

Stephanie Finnie, Clerk  
Newton County Clerk of Superior Court  
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Direct juror phone line: 770-784-2040  
Acknowledgment of summons: 770-788-3773  
Juror Information Line as to upcoming Trial week: 470-782-0221

## Jury Service

Jury trials are a hallmark of the American Legal System. Each day around the state, trial courts require hundreds of ordinary citizens to report to the courthouse for jury duty. Both a right and responsibility, service as a juror places the individual citizen in a central role in the justice system.

**Jury Composition** – Each year, The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia generates the Statewide Master Jury List in accordance with the current Supreme Court Jury Composition Rule. The Council acquires inclusionary source data from the Secretary of State and Department of Driver Services. We acquire exclusionary source data from the following: Department of Public Health; Department of Corrections; Department of Community Supervision; State Board of Pardons & Paroles; Secretary of State; and Superior Court Clerks. The council generates the county master jury lists using this data and issues certificates upon receipt of payment. After the council completes the composition of the master list, the data is downloaded just as it is received from them into the Clerk of Court's jury program. No changes are made to the master list after download and everyone on the list is eligible for either trial or grand jury duty.

Due to the growth in Newton County, the number of names of eligible jurors on the master list increased to 89,417 for 2021. When you put in the criteria for the jury to be selected, the program does a random pick of the names. For example, since this year's list has 89,417 eligible jurors, for the first jury selected from it, it would mathematically choose a random number between 1 and 89,417 and use that number to choose that juror for service, the next time it would mathematically choose a random number between 1 and 89,416 and use that number to choose the next juror. The program does not allow anyone to be able to pick any one person to serve for jury duty at any time. Our software and its processes have withstood challenges from defense attorneys with no issues found since it was written. We are complaint with all jury laws and Supreme Court rules. The Newton County Clerk's Office Vendor is Micropact/Tyler.

**-2011:** The Jury Composition Reform Act of 2011 is enacted.

**-2012:** The Jury Composition Rule is adopted by the Supreme Court of Georgia. (Together, these established a new process).