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FACT SHEET

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One-Day or One-Trial Jury Service

Statewide implementation of one-day or one-trial jury service is one of the key reforms in the courts' ongoing efforts to improve jury service in California.

How It Works

Under the one-day or one-trial system, Californians may fulfill their jury service obligation for 12 months in one of four ways:

1. Be assigned to standby jury service. The juror will telephone the court or visit a Web site to determine if he or she must appear in person. A potential juror may serve no more than 5 days on telephone standby. Serving on standby satisfies the juror's obligation for 12 months.
2. Appear in person for jury service. If the juror is not chosen for a trial or assigned to a courtroom for jury selection on the first day of scheduled service, he or she has satisfied this obligation for 12 months.
3. Appear in person for jury service, be assigned to a courtroom for jury selection, and be chosen for a trial. Service in that trial to verdict satisfies the juror's obligation for at least 12 months.
4. Appear in person for jury service, be assigned to a courtroom for jury selection, but not be chosen for a trial. Dismissal by a judicial officer satisfies the juror's obligation for at least 12 months.

While jury duty remains a mandate of state law, the system recognizes the realities of the workplace and attempts to minimize the impact of jury service on businesses and employees.

History

The Judicial Council adopted rule 2.1002 of the California Rules of Court and enacted the one-day or one-trial policy in state courts effective July 1, 1999. At the time the rule was adopted, more than 20 superior courts in California's 58 counties

reported they had already adopted a one-day or one-trial system. By May 2002, with the successful implementation of one-day or one-trial jury service at the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, the new system was effective statewide.

Rule 2.1002—Length of juror service

California Rules of Court, rule 2.1002(c) states that “[e]ach trial court system must implement a juror management program under which a person has fulfilled his or her jury service obligation when the person has:

- “(1) Served on one trial until discharged;
- “(2) Been assigned on one day to one or more trial departments for jury selection and served through the completion of jury selection or until excused by the jury commissioner;
- “(3) Attended court but was not assigned to a trial department for selection of a jury before the end of that day;
- “(4) Served one day on call; or
- “(5) Served no more than five court days on telephone standby.”

Benefits for Employees and Employers

The one-day or one-trial system takes the waiting out of jury duty and reduces the potential for lost income for both employees and employers. Before the system was enacted, prospective jurors had to be available for up to 10 days in some counties. Now, potential jurors need to report for only one day to find out whether they will continue to serve. The system also reduces uncertainty about when and for how long employees will be unavailable for work.

California Juror Web Site

For more information on the one-day or one-trial jury system, visit the Jury Information Resource Center on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jury/.

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