

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

PRACTICE DIRECTION
CRIMINAL-3

Prospective Juror Attendance

The right and responsibility of citizens to be jurors in a civil or criminal case is one of the most important roles for a citizen to play in our democratic society. The jury system can only function with the participation of every citizen when they receive a jury notice.

It is contempt of court to not attend in response to a jury notice. Section 7 of the *Jury Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 129, as amended, provides an opportunity to be excused from serving as a juror by applying to the Sheriff on religious grounds or serious hardship. If the Sheriff refuses an application, the person may still apply to be excused by the judge hearing the trial.

The *Jury Act* also provides that a judge may impose a fine of up to \$1000 for failure to obey a jury summons.

The Sheriff shall, once the jury has been selected, provide the trial judge with a list of persons who received a jury summons, but did not appear for jury duty on the date summoned. The judge may then, in his or her discretion, require those persons to attend before the Court to show cause why they should not be fined.

Veale J.
January 15, 2016