

Optional Jury Duty

It is common to hear complains and groans of people who have received a jury summons. People openly seek advice on how to dodge jury duty. Even employers expect their employees to at least do their best in getting excused from serving. Our culture despises jury so much that many who serve on the jury panel are seen as not smart enough to find a way to be excused. There are several reasons why I believe citizens should not be forced to serve on jury duty.

First of all, 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.

The second reason is that serving on jury duty can result in financial hardship. Many people, who work hourly, will not get paid if they do not work. Those who are self employed will lose some business, and it may even result in losing jobs and customers permanently. It is true that the court pays for attending jury duty, but they only pay \$15 a day, which does not compensate for a day of work.

Third, jury service can be very uncomfortable. People need a strong conviction and belief in the jury system to want to spend a day in the courtroom. Many times when you are summoned to report for jury duty, you will spend the day waiting in a big room with no privacy and uncomfortable chairs. You have to wait until a judge requests jurors. They may never call your name or number. If they do, you will have to go and sit in the courtroom and listen to the judge and the attorneys explaining the court system. Then, you have to wait again to be called to the jury box. If they call your name to sit in the jury, they will ask you many uncomfortable questions which you will have to answer in front of the whole courtroom. The judge may give you a choice to talk to him/her and the attorneys privately, but then everyone will know that you had something sensitive to tell the judge. If you have to serve on the jury, then you will have the burden of days of sitting in the court, listening to witnesses, and then deciding the fate of the accused ahead of you.

The fourth reason is that even though they are threatened to be fined or jailed on the summons, most people who ignore jury duty are never caught. The courts are too busy and do not have enough resources to hold accountable every person who has not responded to their jury summons.

Lastly, jury service is important and the only way it can work is if we have quality jurors on the panel. Our judicial system should only ask people who are willing and able

to serve to become jurors. By compelling every citizen to take time off from work and family, we only get resentful and deceitful individuals who come to court with bad attitudes and ridiculous excuses. For these reasons, I believe that jury duty is a privilege and should be an optional one at that.

Source: [JuryExpert.com](http://www.thejuryexpert.com)

(<http://www.thejuryexpert.com/2013/01/avoiding-jury-duty-psychological-and-legal-perspectives>)

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: _____

iv. Detail 4: _____

d. Reason 4: _____

i. Detail 1: _____

ii. Detail 2: _____

III. Conclusion

IV. Citations:

a. Source 1: _____

OUTLINE KEY

Title -> Optional Jury Duty

- V. Introduction:
Opinion Statement: There are several reasons why I believe citizens should not be forced to serve on jury duty.
- VI. Body:
 - a. Courts already excuse people who may have problems serving on the jury
 - i. Expectant mothers
 - ii. Teachers and students
 - b. Jury duty can result in financial hardship.
 - i. Loss of work
 - ii. Compensation is \$15/day
 - c. Jury service can be very uncomfortable
 - i. Long waits
 - ii. Answer personal questions publicly
 - iii. Listen to witnesses
 - iv. Make a decision about the accused
 - d. Most people who ignore jury duty are never caught
 - i. Courts are too busy
 - ii. Not enough deputies to catch everyone
- VII. Conclusion
- VIII. Citations:
 - a. [JuryExpert.com](http://www.thejuryexpert.com/2013/01/avoiding-jury-duty-psychological-and-legal-perspectives) (http://www.thejuryexpert.com/2013/01/avoiding-jury-duty-psychological-and-legal-perspectives)