



BOSTON COLLEGE

Jury Duty

Office of Jury Commissioner of Massachusetts

According to the Office of Jury Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, every U.S. citizen 17 years of age or older who is a Massachusetts resident or an inhabitant for more than 50% of the time is eligible to serve as a juror. If you are a resident of another state but a student at a Massachusetts college, you are considered to be an inhabitant for more than 50% of the year and, therefore, eligible to serve as a juror in Massachusetts.

It is not unusual for students residing at Boston College to be summoned to serve as trial jurors. All colleges and universities in the state are required by law to provide the municipality in which they reside the names and local addresses of resident students. It is from this list that students are, occasionally, randomly selected for jury duty. Jury service, on a short-term basis, can provide students with a good opportunity to fulfill one of their important responsibilities as members of the community. Boston College supports students in their fulfillment of this civic duty.

Students should carefully read all materials they receive with their summons to service. This summons contains helpful information about confirming, postponing (you may request to postpone, one time only, to any court business day, provided that the date you select is within 12 months of the date for which you were originally summonsed), rescheduling, or relocating service. The summons also addresses frequently-asked questions. Jury duty is an important legal obligation, and those who fail to respond are subject to criminal prosecution.

Students who must miss class in order to fulfill their jury service requirement should notify each of their instructors of the summons and make arrangements to complete any missed work. Staff at the dean's office of your school or college may also be able to assist you in making arrangements for missed class time due to jury service. Students may be required to furnish their summons notice or the certificate of service when making these arrangements.

If you have any questions about jury duty, contact the Office of Jury Commissioner (1-800-THE-JURY/1-800-843-5879). Additional information is available at the Office of Jury Commissioner's website at www.massjury.com.