

# ERIE COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

323 Columbus Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

(419) 627-7732 Fax: (419) 627-6692

*Judge Roger E. Binette*

## PLEASE READ THIS LETTER “BEFORE” CONTACTING THE COURT.

Dear Prospective Juror:

Your name was selected by the *Jury Commissioners* for Erie County to serve on the **Petit Jury** for me, **Judge Roger E. Binette**. **Please read the following “frequently” asked questions / concerns:**

**Q: How did you get my name?**

A: In the past years juror names were obtained from the Voters’ registration records, and then randomly selected by a computerization program. In 2015 Administrative Judge Tygh M. Tone decided to change that procedure to include those who have an Ohio Driver Licenses. So, your name may have been selected from either the Voter’s registration or Driver’s License registration.

**Q: What do I need to do with the enclosed questionnaire?**

A: Fill it out completely; Answering each question. Sign it and return it (within 5 days) in the self-addressed, stamped envelope.

**Q: If I am 75 years old or older, do I have to still serve?**

A: No, but you still need to return the ‘uncompleted’ questionnaire along with a note stating your age and that you don’t want to serve.

**Q: If I am no longer a resident of Erie County, Ohio; do I still have to serve?**

A: No, but you still need to return the ‘uncompleted’ questionnaire along with a note stating you no longer reside in Erie County.

**Q: What happens if I have a reason I can’t serve as a juror and to be excused from jury duty? (illness, vacations, etc..)**

A: You have to submit your request - in writing - with any supporting documentation you want this Court to review, then mail it with your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided. **Employment** related reasons must be submitted and supported by you, **NOT by your employer**. This Court will review your request and inform you by letter if your request has been granted or denied

**Q: What types of cases could I be a juror for? Due to my beliefs (religious, etc..) I don’t want to be a juror for a Criminal case.**

A: Petit Jurors hear Civil or Criminal cases. So, you may be selected for a Civil case, and not have to serve on a Criminal case.

**Q: How long do I have to serve on Jury Duty?**

A: Your term of service on jury duty is for three (3) weeks. This means you can be called for jury duty during the period of:

through

**Q: Do I have to be at the Court everyday during my three (3) week jury duty term?**

A: No. Your term is for three (3) weeks, however there may or may not be any trials that are occurring during your (3) weeks. In that case, you would never even have to appear at the Court at all. However, if there is a trial, you may be required to report to the Court for jury duty. Also, there may be times when you are called more than once for jury duty during the term.

**Q: Then how will I know “if” and “when” I have to be at the Court for jury duty for a trial?**

A: To find out “if” and “when” you are to report for jury duty, you must call (419) 624-6313 after 6:00 p.m. A recorded message will inform you: (1) **If** there is jury duty (2) **Which** jurors are selected to report (3) **What** date / time those jurors are to report. Your first time to call the recorded message is on the Friday immediately prior to when your term of service begins, and thereafter on *every* Friday until your term of service ends. Please listen for your *juror number* when calling.

**Q: Where do I report at the Court when I am required to appear for jury duty?**

A: You report to the Clerk of Courts at the Erie County Common Pleas Courthouse, 323 Columbus Ave., 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Sandusky, Ohio.

**Q: What happens if someone calls me regarding jury duty and asks me for *personal information* (financial, SSN, etc..)?**

A: This may be a scam. Do not give out any personal information. Call the Erie County Sheriff’s Office immediately and report this.

**Q: What happens if the weather is bad, do I still have to report for jury duty?**

A: If the weather is bad, listen to radio stations WKFM, WGGN, WLEC or WCPZ of Sandusky for any appropriate announcements.

**Q: What if I have other questions about my jury duty service, who do I call?**

A: You can call Judicial Administrator Lori Rickenbaugh at (419) 624-6313 Mon.- Fri. 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

No **CELLPHONES or ELECTRONIC DEVICES allowed in the Courthouse**

Judge Roger E. Binette