

A Message from the Chief Justice

Dear Fellow Alaskan,

If you are reading this message, you may be one of more than 100,000 Alaskans summoned annually for jury service. If so, you will have been randomly selected from a list of Alaska Permanent Fund dividend applicants in your area to serve as a juror.

Jury service is a simple process. You do not need any special experience, training, or education. Serving on a jury has many benefits. It allows you to exercise one of the most fundamental rights guaranteed in our Constitution. Although it may cause some personal inconvenience, most citizens find that jury service is interesting, rewarding, and important.

If serving at the assigned time would be an inconvenience, you can ask to postpone your service to a better time within the next ten months. If service would be a substantial hardship due to medical or significant financial problems, you can request to be excused for up to one year. In some court locations, you must come to court and explain the hardship to the judge. If your doctor certifies in writing that you have a permanent disability, or if you are age 70 or older, you will be excused permanently from further jury service upon request.

Jury service is a basic right of every citizen. Our law does not let your employer penalize you or discriminate against you because you have jury duty. Jury service is also a responsibility of citizenship. However, this responsibility can only be fulfilled if you return the questionnaire and appear on the day(s) of your service.

On behalf of the entire Alaska Court system, I would like to thank you for serving as a juror. We recognize the personal sacrifice you make to take time away from your homes and places of work to serve, and we pledge to use your time as efficiently as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Bolger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joel" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Bolger".

Joel Bolger
Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court