

John F. Wagner, Jr.
President Judge

Fayette County

Court of Common Pleas

June 22, 2021

Christopher Line - Staff Attorney Freedom From Religion Foundation PO Box 750 Madison, WI 53701

Attorney Line,

Thank you for notifying the Fayette County Jury Commissioners' Office of your concerns regarding the previous inclusion of a bible verse in a jury summons sent last fall.

Upon receiving your letter dated December 18, 2020, the bible verse was immediately removed from all jury summons. With respect to the government mandated separation of church and state, no future summons will include the verse.

Enclosed, you will find a copy of Fayette County's current jury summons, which has been issued for all months thus far in 2021 and will continue to be issued.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Janet Trees
Fayette County Jury Commissioner
61 E. Main St. Uniontown, PA 15401

## **FAYETTE COUNTY JURY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE- 724-430-1279**

## ----JUROR INFORMATION-----

\*\*\*\*\*FIREARMS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE COURTHOUSE \*\*\*\*\*

Please allow sufficient time since the Sheriff's Deputy shall conduct a search by x-ray machine and walk through metal detector upon entering the Courthouse.

**HOW YOU WERE SELECTED AS A JUROR** – Names of potential jurors are randomly drawn from the Voter Registration, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Welfare lists. Once summoned, you are required to complete and return both the qualification questionnaire and confidential questionnaire then mail the forms within seven (7) days in the provided postage paid envelope. Jury service is dependent both upon an individual meeting the legal qualifications for service and upon the random chance of having one's name drawn from the source's lists.

<u>PETIT JURORS</u> — Petit Jurors participate in criminal and civil trials and render a verdict after listening to the evidence and arguments by all parties, following a set of instructions given by the presiding judge. After you arrive for jury duty, the Court will randomly draw small panels of jurors who will be escorted to a particular courtroom to be questioned for possible service on a trial. The Judge and attorneys on the case will ask questions of the jurors, and then the attorneys for the parties will have the opportunity to select a jury by striking certain individuals from the panel. Individual questioning of jurors typically does not occur unless the nature of the case is a capital murder case.

<u>WHEN AND WHERE TO REPORT</u> – THIS is your official summons and only notice to report. You **MUST** report promptly to *Courtroom No. 1* of the *Fayette County Courthouse* (*second floor*) on the date and time indicated on the front of THIS summons. Bring THIS summons with you. The Court will notify you each day as to the length of your service. Allow time for parking.

<u>LETTERS FOR EMPLOYERS</u> may be obtained from the Administrative Office the Fayette County Courts (located on the Third Floor of the Courthouse) at the conclusion of your service as a juror which may extend beyond your second day. If you are seated on a trial, you will be requested to stay until it is concluded.

<u>ATTIRE</u> – Dress comfortably but appropriately with respect to the Court and the parties. Shorts, hats, T-shirts, tank and halter-tops are <u>not</u> permitted. We cannot be responsible for personal belongings, so please bring only what you need.

PARKING — PARKING GARAGES are located at the corner of Gallatin Ave. and Peter St. (across from City Hall) Cost \$6.00. A small parking lot is located on Main St. (just past the Courthouse on the left) Cost \$6.00. ALSO PARK IN PARKING GARAGE ON CHURCH STREET & BEESON AVE Cost \$6.00. If you use parking meters, you may not be permitted to leave to feed the meters.

## THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROHIBIT BRINGING FOOD ITEMS INTO COURTHOUSE.

DO NOT take food items or reading materials into the courtroom. Those items are prohibited.

<u>IN THE EVENT OF A COURTHOUSE EMERGENCY WHILE ON JURY DUTY</u> – Exit the building and immediately report to the State Theater located at 37 E. Main St., so we may account for your safety.

\*\*\* PENALTIES \*\*\* Jurors who fail to report to court when instructed to do so may be served by the Fayette County Sheriff's Office with an order to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court for not appearing as instructed. Upon a finding of contempt, the Court could impose fines and other penalties.