

## EXCUSING JURORS over the PHONE

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We currently allow jurors to excuse/exempt themselves through our automated phone system but not when the juror is talking to a jury staff person. I was wondering if other courts allow jurors to be excused over the phone by a staff person without using an automated system for being ineligible to serve as described by CCP §203? Also, if you only allow people to be excused via an automated phone system but not a staff person what is your reasoning behind this?

1	Stacy Cooper	Tuolumne, we follow the same protocol as you do, we want EVERYTHING in writing if not done by the IVR/IWR due to needing written documentation for any possible OSC: Contempts since we have an FTA program. The only time we will do an activity via the phone is when we can determine that a duplicate record exists. Again, if we need to testify at an OSC: Contempt hearing for a juror FTA, we want all transactions in writing or done through the IVR/IWR.
2	Diane Collins	Mendocino County requires excuses to be in writing, even when talking to someone on the phone, signed under penalty of perjury. Only postponements are done allowed on the web or phone.
3	Diana Gifford-Tuggle	Shasta requires written excuses, postponements may be done via in person, phone or web.
4	Lori Hornbrook	In Santa Barbara County, our jurors may postpone their service on the IVR one time for a maximum period of 90 days or they may complete and return their summons form requesting a postponement. If the juror requests to be excused or exempted from service, our court requires that the juror complete the summons form and return it to our office. We do not accept requests for postponements or excuses by our jury staff via a phone call. The juror must complete and return their summons. I believe it is in our court's best interests to have documentation supporting the postponement or excuse.
5	Deb Preston	Marin Court follows the same procedure as Mendocino. I forgot to mention that Marin's business practice does allow for two instances in which a juror may be excused by phone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If they are over 70 years old and state they have health issues which would make it difficult or impossible to serve (we do not automatically excuse based on age), and we can verify their age in DMV.</li><li>• If they state they are no longer a resident, and DMV shows they have moved to another county or state.</li></ul>
6	Lupe Castaneda	Jurors in Santa Clara County are excused by providing a request in writing. Some excuses are accepted on the web, but not over the phone. In some cases we will postpone over the phone.
7	Dolores Curiel	Merced is also the same as Mendocino.
8	Debbie Jurevich	San Benito County follows the same procedure as Mendocino.