

GRAND JURY QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Prospective Grand Juror:

The Grand Jury is a time-honored institution which enables citizens to review the internal functioning of their local government. Your cooperation with this important civic responsibility is sincerely appreciated.

Please answer each question below in detail. You may attach additional sheets, if necessary. Prospective jurors who do not properly complete or return this form may be summoned to personally appear and furnish the requested information.

1. NAME _____ 2. Age _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. _____
(MAILING ADDRESS) (ZIP CODE) (STREET ADDRESS)

4. Are you a United States Citizen? Yes____ No____

5. Can you read and understand English? Yes____ No____

6. Have you been a grand juror in the last two years? Yes____ No____

7. Have you been a resident of Sierra County for at least one year? Yes____ No____

8. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes____ No____

9. Are you serving as an elected public officer? Yes____ No____

10. Please specify any activities which would interfere with your service as a grand juror. ____ None
Other: _____

11. Your occupation _____ 12. Spouse's occupation _____

13. Education: Circle highest school grade completed. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 over 16

14. Please state any experience you have had as a government official. _____

15. Please write a brief statement of your background, employment, and any special skills, or other qualifications which may be useful to the grand jury. _____

16. Other information you wish to provide: _____

List all contact methods: Daytime Phone No: _____ Email Address. _____

Cell Phone/Text No. & Carrier _____
(Please note that normal charges may apply.)

Date: _____ Signature _____

Fees and Mileage Reimbursement for Grand Jurors

For attendance at a full meeting, the grand juror receives \$25.00 plus the personal vehicle mileage reimbursement rate recognized by the IRS, which is currently .70 cents per mile, for each mile traveled.

For attendance at a committee meeting, the grand juror receives mileage only.

Please direct any inquiries to:

JURY COMMISSIONER - SIERRA SUPERIOR COURT - P.O. BOX 476 - DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936 - (530) 289-2930
EMAIL: SUPERIORCOURT@SIERRACOURT.ORG

PLEASE USE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE GRAND JURORS

The law requires that prospective jurors fairly reflect a cross section of our County. Your name has been drawn randomly from the Sierra County pool of prospective jurors. This resource is used in selecting both trial jurors and grand jurors.

Anyone who is ultimately selected to serve on the Grand Jury must be fully aware of the time and personal sacrifice involved. Therefore, each prospective grand juror should sincerely and thoughtfully weigh all family, personal and business obligations before volunteering.

The California Constitution authorizes the creation of a Grand Jury in each county. The California Rules of Court, statutes and legal opinions address qualifications, the selection of and the powers and duties of Grand Juries. By law, in California, Grand Juries have two basic functions:

1) Civil: to act as the public's watchdog by investigating and reporting upon the affairs of local government and to investigate allegations of misconduct against public officials and determine whether to present formal accusations requesting their removal from office.

2) Criminal: to weigh criminal charges and determine whether indictments should be returned.

Trial jury duty is an honor and an obligation, but it is not an option. Not a single juror volunteers to come to court and serve on a trial jury. Unlike service on a trial jury, grand jury service is entirely voluntary. Community members who volunteer to serve as grand jurors choose the dates, times and locations of their Grand Jury meetings. Some Grand Juries have conducted their meetings on evenings and weekends. Grand jurors may also communicate using secure email services. Meetings of the Grand Jury may be conducted using conference calling technology. Grand jurors are paid \$25.00, plus the personal vehicle mileage reimbursement rate recognized by the IRS for each mile traveled for attendance at a full meeting of the Grand Jury. Committees are created by each Grand Jury and are responsible for studying and investigating areas of Sierra County government, special districts, municipalities, following through on complaints from the public and studying unique problems which occur during a Grand Jury's tenure. For Grand Jury committee meetings, only the round-trip mileage is reimbursed.

Sierra County Grand Juries customarily conduct full-day meetings once monthly during the term of service. Committee meetings are less frequent and shorter in duration. In between meetings, there are written materials to review, interviews to be conducted and other routine business matters which may consume a few hours or so several times during each month.

A person who is serving as a trial juror is excused from serving as grand juror. Similarly, a person serving on the grand jury is excused from acting as a trial juror. The distinction to be highlighted is that grand jurors are excused from trial jury service throughout their service on the Grand Jury. Citizens who are summoned for a jury trial may have limited choices concerning the timing and postponement of trial jury service.

Please furnish the information, which is requested on the enclosed form, and retain this form for your information. Your responses will be reviewed by the Presiding Judge of Sierra Superior Court, and you will be contacted by the Jury Commissioner during the next steps of the selection process.

Thank you.