

JURY SERVICE VIDEO QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

To: TIPS Council
From: Matthew K. Johnson
Date: December 7, 2005
Re: Jury Service Video Responses

As you may recall, one of our goals for this year was to elicit information from the Clerks of Court regarding preparation of a uniform jury service video. We need to discuss our next steps at the conference call on Wednesday.

A summary of the responses from the Clerks of Court follows:

1. Do you currently show a video to potential jurors at the beginning of their service?
3 YES. 27 NO.
2. Have you shown potential jurors a video explaining what is expected of them in the past?
4 YES. 26 NO.
3. Would a current jury service video be helpful to you or your potential jurors?
17 YES. 8 NO. 2 POSSIBLY.
4. What type of information should be included in a jury service video?
 - a. The importance of jury service? 27 YES. 0 NO.
 - b. Juror compensation? 22 YES. 3 NO.
 - c. Dress code? 23 YES. 1 NO.
 - d. Types of service? Grand jury/petit jury 25 YES. 1 NO.
 - e. Contact information (toll free numbers, etc.) 22 YES. 4 NO.
 - f. The juror's oath? 23 YES. 4 NO.
 - g. Understanding the courts? 23 YES. 4 NO.
 - h. Understanding criminal cases? 23 YES. 4 NO.

i. Understanding civil cases?	<u>23</u> YES.	<u>4</u> NO.
j. Courtroom etiquette?	<u>24</u> YES.	<u>2</u> NO.
k. Conduct of the jury during trial?	<u>26</u> YES.	<u>1</u> NO.
l. Understanding voir dire?	<u>25</u> YES.	<u>2</u> NO.
m. Understanding jury selection?	<u>25</u> YES.	<u>2</u> NO.
n. Understanding the trial?	<u>22</u> YES.	<u>5</u> NO.
o. Understanding arguments of counsel?	<u>19</u> YES.	<u>8</u> NO.
p. Understanding objections at trial?	<u>19</u> YES.	<u>7</u> NO.
q. The jury verdict?	<u>23</u> YES.	<u>4</u> NO.
r. Understanding jury deliberation?	<u>25</u> YES.	<u>2</u> NO.
s. After the trial?	<u>22</u> YES.	<u>4</u> NO.
t. Other?	<u>4</u> YES.	<u>2</u> NO.

Comments:

- “Jury service video is wonderful project.”
 - Video should emphasize “importance of being on time and penalties.”
 - Video should “tell potential jurors to be careful what they say when questioned so as not to influence other jurors.”
 - Video should let jury know they can stay to hear sentencing.
 - Video should emphasize cell phones and pagers in courtroom.
 - Video should contain introduction of officers of court, especially bailiffs.
 - Video should address “certificate of employer (proof of service).”
5. To the extent you currently show a video to potential jurors at the beginning of their service, please provide identifying information including, but not limited to, the date of production, the creator, and a list of the substance of the video.

Comments:

- Anderson County currently uses video produced by Young Lawyers Division of SC Bar.
- Greenville County uses a video written and credited to Telecable of Greenville and Greenville Bar Association; no date of production, but in use in early 90’s.

6. If you have any other suggestions or information that might assist the TIPS Council in studying this issue, please provide your thoughts below:

Comments:

Pro:

- “Keep it short and simple.”
- “Understanding jury deliberation would be helpful.”
- “Stress standing order disallowing use of cell phones in courtroom.”
- Have sent jury information booklets in past— $\frac{3}{4}$ returned unread
- Sent letters regarding dress code—not read

Con:

- Several clerks suggested a video would not work
- Several Clerks suggested a video for Grand Jury would be more useful.
- “Clerk personally talks to jurors; would need extra time to show video.”
- Several Clerks referenced equipment/space issues.
- “Time needed to show video is a factor.”

Responses received from the following:

- 1) Aiken
- 2) Allendale
- 3) Anderson
- 4) Barnwell
- 5) Beaufort
- 6) Calhoun
- 7) Charleston
- 8) Cherokee
- 9) Chesterfield
- 10) Dorchester
- 11) Edgefield
- 12) Greenville
- 13) Hampton
- 14) Horry
- 15) Jasper
- 16) Kershaw
- 17) Lancaster
- 18) Laurens

- 19) Marlboro
- 20) McCormick
- 21) Newberry
- 22) Saluda
- 23) Spartanburg
- 24) Sumter
- 25) Union
- 26) Oconee
- 27) Williamsburg
- 28) Three (3) additional unidentified submissions

No response from (*with the exception of three (3) unidentified submissions*):

- 1) Abbeville
- 2) Bamberg
- 3) Berkeley
- 4) Chester
- 5) Clarendon
- 6) Colleton
- 7) Darlington
- 8) Dillon
- 9) Fairfield
- 10) Florence
- 11) Georgetown
- 12) Greenwood
- 13) Lee
- 14) Lexington
- 15) Marion
- 16) Orangeburg
- 17) Pickens
- 18) Richland
- 19) York