

Types of Trials

Civil — In a civil trial, parties in dispute come into court to determine and settle their respective rights. The person who brings an action against another is the “plaintiff.” The person against whom the action is brought is the “defendant.”

Criminal – In a criminal trial, the persons bringing the action are the people of the State of Florida, represented by the “prosecutor.” The “defendant” is a person or corporation accused of violating the law.

Trial Process

Opening Statements - Attorneys outline each of their respective cases and discuss the evidence that will be presented during trial.

Presentation of Evidence—Evidence is presented by each side. Evidence can be written or oral statements or physical exhibits. Attorneys are given an opportunity to cross-examine opposing witnesses as well.

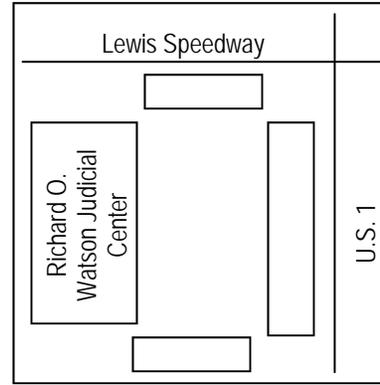
Closing Arguments— Attorneys close the case and make arguments to convince the jury that the evidence presented favors their side.

Verdict—Once the evidence is presented and law is defined, the jury will begin its deliberations. The final decision of the jury is the verdict.

Taken from The Florida Bar's Handbook for Jurors

Getting Here

Public parking for the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center can be accessed by entrances on Avenue D and Lewis Speedway.



Contact Us

Court Administration
Room 285
Richard O. Watson Judicial Center
(904) 827-5635

St. Johns County Clerk of Court
Jury Management
Room 247
Richard O. Watson Judicial Center
(904) 819-3629

www.circuit7.org

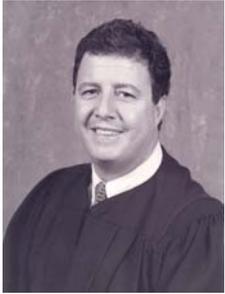
Jury Service

St. Johns County

A Guide for Jurors



*A Message from Circuit Judge John M. Alexander
Administrative Judge, St. Johns County*



Dear Resident,
Jury service is critical to the American justice system, so we're pleased to have you with us today. On behalf of the judges of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, I want to thank you for honoring your jury summons. Justice cannot be administered without your active participation in the process. We realize your time is precious, and my fellow judges and I are committed to minimizing your inconvenience while you are with us.

We hope your time with us will be comfortable and hassle-free. Included in this brochure are some general tips and information about the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center. If you have any problems or concerns during your jury service, please communicate them to me, the presiding judge, bailiff or jury coordinator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Alexander".

John M. Alexander

Visiting the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center

No food or drink are allowed in the courthouse until juries are selected.

A snack bar is located in Building B on the south end of the campus. Several eateries can be found on U.S. 1 south of the courthouse.



Please inform the jury coordinator of any special needs you may have during your jury service.

WiFi service is available throughout the facility. You are welcome to use your laptop until you are seated on a jury.

Jury Service

**I've been
sworn in
as a juror
... now
what?**



- ◆ Do not discuss the case with others.
- ◆ Don't be offended if attorneys or other court personnel involved with the case don't acknowledge you outside of court.
- ◆ Do not conduct your own investigation of the case.
- ◆ Refrain from reading or listening to media reports on the case.
- ◆ Be sure to report to the jury assembly room so you can be escorted to the courtroom by a bailiff. You should never go to the courtroom without being escorted by a bailiff.
- ◆ Report any suspicious behavior/conduct to the judge that may be related to your jury service.
- ◆ If you're unable to report, please call jury management ASAP at (904) 819-3629.

Date of Trial: _____

Time to Appear: _____