

STATUTES AND RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE GOVERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF JURORS

Colorado Revised Statutes

§ 13-71-104. Eligibility for juror service—prohibition of discrimination.

(1) Juror service is a duty that every qualified person has an obligation to perform when selected.

(2) All trial and grand jurors shall be selected at random from a fair cross section of the population of the area served by the court. All selected and summoned jurors shall serve, except as otherwise provided in this article or by court rule.

(3)(a) A person shall not be exempted or excluded from serving as a trial juror or grand juror because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, ancestry, economic status, or occupation.

(b) A person with a disability shall serve except:

(I) As otherwise provided in section 13-71-105 or 13-71-119.5; or

(II) Where the court finds that such person's disability prevents the person from performing the duties and responsibilities of a juror.

(c) Before dismissing a person with a disability pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (3), the court shall interview the person to determine the reasonable accommodations, if any, consistent with federal and state law, that the court may make available to permit the person to perform the duties of a juror.

(4) The court shall strictly enforce the provisions of this article; except that the supreme court may provide by rule for the exclusion in a criminal trial of a juror who is employed by a public law enforcement agency or public defender's office.

§ 13-71-105. Qualifications for juror service.

(1) Any person who is a United States citizen and resides in a county or lives in such county more than fifty percent of the time, whether or not registered to vote, shall be qualified to serve as a trial or grand juror in such county. Citizenship and residency status on the date that the jury service is to be performed shall control.

(2) A prospective trial or grand juror shall be disqualified, based on the following grounds:

(a) Being under the age of eighteen;

(b) Inability to read, speak, and understand the English language;

(c) Inability, by reason of a physical or mental disability, to render satisfactory juror service. Any person claiming this disqualification shall submit a letter, if the jury commissioner requests it, from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant authorized under section 12-240-107(6), licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or authorized Christian science practitioner, stating the nature of the disability and an opinion that such disability prevents the person from rendering satisfactory juror service. The physician, physician assistant, licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or authorized Christian science practitioner shall apply the following guideline: A person shall be capable of rendering satisfactory juror service if the person is able to perform a sedentary job requiring close attention for three consecutive business days for six hours per day, with short breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions.

(d) Sole responsibility for the daily care of an individual with a permanent disability living in the same household to the extent that the performance of juror service would cause a substantial risk of injury to the health of the individual with a disability. Jurors who are regularly employed at a location other than their households may not be disqualified for this reason. Any person claiming this disqualification shall, if the jury commissioner requests it, submit a letter from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant authorized under section 12-240-107(6), licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or authorized Christian science practitioner stating the name, address, and age of the individual with a disability, the nature of care provided by the prospective juror, and an opinion that the performance of juror service would cause a substantial risk of injury to the individual with a disability.

(e) Residence outside of the county with no intention of returning to the county at any time during the succeeding twelve months;

(f) Selection and service as an impaneled trial or grand juror in any municipal, tribal, military, state, or federal court within the preceding twelve months or being scheduled for juror service within the next twelve months. Any person claiming this disqualification must submit a letter or other formal acknowledgment from the appropriate authority verifying his or her prior or pending juror service.

(g) Appearance as a prospective juror in state court in accordance with the provisions of section 13-71-120 within the current calendar year. Any person claiming this disqualification shall submit a letter or other formal acknowledgment from the appropriate authority verifying such prior juror appearance. This exemption, however, does not apply in emergency circumstances as provided for in section 13-71-112.

(3) A prospective grand juror shall be disqualified if he or she has previously been convicted of a felony in this state, any other state, the United States, or any territory under the jurisdiction of the United States.

§ 13-71-119. Deferments and excuses—limitations.

(1) It shall be the policy of this article that every trial juror shall be prepared to serve three trial days except as otherwise provided in this section or in section 13-71-104, 13-71-105, or 13-71-119.5.

(2) The court or the jury commissioner may defer or advance the term of service of the trial or grand juror upon a finding as provided in section 13-71-104, 13-71-105, or 13-71-119.5. The court may excuse a juror from grand juror service upon a finding of hardship or inconvenience, taking into consideration the length of grand juror service. The court may excuse a juror from trial juror service upon a finding of extreme hardship. The court may dismiss a trial or grand juror at any time in the best interest of justice.

(3) The court, after a hearing, may excuse and discharge an impaneled juror prior to jury deliberation upon a finding of extreme hardship, and such discharge shall not be grounds for objection or a mistrial as long as the statutorily or constitutionally required number of jurors remain able to proceed with the trial and deliberation. The court, after a hearing, may excuse and discharge a juror participating in jury deliberation only upon a finding of an emergency or for any other compelling reason. If the statutorily or constitutionally required number of jurors does not remain to hear evidence or to participate in jury deliberation after the discharge of a juror, the trial may continue with the lesser number of jurors only upon agreement of all parties on the record. The court may discharge an impaneled juror who has not appeared for juror service upon a finding that there is a strong likelihood that an unreasonable delay in the trial would occur if the court were to await the appearance of the juror. The court may exercise any authority granted in this section at any time before or during a juror's term of service.

§ 13-71-119.5. Persons entitled to be excused from jury service.

(1) The general assembly finds and declares that it is the policy of this state that all qualified citizens have an obligation to serve on juries when summoned by the courts of this state unless excused in accordance with the provisions of this article.

(2)(a)(I) A person shall be excused temporarily from service as a juror if his or her jury service would cause undue or extreme physical hardship to him or her or to another person under his or her direct care or supervision.

(II) The provisions of this subsection (2) shall apply notwithstanding the fact that the person does not have sole responsibility for the care of another person as described in section 13-71-105(2)(d).

