

The Importance of Jury Duty

All the hard work and sacrifices made by the founding fathers resulted in our freedom today and our belief in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. There are very few civic duties that we are asked to perform to ensure that we can pass on these ideals. I believe that the most important is to serve on jury duty.

First of all, it is an obligation of citizenship. Just like voting, jury duty is an essential civic responsibility. We all have the right to be tried by our peers and the jury system is the best system and the one most likely to yield just, fair results.

Second, jury duty is important for our society and is in place to protect us from governmental abuse. It is a common misconception that jury duty is about deciding guilt. The jury system was first formed as a place for review of the law and how it is applied to everyone. There are circumstances in which the law is unjust, and it is our duty as a juror to represent the opinion of the people. It is especially important for minorities to serve on jury duty to ensure that we are all represented equally and are truly being judged by a jury of our peers.

Another reason is that courts already excuse people who may have problems serving on the jury. For example, expectant mothers and sometimes those who have childcare issues can be excused. Similarly, teachers and students can postpone their jury duty until summer break. Moreover, those, who may experience financial hardship such as, hourly workers or self-employed individuals, can also be excused.

Finally, ignoring a jury summons is against the law. Just like paying taxes and observing the traffic signs, we must obey the law when it comes to jury duty. Many people think it is an inconvenience to serve on a jury panel, so they just disregard the summons. However, many counties and judges are now holding them in contempt of the court and punish these jury dodgers. The consequences can range from paying a fine of \$250-\$1500 to up to three days in jail. For example, recently, Judge Salvatore Sirna, a supervising judge at the Pomona Courthouse automatically fined everyone who had not showed up for their jury duty. In another case, a deputy was sent to pick up a prospective juror from his residence.

In conclusion, by serving on the jury duty we not only perform our civic duty, help our system of justice to be fair, and uphold the law, but also ensure the survival of our own right to trial by jury.

Compiled revised and adapted from [Williams Kherkher website blog](#) , KPCC's [Ignored LA court summons to serve on a jury](#) , and Legal Zoom's [What really happens if you ignore your jury summons](#)

OUTLINE

Title -> _____

I. Introduction:

Opinion Statement: _____

II. Body:

a. Reason 1: _____

i. Detail 1: _____

ii. Detail 2: _____

b. Reason 2: _____

i. Detail 1: _____

ii. Detail 2: _____

c. Reason 3: _____

i. Detail 1: _____

ii. Detail 2: _____

iii. Detail 3: _____

d. Reason 4: _____

i. Detail 1: _____

ii. Detail 2: _____

iii. Detail 3: _____

III. Conclusion

IV. Citations:

a. Source 1: _____

b. Source 2: _____

c. Source 3: _____

OUTLINE KEY

Title -> The Importance of Jury Duty

V. Introduction:

Opinion Statement: I believe that the most important is to serve on jury duty.

VI. Body:

- a. It is an obligation of citizenship
 - i. Like voting it is a civic responsibility
 - ii. it yields the most fair system
- b. Protects of from government abuse
 - i. Jury reviews how laws are applied to everyone
 - ii. Minority jurors represent all people
- c. Courts already excuse people who cannot serve
 - i. Expectant mothers
 - ii. Teachers and students
 - iii. Financial hardship
- d. Ignoring a jury summons is against the law
 - i. Fine
 - ii. Jail
 - iii. Pick up by deputy

VII. Conclusion

VIII. Citations:

- a. [Williams Kherkher website blog](https://www.williamskherkher.com/blog/2012/07/24/the-importance-of-jury-duty)
(<https://www.williamskherkher.com/blog/2012/07/24/the-importance-of-jury-duty>)
- b. KPCC's [Ignored LA court summons to serve on a jury](http://www.scpr.org/news/2018/03/15/81713/ignored-la-court-summons-to-serve-on-a-jury-there)
(<http://www.scpr.org/news/2018/03/15/81713/ignored-la-court-summons-to-serve-on-a-jury-there>)
- c. Legal Zoom's [What really happens if you ignore your jury summons](https://www.legalzoom.com/articles/jury-dodgers-what-really-happens-if-you-ignore-your-jury-summons)
(<https://www.legalzoom.com/articles/jury-dodgers-what-really-happens-if-you-ignore-your-jury-summons>)