

Serving on Hockley and Cochran Grand Jury

Overview

Grand juries meet for six months at a time. Regular jury duty, the grand jury can function with between 9 and 12 members present each day. The grand jury listens to felony cases and decided whether or not there is probable cause to indict. In order to vote a true bill of indictment, at least nine (9) grand jurors must agree.

Location

Grand jury proceedings are secret and are held in the District Courtroom in both, Hockley and Cochran County.

Hockley Courthouse: 802 Houston Street Cochran County: 100 North Main

Hours

9:00 a.m. until the grand jury finished cases for that day, but the grand jury could possibly be in session until early afternoon.

Reimbursement

\$40.00 for each day they are present. Alternates only get reimbursed if they are named to replace one of the grand jurors.

Security

For security purposes, all persons entering the Courthouse or Justice center must pass through metal detectors, and may be subject to a personal search. No pocket knives, knitting needles, embroidery needles, etc., will be permitted into the premises.

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Arriving to Court

Report to the courtroom of the court which has summoned you on the correct date and time. The judge will select sixteen people, twelve grand jurors' and four alternate grand jurors. The alternates will serve only if one of the original twelve grand jurors becomes disqualified.

Qualifications

To serve as a grand juror you must meet the qualifications. A qualified juror:

- Must be at least 18 years of age;
- Must be a citizen of Texas and a resident of Hockley or Cochran County;
- Must be qualified under the constitution and laws to vote in Hockley or Cochran County (note: you do not have to be registered to vote);
- Must be of sound mind and good moral character;
- Must be able to read and write English;
- Has not been convicted of misdemeanor theft or felony;
- Cannot be under indictment or other legal accusation for misdemeanor theft or felony.
- Additionally, a qualified juror **MUST NOT**:
 - Be related to any grand juror serving on the same panel
 - Have served as a grand juror or grand jury commissioner in the previous year

Exemptions

You are not required to claim an exemption from serving on a grand jury.

An Exemption may be requested if the juror is:

- A person older than 70 years of age
- A person responsible for the care of a child younger than 18 years of age
- A student of a public or private secondary school
- A person enrolled and in actual attendance at an institution of higher education
- Any other person that the court determines has a reasonable excuse from service

If you are disqualified or want to claim an exemption, you may either complete the appropriate information on your grand jury duty summons, or contact the District clerk in either **Hockley County (806) 894-8527** or **Cochran County (806) 266-5450**.

