

Sample General Admonitions

The following orders are being provided to you in open court. You must follow these orders at all times. A violation of any of these orders may result in a juror being ordered before the court for a contempt hearing. It is not the intention of the court to be difficult or demanding. The court and each juror must follow the law and the court must do everything possible to have a fair trial. Jury service is one of the highest and most important civic duties. The court is certain you will take your responsibility seriously. Thank you for your time and effort."

GENERAL ORDERS

1. **FAIR AND ATTENTIVE.** It is important that you be fair and attentive throughout the trial. Do not discuss the case among yourselves or with anyone else. Do not permit anyone to discuss it with you or in your presence. Do not form or express any opinion on the case until it is finally submitted to you.
2. **WHY NO DISCUSSION.** It may be difficult for you to understand why you may not discuss this case among yourselves until it is finally submitted to you. You will receive the opening statements, the evidence, the arguments of counsel, and the law from the court in that order. It would be unfair to discuss the case among yourselves before you receive everything necessary to reach an informed decision.
3. **DO NOT DISCUSS OUTSIDE COURT.** You should explain this rule prohibiting discussion of the case to your family and friends. When the trial is over, you will be released from this instruction. At that time, you may, but are not required to, discuss the case and your experiences as a juror.
4. **REPORT VIOLATION.** The court instructs you not to converse with the attorneys, parties, or witnesses during the trial. Likewise, the participants in the trial must not converse with you. If anyone should attempt to discuss the case with you, report the incident to me or to the bailiff immediately.
5. **WARNING.** Do not investigate or attempt to obtain additional information about this case outside the courtroom. It is highly improper for any one of you to attempt to do so. Do not read any legal texts or law books or book regarding any issue raised in court. Do not visit the scene or attempt any investigation on your own. We will give you all the information you need and all the law here in the courtroom.
6. **NEWSPAPER, RADIO AND TV.** You are instructed not to read, view, or listen to any report in the newspaper, radio, television or the Internet on the subject of this trial; do not permit anyone to read or comment upon them to you or in your presence. Such reports may be incomplete and are sometimes inaccurate. You may only consider and decide this case upon the evidence received at the trial. If you acquire any information from an outside source, you must report it.
7. **WHEN TRIAL IS BEING BROADCAST (Optional).** You will note that these proceedings are being (broadcast) (photographed) (recorded) (pick-one) by members of the news media. You must not allow this fact to divert your attention from this case or to interfere with your duties as jurors. Further, you are not allowed to talk to members of the media during this trial.
8. You are not to undertake any individual investigation of this matter. Do not attempt to visit the scene. Do not perform any legal research. Do not perform any experiments about this case. Do not look up any legal issues, facts or anything about this case in any book or on the Internet. In short, do nothing to find out anything about any aspect of this case. Everything you will need to decide this case will be presented in the courtroom.

9. **VIOLATION.** Any violation of these orders may require a new trial, which is expensive for all concerned and may result in prosecution of any person not following these orders.
10. **PERSONAL PROBLEM.** If, during the trial, you have a personal problem, you may explain the matter to the bailiff who will inform me. The bailiff cannot discuss the facts of the case with you.
11. **ONGOING ORDER.** I will summarize these instructions at each recess. If overlooked, however, they nevertheless apply to your conduct throughout the trial. These orders remain in full force at all times, day or night, until I specifically release you from these orders and you are no longer a juror for this case.
12. **SIT IN THE SAME CHAIR EACH DAY IN THE COURTROOM.**
13. **WEAR YOUR BADGE DURING COURT HOURS.**
14. **DURING BREAKS.** You are to always leave the courtroom with the bailiff. Once you leave the courtroom, you are not to re-enter the courtroom under any circumstances unless the bailiff brings you back into the courtroom. Please do not enter other courtrooms and remain in the general area of the jury assembly room during breaks.

Thank you for your service.

The foregoing is so ordered as to each and every juror and as to all who have contact with any juror.

JUDGE