



New Jersey Judiciary Certification in Support of Request to be Excused from Jury Service Due to Severe Financial Hardship

Name	County	Candidate ID
Phone	Email	Summons Date

I, _____, of full age, hereby certify the following:

This certification is made by me in support of my request to be excused from jury service on (date) _____, in _____ County.

New Jersey law permits an excuse from jury service based upon severe financial hardship, as follows:

Jury service will impose a severe financial hardship, which will compromise the juror's ability to support himself, herself, or dependents. In determining whether to excuse the prospective juror, the Assignment Judge shall consider:

- (a) the sources of the prospective juror's household income; and
 - (b) the availability and extent of income reimbursement; and
 - (c) the expected length of service.
- [N.J.S.A. § 2B:20-10(c)(2)]

As to part (a): How many people are in your household? _____
What was your gross **household** income during the prior year? \$ _____

As to part (b): Are you employed? full-time part-time unemployed
Will you be paid at all during jury service? Explain.
If No, please provide a letter from your employer stating you will not be paid for jury service.

As to part (c): If at all, how many day(s) could you report (or be on call) without a severe financial hardship? _____

Explain why jury service would present a severe financial hardship, as defined by law:

- I have read and understood the instructions on the following page.
- I understand that I may be required to provide documentation for review in support of this request.

I hereby certify and say that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Date

Signature

Print Name

Juror Financial Hardship Request Information

- Jury service is a civic responsibility, as well as an opportunity to participate in the court process. If qualified, all persons should serve as jurors to ensure that juries reflect the community.
- A jury summons may be received at a time that is inconvenient, whether for financial or other reasons. All persons summoned for jury service may be rescheduled once without explanation and a second time upon request to the local jury management office.
- This form is designed for persons who are requesting to be excused from reporting at all – meaning that to report or to be on call even briefly is a severe financial hardship.
- Even if you do not qualify to be excused prior to reporting for service, you may always request an excuse if the anticipated length of a trial would create a severe financial hardship.
- A person requesting a pre-reporting excuse based upon severe financial hardship must be prepared, upon request, to provide supporting documentation such as a prior year's redacted tax return or proof of eligibility for public assistance or Social Security Disability benefits. Employed persons may also be required to provide a letter from their employer or official human resources documentation regarding income reimbursement policy.
- Authority to excuse a juror on the basis of severe financial hardship is vested in the Assignment Judge, and there is no single formula. For example, an unemployed person receiving public assistance could be required to report if reporting does not compromise employment opportunities. On the other hand, a juror with greater household income may be excused if reporting would compromise the juror's ability to provide for himself, herself, or dependents.
- Submitting the completed certification form is required but is only the first step in requesting an excuse. **The Assignment Judge may always request additional information and/or documentation in support of any excuse request, including a request based upon severe financial hardship.**