



EL PASO AND TELLER COUNTY COMBINED COURTS, FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF COLORADO

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CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 2024-1

RE: DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO JURY COMMISSIONER

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Pursuant to C.R.S. § 13-71-124, C.R.S., I hereby delegate to the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Jury Commissioners for El Paso and Teller County the authority to reschedule and excuse jurors from jury service in the manner set forth in this Order.

Postponements, Advancements, Disqualifications, or Excusals

The jury commissioner, upon request from the summoned juror, has the authority to:

- postpone or advance jury service prior to reporting, pursuant to C.R.S. § 13-71-119(2);
- disqualify jurors prior to reporting pursuant to C.R.S. § 13-71-119, C.R.S. § 13-71-119.5, and C.R.S. § 13-71-105 in the following manner:
  - If the Jury Commissioner is satisfied that the request and supporting documentation establish grounds for disqualification, the jury commissioner may excuse the juror.
  - If the Jury Commissioner is not satisfied that the appropriate grounds for an excuse are present, the juror should be included in the venire and all documentation submitted by the juror should be provided to the trial judge.

The Jury Commissioner is not authorized to excuse a juror based on the "best interests of justice" or religion. See C.R.S. § 13-71-119, -119.5, -104(3)(a).

Reporting times, dismissal times, special circumstances, additional jurors, large jury panel requests.

The Jury Commissioner is authorized to schedule the reporting times of jurors in accordance with the opening time of the courthouse.

Jurors are to be dismissed no later than 5:30 p.m., unless a judicial officer, after consulting with a jury or jury venire, finds good cause to keep a juror past 5:30 p.m.

The Jury Commissioner has the ultimate discretion as to the length of time that jurors may be held in the jury assembly room, but only after discussion with any judge who has ordered and is anticipating jurors to be brought to their courtroom.

When special circumstances require a variation from the general reporting standards or departure of jurors, division staff, in advance and as soon as possible, should notify the Jury Commissioner to make the special arrangements.

Judges who have already begun jury selection and believe additional jurors will be needed in the afternoon or the following day (with the exception of Friday) should notify the Jury Commissioner no later than the cut-off time designated by the current Jury Commissioner.

The Jury Commissioner is not required to accommodate any large panels of more than 50 jurors without at least six weeks prior notice of the need.

This Order rescinds Chief Judge Directives 1991-16, 2000-4, 2000-05, 2004-03, and Chief Judge Orders 1986-2, 2007-3, 09-06, 2020-30, and 2022-6.

DONE AND SIGNED ON THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. B. Bain", is written above a horizontal line.

WILLIAM B. BAIN

Chief Judge

Fourth Judicial District