

SHANNON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT TO IMPLEMENT NEW SYSTEM WITH MORE CONVENIENT COMMUNICATION WITH PROSPECTIVE JURORS

Shannon County, MO - Beginning next month prospective jurors in Shannon County can choose to communicate with the court by phone or email as the Shannon County circuit court implements the new Show-Me Jury system.

The Shannon County circuit court will mail new Show-Me Jury questionnaires starting in November 2020, for jury service beginning January 1, 2021.

"A big benefit to the public will be the ease of contacting and communicating with the courts, and in particular the circuit clerk's office", Melany Williams, Shannon County Circuit Clerk and Recorder, said. "Although Show-Me Jury is not completely paperless, it allows our potential jurors to do more online and choose how they want the court to let them know if they have been excused or if their service has been postponed or canceled. It really has made service so much more convenient for our citizens."

Here is how Missouri's new Show-Me Jury system works:

- The circuit court still sends the questionnaire for jury service through the postal mail.
- When potential jurors receive the questionnaire, they now go online at www.courts.mo.gov/ejuror to complete their juror qualification forms. This online questionnaire lets them choose their preferred method of communication with the court – whether by postal service, text or email. For prospective jurors who remain in the pool of qualified jurors after completing their questionnaires, the local court still will send the summons via postal mail.
- Potential jurors who believe they are not qualified for jury service under state law can follow the online instructions to submit their necessary documentation electronically.
- For potential jurors who provide the appropriate contact information, the circuit clerk's office can notify them by phone, text or email before they report for service or if their service is no longer needed.

For potential jurors who do not have access to a computer or who prefer not to communicate information electronically, they may call the circuit clerk's office to request a paper copies of necessary documents. They may also call the circuit clerk's office with any questions.

Missouri Courts do not require anyone to provide confidential information over the telephone or by email. The Show-Me Jury system is designed to give citizen a choice how they want to communicate with their local courts about potential jury service. Any telephone call or email threatening the recipient with fines or jail time for failure to comply are fraudulent, are in no way connected with Missouri courts and should be reported to local law enforcement officials.

"Juries are a hallmark of the America justice system and we truly appreciate the willingness of our citizens to serve as jurors," Williams said. "Through the Show-Me jury system, we hope to make that service much easier and more convenient."