

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Pursuant to a proposal submitted by the Nebraska Access to Justice Commission and the Committee on Equity and Fairness, the Nebraska Supreme Court is considering amendments to the Nebraska Juror Qualification Form, and relevant rule sections, to eliminate the confidential juror information section and move the request for demographic information to a different section. In addition to the revisions proposed by the Commission and the Committee, the redesigned form presented here would replace the current form with updated language and a reformatted layout. The proposed amendments to Neb. Ct. R. §§ 6-1002 and 6-1003 would reflect changes to the form and update citations. The Supreme Court directed that the proposed amendments be published for a public comment period.

The Nebraska Supreme Court invites interested persons to comment on the proposed amendments. Anyone desiring to comment on the proposed amendments should do so in writing to the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8910, or via e-mail to [erika.schafer@nejudicial.gov](mailto:erika.schafer@nejudicial.gov), **with the rule section listed in the subject line**, no later than June 1, 2024.

The full text of the proposed amendments is available below, or a paper copy may be obtained from the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals upon request.

## CHAPTER 6: TRIAL COURTS

....

### Article 10: Juror Qualification Form

....

#### **§ 6-1002. Required juror qualification form; amendment.**

The Nebraska Juror Qualification Form, attached as Appendix A to this rule, has been adopted by the Nebraska Supreme Court pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. ~~§ 25-1629.01~~ § 25-1657. All district and county courts shall use the attached form when the use of a juror qualification form is required by statute unless a request for approval of any amendments to such form has been approved by the Supreme Court. Such requests shall be submitted as provided in § 1-103, ~~in writing and on a disk or CD in a Microsoft Word compatible format to the Clerk of the Supreme Court for submission to the Court.~~ Any language ~~to be added to the form shall be underscored and any language to be deleted from the form shall be overstruck.~~

#### **~~§ 6-1003. Confidential parts of the juror qualification form.~~**

~~The CONFIDENTIAL JUROR INFORMATION section of the Nebraska Juror Qualification Form, Part VII, shall be detachable and shall be removed by the clerks of the district and county courts or jury commissioners and stored in a confidential manner by such clerk or commissioner until the end of the jury term. No one shall be permitted access to these detached sections except as set forth in this rule. The clerk or commissioner shall deliver the detached confidential information to an approved research agent of the Nebraska Supreme Court. The Nebraska Minority and Justice Implementation Committee (NMJIC) and the Nebraska Racial Justice Initiative (NRJI) have been approved by the Nebraska Supreme Court as such research agents. The confidential juror information may also be maintained, stored, and transmitted to the approved research agent by electronic means by any court which possesses such capabilities.~~

#### **§ ~~6-1004~~ 6-1003. Supplemental juror questionnaires.**

Nothing in this rule shall prohibit the use of case-specific supplemental juror questionnaires to the extent that the supplemental questions do not duplicate any information requested in the Nebraska Juror Qualification Form.

# Nebraska Juror Qualification Form

**From:** Jury Commissioner of \_\_\_\_\_ County

**To:** [name of potential juror]

**Juror Number:**

*This form can be filled out and submitted online at:*  
[Bitly to be developed]

All qualified citizens in Nebraska should have the opportunity to be considered for jury service and should likewise fulfill their obligation to serve as jurors when summoned. Because you have been summoned for jury service, you are required under penalty of law to answer all questions (unless otherwise indicated) and return this form, properly signed, to the Jury Commissioner, within ten (10) days. Please complete both sides of the form. Use N/A if the question does not apply to you.

If you are unable to fill out this form, another person may complete it for you, and that person must sign the form and provide an explanation at the end of this document.

Any person who knowingly fails to complete and return this form, or who willfully misrepresents a material fact on this form, for the purpose of avoiding or securing service as a juror, **shall be guilty of contempt of court** under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-1658.

The information in the box below is requested to assist in contacting you about your jury service.

