



GASTON H. HEWES, JR.

COUNTY COURT JUDGE

HARRISON COUNTY

P.O. BOX 973 • GULFPORT, MS 39502

GHH2@CO.HARRISON.MS.US

(228) 865-4025 • FAX (228) 865-4178

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July 6, 2020

Dear Prospective Juror,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Our Circuit Clerk, Connie Ladner, has enclosed a list of statutory excuses and in the event you fit into one of these categories, please contact the Circuit Clerk's office by email at circuitclerkjury1@co.harrison.ms.us or by phone at (228) 865-4005.

The reason I am enclosing this letter to you, in addition to your summons and the statutory information, is because of the pandemic we are undergoing. The Supreme Court of the State of Mississippi has not authorized the trial courts to have jurors until June 22nd, and all of the local courts (Circuit and County) have not sent out jury summons, to my knowledge, until today's summons received by you. I wanted to supplement the information received above with the following:

1. If you are sick, please do not come to court. No one who is sick or who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be permitted to enter any court facilities.
2. Lines may be a little longer than expected.
3. Masks or face coverings will be required to enter the facility and must be worn during all times you remain inside the courthouse. Jurors who report for service that do not have masks will be provided face coverings.
4. Social distancing shall be implemented.
5. Hand sanitizers will be provided throughout the courthouse.
6. Court personnel will take the temperature of prospective jurors.
7. All restrooms will be sanitized daily.

The health and safety of the jurors are paramount. If you are currently experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with a person who has had these symptoms, please contact the clerk. Symptoms may include any of the following:

- *Fever or chills
- *Cough
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- *Fatigue
- *Muscle or body aches

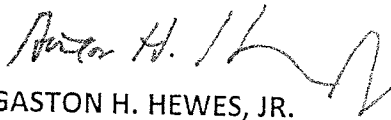
- *Headache
- *New loss of taste or smell
- *Sore throat
- *Congestion or runny nose
- *Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

Please understand that the judicial system is an integral part of our constitution and is the only way that we can peacefully resolve disputes. We have followed the guidelines of health experts and have done everything that we know to do to ensure everyone's safety.

Lastly, there is only one trial remaining to be tried the week of July 27th. It is a civil trial as opposed to a trial for one charged with a crime. Based upon my experience, I anticipate this trial to last less than two days and there will be ample breaks in the morning and afternoon for the jury as well as a lunch break. Court will recess for the day Monday at 5:00. Please call the jury answering machine message at (228) 865-0319 after 5:00 on Friday the 24th to see if the remaining trial has been amicably resolved which would obviate the necessity of your attendance.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



GASTON H. HEWES, JR.
COUNTY COURT JUDGE

GHHjr/tp

**NOTICE TO PERSONS SUMMONSED FOR JURY DUTY
IN HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

You have been summonsed for jury duty in Harrison County, Mississippi. This Notice provides important information which you must read and with which you must comply.

You must meet certain qualifications to participate in jury duty. Review the following list. If any of the following is true for you, you must immediately contact the Circuit Clerk's Office via email at circuitclerkjury1@co.harrison.ms.us or by mail at P. O. Box 998, Gulfport, MS 39502. You must include your name, address, telephone number, panel, and date of jury service. You must state clearly the reason you believe you do not qualify for jury duty.

1. I am not either a registered voter in the First Judicial District of Harrison County, Mississippi nor have I lived there for over one (1) year. (The First Judicial District of Harrison County is basically all of Harrison County to the west of Debuys Road.)
2. I am not yet 21 years of age.
3. I have been convicted of the unlawful sale of intoxicating liquor to a minor within the last five (5) years.
4. I am a common gambler.
5. I am a habitual drunkard.
6. I have a case pending in Circuit Court at this time.
7. I am not able to read.
8. I am not able to write.
9. I have been convicted of a felony crime.

You may also claim an exemption from jury duty. If you are over the age of 65 or if you have actually served on a jury within the last two (2) years, you can be excused from jury duty. You must immediately contact the Circuit Clerk's Office at the email or mailing address above. You must include your name, address, telephone number, panel, and date of jury service. You must clearly state the reason you seek to be excused.

There are also excuses which the Court can considered to excuse you from jury duty. If you believe that you have one of the following excuses, you must contact the Circuit Clerk's Office at the email or mailing address above. You must include your name, address, telephone number, panel, and date of jury service. You must state clearly the excuse which you are claiming and provide supporting documents.

1. If you are ill or there is a serious illness in your family which requires your presence at the hospital or at home.
2. If you have young children or an invalid under your exclusive care and control and there is no one to assist you in caring for them.
3. If your attendance will cause serious financial loss to you, your business, or those working under you.
4. If you have pending medical treatment during the week for which you are summonsed and cannot reschedule that.

YOU ARE NOT EXCUSED FROM JURY DUTY UNTIL THE CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE RESPONDS TO TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE EXCUSED. IF THEY DO NOT CONTACT YOU TO EXCUSE YOU, YOU MUST APPEAR!!