(b) A judge or jury commissioner of the court for which a person was summoned for jury service shall determine whether jury service would cause the prospective juror or another person under his or her direct care undue or extreme physical hardship.

(c) A person who requests to be excused under this subsection (2) shall take all actions necessary to obtain a determination on the request before the date on which the person is scheduled to appear for jury duty.

(d) For purposes of this subsection (2), undue or extreme physical hardship shall be limited to circumstances in which a person:

(I) Would be required to abandon a person under his or her direct care or supervision because of the inability to obtain an appropriate substitute care provider during the period of jury service; or

(II) Would suffer physical hardship possibly resulting in illness or disease.

(e) A person who requests to be excused under the provisions of this subsection (2) may provide the judge or jury commissioner documentation that supports the request to be excused, including but not limited to medical statements, proof of dependency or guardianship, or other similar documents. The judge or jury commissioner may excuse a person if the documentation clearly supports the request to be excused. The documents comprising the documentation described in this subsection (2) shall not be deemed public records and shall not be disclosed to the public.

(2.5) A person who is breast-feeding a child and is temporarily unable to or chooses not to leave the child in order to serve on a jury must be excused temporarily from service as a juror for up to two consecutive twelve-month postponements. The judge or jury commissioner may request a medical statement in support of the postponement. A medical statement provided pursuant to this subsection (2.5) is not a public record and must not be disclosed to the public.

(3) A person who is temporarily excused pursuant to this section shall become eligible for qualification as a juror when the temporary excuse expires, as determined by the court. A person may be permanently excused only if the judge or jury commissioner determines that the grounds for being excused from jury service are permanent in nature.

(4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to impaneled jurors or to deliberating jurors described in section 13-71-119.

§ 13-71-120. Length of juror service. Trial juror service shall be for a one-day term unless a juror is assigned to or impaneled on an incompleated trial when the one-day term ends, or unless the court orders otherwise. Nothing shall prevent a trial juror from serving on more than one jury or participating in more than one trial during the term; except that a trial juror whose deliberation ended with a verdict shall not be required to participate in a second trial even though the juror may not have completed the first day of juror service at the time of the commencement of the second trial. Jurors awaiting assignment to a trial shall be discharged as early as possible after it has been determined that their services will not be needed. Grand juror service shall be for a term of twelve months unless the court discharges the jurors earlier or enlarges such term upon a finding that the efficient administration of justice so requires; except that in no event shall a grand jury serve for longer than eighteen months.

§ 13-71-121. Extended trials. Before a jury is impaneled, the court shall inform the jurors if a trial is expected to last more than three trial days and may excuse a juror from performing juror service in that trial upon a finding of hardship or inconvenience, taking into account the expected length of the trial. Any juror so excused shall otherwise complete the term of juror service.

Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure

Rule 47(b)-(e) (District Court)

(b) Alternate Jurors. The court may direct that one or two jurors in addition to the regular panel be called and impaneled to sit as alternate jurors. Alternate jurors in the order in which they are called shall replace jurors who, prior to the time the jury retires to consider its verdict, become unable or disqualified to perform their duties. An alternate juror who does not replace a principal juror shall not be discharged until the jury renders its verdict or until such time as determined by the court. If the court and the parties agree, alternate jurors may deliberate and participate fully with the principal jurors in considering and returning a verdict. If one or two alternate jurors are called each side is entitled to one peremptory challenge in addition to those otherwise allowed. The additional peremptory challenge may be exercised as to any prospective juror.

(c) Challenge to Array. Any party may challenge the array of jurors by motion setting forth particularly the causes of challenge; and the party opposing the challenge may join issue on the motion, and the issue shall be tried and decided by the court.

(d) Challenge to Individual Jurors. A challenge to an individual juror may be for cause or peremptory.

(e) Challenges for Cause. Challenges for cause may be taken on one or more of the following grounds:

(1) A want of any of the qualifications prescribed by the statute to render a person competent as a juror;

(2) Consanguinity or affinity within the third degree to any party;

(3) Standing in the relation of guardian and ward, master and servant, employer and clerk, or principal and agent to either party, or being a member of the family of any party; or a partner in business with any party or being security on any bond or obligation for any party;

(4) Having served as a juror or been a witness on a previous trial between the same parties for the same cause of action;

(5) Interest on the part of the juror in the event of the action, or in the main question involved in the action, except the interest of the juror as a member, or citizen of a municipal corporation;

(6) Having formed or expressed an unqualified opinion or belief as to the merits of the action;

(7) The existence of a state of mind in the juror evincing enmity against or bias to either party.

Rule 347(b)-(e) (County Court)

(b) Alternate Jurors. No alternate jurors shall be called or impaneled to sit on juries in the county court.

(c) Challenge to Array. A challenge to the array of jurors may not be made by either party.

(d) Challenge to Individual Jurors. A challenge to an individual juror may be for cause or peremptory.

(e) Challenges for Cause. Challenges for cause may be taken on one or more of the following grounds:

(1) A want of any of the qualifications prescribed by the statute to render a person competent as a juror.

(2) Consanguinity or affinity within the third degree to any party.

(3) Standing in the relation of guardian, ward, employer, employee, principal, or agent to any party, or being a member of the family of any party, or a partner in business with any party or being security on any bond or obligation for any party.

(4) Having served as a juror or been a witness on a previous trial between the same parties for the same cause of action.

(5) Interest on the part of the juror in the event of the action, or in the main question involved in the action, except the interest of the juror as a member, or citizen of a municipal corporation.

(6) Having formed or expressed an unqualified opinion or belief as to the merits of the action.

(7) The existence of a state of mind in the juror evincing enmity against or bias to either party.