

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FOR CLALLAM COUNTY

JUDGES

Brent Basden  
Lauren Erickson  
Simon Barnhart



Courthouse  
223 East Fourth Street, Ste 8  
Port Angeles, WA 93862-3015

360-417-2386  
360-417-2486

COMMISSIONER  
Brandon R. Mack

June 25, 2020

Re: Jury Summons

Greetings:

You are receiving this letter because you previously received a summons for jury duty to occur during July.

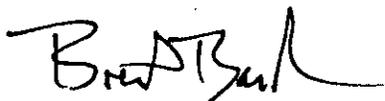
Thank you for carefully considering whether you can serve on a jury. As you know, the right to a jury trial is one of the most fundamental protections provided by our constitutional system of government. Jury trials can only occur if there are individuals willing and able to be jurors.

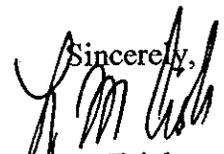
To help you determine whether you can serve, please review the pages following this introductory letter including the list of steps taken to protect your health.

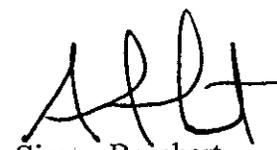
If, after that review, you believe that your health, or that of a household member, would be unreasonably endangered by jury service because of Covid-19, you may have have your term of jury service continued to a later date. **YOU DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR'S NOTE OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENTATION TO RECEIVE THIS DEFERRAL.** This process is different than the requirements of your original jury summons.

Please send an email to [kmanchester@co.clallam.wa.us](mailto:kmanchester@co.clallam.wa.us) with your name and the following statement: "I request my jury service be rescheduled based upon Covid-19 concerns." Upon receipt of that email your term of jury service will be automatically continued for at least twelve months.

We are grateful for your careful consideration. For those whose circumstances do not prevent jury service, thank you for being willing and able to serve on a jury. For those who cannot serve at this time, thank you for being willing, and we look forward to the day when you are also able.

  
Brent Basden  
JUDGE

Sincerely,  
  
Lauren Erickson  
JUDGE

  
Simon Barnhart  
JUDGE

CLALLAM COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JURY TRIALS  
STEPS TAKEN TO PROTECT HEALTH AND SAFETY

The following steps have been taken to enhance juror safety. As ongoing recommendations are received from public health officials, responsive steps will be implemented as needed.

- Jury selection will occur at the Vern Burton Center 308 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Port Angeles (across the street from the courthouse) where more space exists to enable social distancing. Please follow the signs and instructions that will direct you how to check in for jury service. Once a jury is selected, the reconfigured courtrooms will be utilized for the actual trial.
- The courtrooms have been configured so that jurors will listen to the trial testimony and then deliberate in a space that allows for social distancing. The traditional “jury box” will not be utilized by jurors.
- Ongoing discussions with and implementation of suggestions made by local public health officials.
- The courthouse, courtrooms, and bathrooms are thoroughly cleaned each day, and additional intermittent cleaning occurs throughout the day.
- Use of personal protective equipment recommended by state and local health officials will be required, and masks will be provided to those who do not have their own.
- The occupancy standards for the courtrooms have been adjusted to limit the number of individuals within the courtroom so that social distancing can be maintained.
- The process of jury selection has been streamlined.

**CLALLAM COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JURY TRIALS  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. **How do I get updated information about jury service?** Call 360-417-2450 before your first day of jury service for a recorded message regarding your need to appear. Also, please check either of the following websites: [www.clallam.net/superiorcourt](http://www.clallam.net/superiorcourt) or [www.clallam.net/clerk](http://www.clallam.net/clerk).
2. **Are jury trials still needed?** Yes they are. Jury trials are a cornerstone of the justice system. They are critical to fair hearings and a key constitutional guarantee. (U.S. Constitution Article III and Amendment VI, Washington State Constitution Article I Section 21 )
3. **Will jury duty be in person or via virtual means?** Jury duty will be in person. There are many reasons for this which include the constitutional rights of the accused, access to attorney presentations, access to evidence/exhibits, technology limitations, and to facilitate juror discussion during deliberations.
4. **If I have Covid-19 related health concerns can I be rescheduled for jury duty?** Yes, you can by following the instructions on the preceding letter.
5. **Will the courthouse be clean and safe?** Yes, the courthouse, courtrooms, and bathrooms are cleaned thoroughly each day, with additional intermittent cleanings throughout the day.
6. **Will the courtroom and jury rooms adhere to the CDC precautionary measures of social distancing?** Yes the court will adhere to the CDC precautionary measures. Jury positions will be marked in the courtrooms and jury deliberation spaces.
7. **Will I have to bring a mask and gloves?** You are encouraged to bring and wear your own personal protective equipment. The court will also have masks available if you do not have your own.
8. **Will the courthouse have hand sanitizer dispensers and hand washing areas available?** Yes, hand sanitizers and hand washing areas will be available in the courthouse.
9. **What if I feel unsafe or sick on the day I am to report to jury service?** Contact the Superior Court Clerk's Office at the email in the preceding letter and you will be provided a different opportunity for jury service.
10. **What if I feel unsafe or sick at any time during my jury service?** Immediately contact the bailiff who will be working with your jury pool during jury selection and trial.
11. **May I bring a water bottle or snacks?** Yes.