

**CAREER  
PATHS**

# Law

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## Jury Duty Rules and Expectations



1 court reporter

Thank you for reporting for jury duty. The following is a description of what to expect today.

You will receive a number. Enter the courtroom when the **clerk of the court** calls that number.

In the courtroom, have a seat in the **jury box**. The **bailiff** will direct you.

Attorneys for the **defense** and **prosecution** will then ask you questions. A judge **presides** over the **proceedings** and the **court reporter** records your answers. The

goal is to select **jurors** for a trial. It is important that you answer their questions honestly. This provides the defendant with a fair trial. Potential jurors may leave after questioning if not selected.



2 clerk of the court



3 jury box

### Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- Who must be in a courtroom during a trial?
- How can lawyers be sure that jurors will be fair?

### Reading

2 Read this court pamphlet. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- A judge asks potential jurors questions to check if they are biased.
- Jurors' answers are recorded by an employee of the court.
- Every person that reports for jury duty listens to a trial.

### Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- |   |                       |   |                |
|---|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| 1 | __ clerk of the court | 4 | __ prosecution |
| 2 | __ court reporter     | 5 | __ juror       |
| 3 | __ defense            | 6 | __ bailiff     |

- the side of a case that attempts to prove innocence
- the side of a case that attempts to prove guilt
- a person who assists a judge
- an officer who keeps order in court
- a person that types everything that is said in court
- a person who listens to a trial and decides if a defendant is guilty or not



**4** Check (✓) the sentence that uses the underlined parts correctly.

- 1 — **A** The proceedings took place in the courtroom on the second floor.  
— **B** The defense brought the lawsuit against the corporation.
- 2 — **A** The judge took his seat in the jury box when the trial started.  
— **B** Judge Williams is presiding over the upcoming trial.
- 3 — **A** Mary isn't going to be at work because she has jury duty.  
— **B** The bailiff typed the attorney's words very quickly.
- 4 — **A** The court reporter sat at the table with her client and waited for the trial to start.  
— **B** The attorney stood close to the jury box as he made his argument to the jurors.

**5** Listen and read the text again. Say what happens when you report for jury duty.

## Listening

**6** Listen to a conversation between a judge and a defense attorney. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the conversation mostly about?  
**A** removing a juror      **C** selecting a new juror  
**B** questioning a juror    **D** protesting a juror's decision
- 2 What is the judge's opinion?  
**A** He thinks young people often commit crimes.  
**B** He plans to release the defendant.  
**C** He doubts the juror would be unfair.  
**D** He agrees with the attorney's argument.

**7** Listen again and complete the conversation.

**Attorney:** Your Honor, I don't believe that **1** \_\_\_\_\_ four should sit for this trial.

**Judge:** For what **2** \_\_\_\_\_?

**Attorney:** One of his answers to my questions. He believes that young people are more likely to commit crimes these days.

**Judge:** And you're worried that he will be **3** \_\_\_\_\_ toward the defendant?

**Attorney:** Yes. My client is only seventeen years old.

**Judge:** The **4** \_\_\_\_\_ has a point. We'll release him.

**Attorney:** Thank you, Your Honor.

**Judge:** We'll continue the **5** \_\_\_\_\_ after the **6** \_\_\_\_\_ of the court calls in another juror.

## Speaking

**8** With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

**USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:**

*Your Honor, I don't believe that ...*  
*He believes that ...*  
*My client is only ...*

**Student A:** You are a defense attorney. You see a problem with a juror. Talk to Student B about:

- the juror
- a question and answer
- your client

**Student B:** You are a judge. Talk to Student A about a juror and make a decision.

## Writing

**9** Use the conversation from Task 8 to complete the notes about selecting a jury for a trial.

Today, we \_\_\_\_\_ a juror. I thought he would be \_\_\_\_\_

I believe this because he \_\_\_\_\_

The judge \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

JURY NOTES