.S. citizen. I have attached a copy of documentation. OCGA Section 15-12-4(b)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a convicted felon who has not had my civil rights restored. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(1)

For good cause show (Specify)_____.

This the _____ day of _____, 2021.

Signature _____

Telephone number required _____

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
DANA C. CHASTAIN
FANNIN COUNTY, GEORGIA
AFFIDAVIT OF JURY EXEMPTION

_____, having been summoned for jury duty for the week of _____,
hereby requests to excused/deferred from jury service due to the following:

You MUST attach all supporting documents

_____ I hereby affirm that I am **70 years of age or older**. I hereby request that my name be removed from the list of eligible grand and trial jurors. DOB _____ OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(b)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am not a resident of Fannin County. I have attached a copy of my driver's license with my current address or proof of my current address. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a full-time student at a college, university, vocational school or other post-secondary school. I have attached proof of my enrollment. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(2).

_____ I am a primary teacher in a home study program and have no available alternative child care. ****You must provide proof of home study program and school calendar.** OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(4)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a military service member or spouse of a service member on ordered military duty in service to the United States. I have attached proof of active military service. (active military I.D) OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(c)(2)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am the primary caregiver of a child age six or younger. I have active care and custody of said child and have no reasonable alternative childcare available to me. Child's DOB _____ OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(3)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am the primary unpaid caregiver for a person over the age of six with such physical or cognitive limitations that he/she is unable to care for himself/herself, and they cannot be left unattended. I have no reasonably available alternative to provide for their care. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(5)

_____ I hereby affirm that I have a documented permanent disability, physical and/or mental (circle one) that would prevent attendance for jury service. I have attached a statement from a physician stating such. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(1)

_____ The person named on the jury summons is deceased (indicate your name and relationship to the deceased)_____.

_____ I hereby affirm that I am not a U.S. citizen. I have attached a copy of documentation. OCGA Section 15-12-4(b)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a convicted felon who has not had my civil rights restored. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(1)

For good cause show (Specify)_____.

This the _____ day of _____, 2021.

Signature _____

Telephone number required _____

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
JENNIFER E. JORDAN
PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA
AFFIDAVIT OF JURY EXEMPTION

_____, having been summoned for jury duty for the week of _____,
hereby requests to excused/deferred from jury service due to the following:

You MUST attach all supporting documents

_____ I hereby affirm that I am **70 years of age or older**. I hereby request that my name be removed from the list of eligible grand and trial jurors. DOB _____ OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(b)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am not a resident of Pickens County. I have attached a copy of my driver's license with my current address or proof of my current address. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a full-time student at a college, university, vocational school or other post-secondary school. I have attached proof of my enrollment. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(2).

_____ I am a primary teacher in a home study program and have no available alternative child care. ****You must provide proof of home study program and school calendar.** OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(4)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a military service member or spouse of a service member on ordered military duty in service to the United States. I have attached proof of active military service. (active military I.D) OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(c)(2)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am the primary caregiver of a child age six or younger. I have active care and custody of said child and have no reasonable alternative childcare available to me. Child's DOB _____ OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(3)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am the primary unpaid caregiver for a person over the age of six with such physical or cognitive limitations that he/she is unable to care for himself/herself, and they cannot be left unattended. I have no reasonably available alternative to provide for their care. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(5)

_____ I hereby affirm that I have a documented permanent disability, physical and/or mental (circle one) that would prevent attendance for jury service. I have attached a statement from a physician stating such. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(1)

_____ The person named on the jury summons is deceased (indicate your name and relationship to the deceased) _____.

_____ I hereby affirm that I am not a U.S. citizen. I have attached a copy of documentation. OCGA Section 15-12-4(b)

_____ I hereby affirm that I am a convicted felon who has not had my civil rights restored. OCGA Section 15-12-1.1(a)(1)

For good cause show (Specify)_____.

Return Affidavit to:

jury.pickens@gmail.com

50 North Main St., Ste. 104

Jasper, GA 30143

This the _____ day of _____, 2021.

Signature _____

Telephone number required _____

Guidelines for Resuming Grand Jury and Jury Trials

Appalachian Judicial Circuit

§ 15-12-1.1. Exemptions from jury duty

(a)

(1) Any person who shows that he or she will be engaged during his or her term of jury duty as a trial or grand juror in work necessary to the public health, safety, or good order or who shows other good cause why he or she should be exempt from jury duty may have his or her jury service deferred or excused by the judge of the court to which he or she has been summoned or by some other person who has been duly appointed by order of the chief judge to excuse jurors. Such a person may exercise such authority only after the establishment by court order of guidelines governing excuses. Any order of appointment shall provide that, except for permanently mentally or physically disabled persons, all excuses shall be deferred to a date and time certain within that term or the next succeeding term or shall be deferred as set forth in the court order. It shall be the duty of the court to provide affidavits for the purpose of requesting a deferral of or excusal from jury service pursuant to this subsection.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, any person who is a full-time student at a college, university, vocational school, or other postsecondary school who, during the period of time the student is enrolled and taking classes or exams, requests to be excused or deferred from jury duty shall be excused or deferred from jury duty.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, any person who is the primary caregiver having active care and custody of a child six years of age or younger, who executes an affidavit on a form provided by the court stating that such person is the primary caregiver having active care and custody of a child six years of age or younger and stating that such person has no reasonably available alternative child care, and who requests to be excused or deferred shall be excused or deferred from jury duty.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, any person who is a primary teacher in a home study program as defined in subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 who, during the period of time the person is teaching, requests to be excused or deferred from jury duty and executes an affidavit on a form provided by the court stating that such person is the primary teacher in a home study program and stating that such person has no reasonably available alternative for the child or children in the home study program shall be excused or deferred from jury duty.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, any person who is the primary unpaid caregiver for a person over the age of six; who executes an affidavit on a form provided by the court stating that such primary caregiver is responsible for the care of a person with such physical or cognitive limitations that he or she is unable to care for himself or herself and cannot be left unattended and that the primary caregiver has no reasonably available alternative to provide for the care; and who requests to be excused or deferred shall be excused or deferred from jury duty. Any person seeking the exemption shall furnish to the court, in addition to the aforementioned affidavit, a statement of a physician, or other medical provider, supporting the affidavit's statements related to the medical condition of the person with physical or cognitive limitations.

(b) Any person who is 70 years of age or older shall be entitled to request that the clerk excuse such person from jury service in the county. Upon such request, the clerk shall inactivate such person. The request for excusal shall be made to the clerk in writing and shall be accompanied by an affidavit providing the person's name, age, and such other information as the clerk may require. The clerk shall make available affidavit forms for the purposes of this subsection.

(c) (1) As used in this subsection, the term:

(A) "Ordered military duty" means any military duty performed in the service of the state or of the United States, including, but not limited to, attendance at any service school or schools conducted by the armed forces of the United States which requires a service member to be at least 50 miles from his or her home.

(B) "Service member" means an active duty member of the regular or reserve component of the United States armed forces, the United States Coast Guard, the Georgia National Guard, or the Georgia Air National Guard who was on ordered federal duty for a period of 90 days or longer.

(2) Any service member on ordered military duty or the spouse of any such service member who requests to be excused or deferred shall be excused or deferred from jury duty upon presentation of a copy of a valid military identification card and execution of an affidavit in the form required by the court for deferral or excusal under this paragraph.

(d) The court shall notify the clerk of its excuse or deferment of a person's jury service.