

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROSPECTIVE JURORS

Dear Potential Juror:

You have been summoned as a potential juror in the case of **CASE NAME AND NUMBER**. This is a criminal case where the United States government has charged the defendant(s) with violations **[insert description of charges]**.

In order to streamline the process of jury selection, this questionnaire has been prepared. Although there is not a great deal of space for your answers, please do your best to write legibly so that we can read your answers.

We will be using your answers in the process of jury selection. For this reason, it is very important to be truthful in answering the questions. In fact, you will be required to swear under oath that your responses are truthful, accurate, and complete. These questionnaires will be used by the Court and the lawyers, but are otherwise confidential. They will be collected after jury selection and destroyed. Some of the questions on this questionnaire may require you to disclose sensitive information on private matters. You must answer all of the questions on the questionnaire. However, if during the jury selection process you wish to be questioned about a particularly sensitive or private matter outside the presence of the other jurors, you can let me know that and we will accommodate such requests.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Cummings", written over a horizontal line.

Judge Jeffrey I. Cummings

United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Illinois



**JUDGE JEFFREY I. CUMMINGS**  
**219 South Dearborn Street**  
**Chicago, IL 60604**

**Courtroom 1219**  
**Chambers 1278**  
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**STANDARD CONFIDENTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROSPECTIVE  
JURORS IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL**

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**QUESTIONS**

1. Full name.
2. Age.
3. List all cities or suburbs where you have lived for the last ten years, with the current one first. (If Chicago, please identify which area/neighborhood of Chicago.)
4. Do you own your home or rent it?
5. Marital status.

6. If you have children, please describe them as follows. (Include children who do not live with you.)
- | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Does child live with you?</u> | <u>Education</u> | <u>Occupation</u> |
|------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
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7. State your current occupation and any other employment going back 10 years, including name of employer(s), nature of work and title of position(s), and length of time with each employer.
8. State the current occupation (and prior jobs going back 10 years) of your spouse/partner and any other adults in your household.
9. What is your level of education/degrees? If your education extended beyond high school, where did you obtain your post-high school degree(s)?
10. Have you or your spouse/partner served in the military?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
- If yes, please list the branch, years of service, highest rank achieved, duties, and nature of discharge.
11. What is your primary source of news?
12. What TV, radio, podcast, or internet shows do you watch, read, or listen to?
13. What are your hobbies and major outside interests?
14. List any organizations you belong to, participate in, or volunteer for (political / union / professional / church / social / fraternal). Include any social media groups which you belong to or follow.
15. Do you have any bumper stickers, flags, or signs displayed on your car or home or in your yard?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
- If yes, please describe them.
16. Have you, or has any close friend or relative, had any legal training (including law courses, paralegal program, or on-the-job training)?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please explain.

- 17.** Do you know any judges or court personnel?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**(a)** If yes, list their names and describe their relationship to you.

**(b)** If yes, have they discussed with you anything which would impact your ability to serve as a fair and impartial juror in this case?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

- 18.** Have you ever been employed as a lawyer, by a lawyer or law firm, in the criminal justice system, or by a law enforcement agency?

**(a)** If so, please state where you have been employed in one of the above capacities and the dates of your employment.

- 19.** Do you have a relative or close friend who is a prosecutor or a criminal defense attorney? If so, state your relationship to that person and whether anything about that relationship has left you with a positive or negative impression of the judicial system, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.

- 20.** Have you, any relatives, or close friends ever worked for a governmental entity (state, federal, city or county)? If yes, state your relationship to that person and their employer and position(s).

- 21.** Have you, a family member, or a close friend ever filed a claim or case against or had a legal dispute with the federal government? If yes, describe the person's relationship to you, the agency involved, the nature of the dispute, and what happened.

- 22.** Other than a traffic ticket, have you, a family member, or a close friend ever been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime? If yes, describe the nature of the offense; the person's relationship to you; the law enforcement organization(s) and the prosecutor's office involved; what happened in the case; and whether that experience might make it difficult for you to fairly and impartially evaluate the evidence and render a fair verdict in this case.

23. Have you, a relative, or close friend ever been a victim of a crime? If yes, describe the victim's relationship to you, the nature of the incident and when it occurred, whether charges were brought and what happened (e.g., imprisonment, probation, acquittal, etc.), and whether that experience would make it difficult for you to fairly and impartially evaluate the evidence and render a fair verdict in this case.
24. Have you ever appeared as a witness in a criminal case? If yes, state when and where you testified and the nature of your testimony.
25. Do you have prior experience as a witness in any other type of court hearing, trial, or sworn deposition?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please describe.

26. Do you have prior jury service experience (federal and state cases, civil and criminal cases, as well as grand jury)?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

(a) If yes, please describe as follows:

<u>Civil or Criminal</u>	<u>Charges/Allegations</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Did the jury reach a verdict (yes/no)</u>
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(b) Have you ever served as a jury foreperson?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

(c) How did you feel about your experience as a juror?

(d) Was there anything about your experience as a juror which makes you not want to serve again?

(e) Were you contacted or interviewed by anyone concerning your jury experience after the conclusion of the case?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, by whom were you contacted?

27. The charges are described in the cover letter. Is there anything about the nature of the charges that might affect your ability to fairly decide this case on the evidence without being partial to either side?
28. Is there anything about the allegation that the defendant was previously convicted of committing a felony that might affect your ability to fairly decide the case on the evidence without being partial to either side?
29. Do you have any strong feelings regarding firearms which would prevent you from being able to fairly decide this case on the evidence without being partial to either side? Do you belong to any firearms-related organizations?
30. At various times during the case, the Court will instruct you about the applicable law. It is your obligation to follow the Court's instructions about the law, whether you agree with the law or not. If you were to find that you disagree with the law as given to you by this Court, would you nonetheless be able to follow that law and reach a verdict by applying that law to the evidence?  
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
31. This case involves an investigation by the [law enforcement agency]. Do you have any feelings or experiences regarding [law enforcement agency] or any other law enforcement agency that might affect your ability to fairly decide this case on the evidence without being partial to either side?
32. A law enforcement officer's testimony is not entitled to any greater or lesser weight, simply because he or she is a law enforcement officer, than any other witness. Would you credit the testimony of a law enforcement officer any more or less than any other witness because that witness works in law enforcement?
33. The defendant is presumed to be innocent of the charges against him. Do you understand and will you follow this principle?
34. The government carries the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The burden never shifts to the defendant, and the defendant is not required to offer any evidence in his defense. Do you understand and will you follow this principle?

35. A defendant has an absolute and constitutional right not to testify. The fact that a defendant decides not to testify cannot be held against him. Do you understand and will you follow this principle?

36. Do you hold any strong religious, philosophical, or moral beliefs that make it impossible for you to serve as a juror?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please explain. (Please note that simply being uncomfortable judging another person does not excuse you from jury duty.)

37. Do you hold any religious, philosophical, moral, or other beliefs that might make it difficult for you to sit in judgment of another person?

38. Is there anything else bearing on your qualifications to serve as a juror in this case that you think that the Court should know?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please explain.

39. This case is scheduled to conclude on or before <INSERT DATE>. Would jury service cause you an extreme hardship? (Examples of extreme hardship include pre-paid travel arrangements or a scheduled medical procedure that cannot be rescheduled. The inconvenience of having to find someone to cover you at work or to cover child-care does not qualify as an extreme hardship.)

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please explain in detail.