INFORMATION FOR THOSE SUMMONSED FOR JURY DUTY CONCERNING COVID-19

YOU MUST be aware of the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control's recommendations concerning COVID-19.

If you or anyone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19 and has not fully recovered or passed the full quarantine time, you MUST immediately contact the Circuit Clerk's Office by email at circuitclerkjury1@co.harrison.ms.us or by mail at P. O. Box 998, Gulfport, MS 39502. You must provide your name, address, telephone number, jury panel and date of jury service. DO NOT REPORT TO THE COURTHOUSE. You must contact the Circuit Clerk no later than the Monday before you are to report. The only exception to this is if the positive test is received after that time. Then you must contact the Circuit Clerk as soon as the positive test is received.

If you currently have any of the following symptoms or have been in close contact with a person with those symptoms, you must immediately contact the Circuit Clerk's Office, providing the required information (above). You must contact the Circuit Clerk no later than the Monday before you are to report. The only exception is if the symptoms begin after that date, in which case you must contact the Circuit Clerk as soon as they occur.

Fever or chills	Headache beyond any normally experienced
Persistent cough	New loss of taste or smell
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Sore throat
Fatigue beyond any you normally experience	Congestion or runny nose
Muscle or body aches beyond any you normally experience	Nausea or vomiting
	Diarrhea

PLEASE NOTE: You are not excused until the Circuit Clerk responds and advises you that you are excused. However,

NO ONE WHO IS EXHIBITING ANY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR WHO HAS ANY FEVER WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE COURTROOM OR JURY ASSEMBLY AREA!!

YOU MUST wear a mask at all times while in the Courtroom and jury areas. If you do not have a mask, you will be provided one when you report.

YOU MUST follow all social distancing requirements both inside and outside the Courthouse. Access to some areas will be limited.

YOU MUST note and follow all posted signs, including social distancing, face mask requirements, and health and safety guidelines.

YOU MUST wash your hands frequently. Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the Courthouse.

HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
CONNIE LADNER, CIRCUIT CLERK
P.O. BOX 998 - MAILING
1801 23RD AVE. - PHYSICAL
GULFPORT, MS 39502-0998

Return Service
Requested

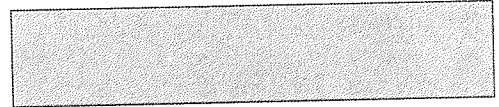
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GULFPORT, MS
PERMIT NO. 304
PRE-SORT

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO BE AND
APPEAR BEFORE THE
COURT OF HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AT
THE COURTHOUSE THEREOF IN THE CITY OF
GULFPORT, MS FOR THE WEEK OF
TO SERVE AS A GRAND OR PETIT JUROR, YOUR
NAME HAVING BEEN DRAWN RANDOMLY IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.

CALL (228) 865-0319 OR VISIT OUR
WEBSITE co.harrison.ms.us, (CLICK ON THE JURY
DUTY BUTTON), AFTER 6:00 P.M. THE DAY BEFORE
YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO REPORT FOR JURY DUTY.
THE RECORDED MESSAGE OR WEBSITE WILL ADVISE
YOU WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE TO REPORT THE
FOLLOWING DAY.

JURY SUMMONS

**BRING THIS SUMMONS WITH YOU
WHEN YOU REPORT FOR JURY DUTY.**



Mississippi Code 1972, Section 13-5-34, provides that a person summoned for jury service who fails to appear or to complete jury service as directed shall be ordered by the court to appear forthwith and show cause for his failure to comply with the summons. If he fails to show good cause for noncompliance with the summons he is guilty of criminal contempt and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or imprisoned not more than three (3) days or both.

POSSIBLE ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR BEING EXCUSED FROM JURY DUTY:

- ◆ ILL
- ◆ OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE
- ◆ UNABLE TO READ OR WRITE
- ◆ HAVE SERVED ON AN ACTUAL JURY IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

IF YOU WISH TO BE EXCUSED AS A JUROR, PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE ADDRESS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THIS CARD OR EMAIL TO circuitclerkjury1@co.harrison.ms.us

- YOUR VOTER NUMBER (located in the box above your address)
- YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER
- THE COURT, CITY AND DATE YOU ARE TO APPEAR FOR JURY DUTY
- A PROPER EXPLANATION AND/OR DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE

BECAUSE THE COURT REQUIRES THAT WE KEEP WRITTEN EXCUSES FOR OUR RECORDS, WE MUST HAVE YOUR REQUEST IN WRITING. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER SO THAT WE MAY NOTIFY YOU MORE QUICKLY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

CONNIE LADNER, CIRCUIT CLERK
HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

PLEASE WRITE - DO NOT CALL!!

PRESIDING JUDGES
CIRCUIT COURT
ROGER T. CLARK LISA P. DODSON LARRY P. BOURGEOIS, JR. CHRISTOPHER L. SCHMIDT
COUNTY COURT
GASTON H. HEWES, JR. ROBIN ALFRED MIDCALF MICHAEL DICKINSON