

## **Important Information Regarding Jury Service at the Bennington Superior Court Criminal Division**

### **Juror Reporting Instructions**

Call the juror phone at 802-447-2727 ext. 5 after 5:00pm the night before you are scheduled for jury service for reporting instructions.

### **Location and Parking**

We are located at 200 Veterans Memorial Drive, Bennington, VT in the State Office Complex next to the Deer Park and behind the Chamber of Commerce.

Handicapped parking is located at the front of the building on the south side (Deer Park side). General parking is permitted in the large parking area on the north side of the building and on the south side of the building, although that lot is smaller. Please do not park in the lot designated for the Chamber of Commerce or Staff parking.

On jury draw days, please report to the Criminal Division and enter the building using the main public entrance on the south side of the building. For individual criminal trials, however, you will be entering the building through the jury entrance on the north side of the building. If you are picked for a civil trial, you will report to 207 South Street, Bennington, unless otherwise instructed. This will be explained to you at orientation.

### **Time Commitment Expectations**

There is a "jury draw" once each month when the complete panel of jurors meets for one day to get assignments for specific trials. Jury trials vary in length from one day to several days. The final day of a trial can go into evening hours due to deliberations.

### **What to Expect at a Jury Draw**

Court staff will greet you and present a general orientation, answer questions and discuss your concerns. Then the judge will discuss our system of justice and answer questions. The rest of the day will

be spent drawing juries from the panel for trials. Plan to stay at the court until 4:30pm.

### **Emergencies/Reporting Absences/Excuses**

If you have an emergency which affects your jury service, please call 802- 447-2727 and speak with a court staff person.

Medical excuses are given first priority. A note from your physician must accompany all medical requests. The court always works with you to plan around scheduled appointments, vacations, or business hardship. We try to minimize the disruption that jury service might cause you.

### **Lunch**

Lunch is normally one hour. You may choose to go out or you may bring your lunch.

### **Miscellaneous**

Please note that anyone entering the building may be screened by a court security officer. You may not bring weapons into the courthouse.

Due to the nature of jury service and the court process itself, there are often periods of waiting. You may bring reading material to pass the time. There are brief recesses throughout the day. No childcare is available.

Smokers will be directed to a designated area outside the building.

### **Other Concerns**

If you have any special needs please bring them to the court clerk's attention. All electronic devices, including cell phones, must be turned off while court is in session.

Hearing assistance devices can be made available.