1. Last name		First name		Middle name		2. Date of birth	
3. Mailing address			City	State	Zip code	4. Email address	
5. Cell phone # and cell service provider			6. Home phone #			7. Work phone #	
8. Employer		9. Occupation			10. Employer phone #		
11. Name of spouse (if applicable)			12. Has your spouse received a juror qualification form or a summons for jury duty in the past year? ___ yes ___ no				
13. Spouse's employer		14. Spouse's occupation			15. Spouse's employer phone #		
16. Emergency contact name		17. Emergency contact relationship			18. Emergency contact phone #		
19. Are there any special accommodations you require to serve as a juror? If so, please describe:							

The information in the box below is necessary to determine if you are qualified to serve as a juror under Nebraska law.

___ yes ___ no	20. Are you a citizen of the United States?
___ yes ___ no	21. Do you reside in this county? If "no," in which county do you reside? _____
___ yes ___ no	22. Can you read, speak, and understand the English language? If "no," what is your primary language? _____
___ yes ___ no	23. Are you 19 years, or older?
___ yes ___ no	24. Are you a judge of any court, clerk or deputy clerk of the Supreme Court or District Court?
___ yes ___ no	25. Are you a sheriff or jailer?
___ yes ___ no	26. Are you or your spouse currently a party to a suit with a pending jury trial in any court of this county? If "yes," give the title of case and case number. _____
___ yes ___ no	27. Have you ever been convicted of a felony that was not later pardoned or set aside? If "yes," in which state, county, and year? _____

The demographic information in the box below is requested to assist in ensuring that the jury pool represents a fair cross-section of the community. You are encouraged, but not required to provide this demographic information.

28. Gender: ___ Male ___ Female ___ Self-described _____ ___ Prefer not to answer	
29. Race/Ethnicity (Select all that apply):	
___ Black/African American	___ Hispanic/Latino
___ American Indian/Alaska Native	___ Middle Eastern/North African
___ Prefer not to answer	___ White ___ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ___ Asian ___ Other (specify) _____

For more information about how to fill out this form and about jury service generally, please use this QR Code to watch a video.


[QR Code]

The information in the box below may allow you to postpone your jury service or be excused from jury service. Please checkmark any of the following statements that apply to you and submit any required documentation along with this form. You will be notified if your request is granted.

___	30. I am 70 years of age or older and wish to be exempted from jury service. (This option does not require documentation.)
___	31. I have a physical or mental impairment which makes me incapable of rendering satisfactory jury service. (This option requires submission of a physician's letter/certificate setting forth the nature of your impairment.)
___	32. I am a nursing mother. (This option requires submission of a physician's letter/certificate affirming the age of the child and nursing status.)
___	33. I am on active military duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces. (This option requires submission of documentation of active-duty status.)
___	34. Within the past five (5) years, I have: (a) served (actually selected and sworn to serve) as a juror for more than four (4) calendar weeks, or (b) served on a grand jury. i. Approximate dates of service _____ ii. Court _____ iii. County _____ iv. Approximate number of days served _____
___	35. I am a full-time student and wish to postpone my jury service. (This option requires submission of a written confirmation from the Registrar's Office indicating full-time status.) Name of School _____
___	36. I should be excused from jury service at this time due to an undue hardship, extreme inconvenience, or public necessity. (This option requires submission of a detailed description of the reason, supporting documentation and the approximate dates you would be unavailable.)

- I, the undersigned,
- I, the undersigned, assisting the person summoned for jury service in filling out this form,

certify under penalty of perjury that the answers to the above questions regarding qualifications to serve as a juror are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_ **SIGN**  \_\_\_\_\_  
Date **HERE** Signature

If you assisted the person summoned for jury service in filling out this form, print your name and address below and explain why the assistance was necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you did not complete this form electronically, please return a paper copy to:  
[Name and contact information for Jury Commissioner of \_\_\_\_\_ County]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

-----  
For Clerks Use Only:

\_\_\_ Qualified \_\_\_ Unqualified \_\_\_ Exempt \_\_\_ Postponed \_\_\_ Excused

Postponed/Excused notes/dates:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_