

STATEWIDE JURY VIDEO GUIDE



OVERVIEW

This guide provides an overview of the statewide jury video and jury service in Illinois. By serving as a juror, you are fulfilling a critical role of citizenship. Thank you for your service!

JURY SELECTION PROCESS

Voir Dire is a process where lawyers and the judge will ask questions of potential jurors. It is important to answer truthfully.

Personal questions are designed to make sure the jury selected is **fair and impartial**. They are not meant to harass or embarrass anyone.

If a question is embarrassing, the juror may ask the judge to answer privately. The answer will be confidential.

The judge decides who serves on the jury with input from the lawyers.

A juror selected may be excused for a true hardship.

If a juror has questions during jury selection, the juror can ask them in the courtroom.

PHASES OF TRIAL

The phases of trial include:

- Opening statements
- Plaintiff's or Prosecution's case
- Defendant's case
- Closing arguments
- Jury instructions

Jury instructions explain:

- Burden of proof
- Elements
- Issues to be decided by the jury

TERMS OF JURY SERVICE

A juror cannot conduct outside research about the case.

Jurors cannot discuss the case with other jurors until jury deliberations.

A juror cannot discuss the case with anyone - not even a spouse - until after the verdict is reached and the juror has been excused.

“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank you for your jury service!

