



TRIBAL COURT OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES JUROR INFORMATION

Welcome! The following information is provided to further your understanding of what you can expect when you receive a summons for jury selection and/or when serving as a trial juror. The geographic pool for duty covers the entire Flathead Reservation.

Jury service is both a privilege and civic duty. The right to trial by jury is one of the cornerstones of our Tribal government, and jury trials necessarily involve sacrifice from those citizens called upon to serve. This has always been true, but it is especially true during these unique and trying times. It is our personal conviction that jury service is one of the highest forms of public service that any tribal member can perform. The right to trial by jury is an important right under tribal and federal law and ensuring that right is an important aspect of the Tribes' inherent sovereignty. Your assistance is needed by your fellow tribal members, as you would need them should you become involved in a legal problem that could not be resolved otherwise. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

1. GUIDELINES

- Contact the Clerk of Court's Office **in writing** with an AFFIDAVIT OF EXCUSAL FROM JURY DUTY if you have an undue hardship that potentially will qualify for excusal from jury duty.
- To reduce the number of people reporting for jury duty (and perhaps relieving you of the duty to report), please complete and timely return the JURY QUESTIONNAIRE which accompanies the summons to report for jury service. The questionnaire seeks information to help shorten the jury selection process. Depending on your responses, you may not have to come to the courthouse.
- Respond as completely as possible to the best of your ability. Failure to disclose any of the requested information can impact the right to a fair trial. Your answers must be truthful; a false or misleading answer may subject you to perjury.
- Finally, please refrain from conducting any research on this case, whether by scanning media accounts, searching the Internet, or searching through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) Media and Internet accounts can be faulty, incomplete, or biased. You may be asked if you have conducted any independent research during the jury selection process.

2. PAY & MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

- \$50.00 per day when selected as a juror
- \$.56 per mile, per round trip (or as set by Tribal Council)

The attendance fee of \$50.00 is taxable income, and you should keep a record of this. Mileage and subsistence are not taxable. You must submit—**in writing**—to the CSKT TRIBAL COURT round-trip mileage request to:

CSKT TRIBAL COURT
ATTN: Malia Hamel, Clerk of Court
Post Office Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855-0278
Fax: (406) 675-4704

Failure to report a **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**—**in writing**—to the CSKT TRIBAL COURT may delay payment of your mileage and/or attendance fees.
Telephone calls **will not** be accepted.

Allow two (2) weeks, after the end of the month in which you serve, before you receive payment, which will be forwarded to you from the Tribal Administration Office.

3. LOCATION OF TRIBAL COURT

- TRIBAL COMPLEX, 42487 Complex Blvd., Pablo; Henry Burland Building (entrance is on the west side of building and Law & Order is located in the same building).
- Be aware that there are times the courtroom temperature may require use of a sweater or jacket.

4. REQUESTS TO BE EXCUSED

- The Chief Judge grants excuses for prearranged vacations or work-related training; temporary illness with written doctor verification; or **extreme** hardship.
- You must submit your request **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**—**in writing**—using the **AFFIDAVIT OF EXCUSAL FROM JURY DUTY**. Lack of auto transportation is **not** grounds for an excuse.
- If you appear, in person, on the day of trial to request an excuse, you **will not** be paid mileage or attendance fees.

5. LENGTH OF SERVICE

- The year in which you have been selected you can expect to serve during this time for any month.

6. LENGTH OF TRIALS

- Most trials conclude within one day. However, they may last past two days. Jury selection takes approximately 2 to 4 hours, and in most cases, the trial will begin the same day.
- The Court is normally in session from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon, and from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Morning and afternoon breaks of 15-20 minutes are given, as well as a lunch break of 1 to 1.5 hours.

7. **TYPES OF TRIALS**

- Criminal, with selection of six jurors and one alternate.
- Civil, with selection of six jurors and one alternate.

8. **CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE**

- Available upon request.

9. **CONFIRMATION DATES**

- Legal problems, last minute out-of-court settlements, continuances or cancellations may cause unexpected delays. We strive to keep you informed by updating our recorded message.
- You must contact the Court, as instructed, on the dates listed on your Jury Summons.

Confirming Your Appearance for Jury Duty **Is Required.**
You Must Call the Clerk of Court Office.
OUR RECORDING IS THE ONLY METHOD OF
NOTIFYING YOU.

RECORDING: (406) 275-2740
Confirmation Day at 5:30 p.m. to
Day of Trial at 8:00 a.m.

If You Report and There Is A Recording
Informing You Not to Appear,
You Will Not Be Paid Mileage or Attendance Fees.

NOTICE: If you don't show up for jury duty (whether you submit your jury questionnaire or not) at a trial held during your month, you can be charged with Criminal Contempt, and you could be subject to a \$250 fine and/or 60 days in jail. *See CSKT Laws Codified, § 2-1-921(f).*

10. **CHECK-IN PROCEDURE**

- You must check-in with the Bailiff no later than 8:30 am. on the day of trial.