

ORDER OF EVENTS AT A TRIAL

If you've been selected as a juror, there are a few things you should know including instructions to follow, types of cases, and the process of a trial.

Instructions to Follow:

You have the right to communicate with the judge regarding any matters affecting your deliberations, including but not limited to:

- Physical Comfort
- Special Needs
- Any Questions regarding evidence
- The charge of the court

During deliberation, if it becomes necessary to communicate with the judge, the bailiff or the office of the court will deliver

Jurors' notes to the judge. This information is not intended to take the place of the instruction given by the judge in any case.

In the event of conflict, the judge's instructions will prevail.

When in doubt, ask the judge!

Afterwards

After you are discharged from jury service, you are released from the obligation of secrecy. You will then be free to discuss the case and your deliberations with anyone. However, you are also free to decline to discuss the case and your deliberations if you wish.

Types of Cases:

- **Criminal** case: when a person is accused of committing a crime. You as a juror must decide whether a person charged is guilty or not guilty. The accused person is presumed innocent, and the State of Texas, represented by the District or County Attorney, must prove guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt."
- **Civil** case: a disagreement or dispute between two or more parties. In a civil case, you as a juror answer questions of disputed facts based upon the testimony and evidence admitted by the judge. The answers to these questions are called the verdict. Civil cases can include family cases as well.