

RESCHEDULING JURORS CLOSE TO SUMMONS DATE

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In my court, jurors who appear on the day of service are not able to postpone their date or ask for an excusal. That is handled by the judge once the juror is sent to court. Our website and automated phone system will allow the juror to reschedule up to 3 days prior to their summons date only.

My questions for other courts are:

What is your policy on how far ahead of his scheduled date must a juror reschedule by?
Are there any exceptions other than emergencies?

1	Patty Baker	Georgia - The Clerk of Court can give a onetime deferment for a hardship or may excuse if they meet our state's excusal policy. If they want to request a 2 nd deferral they must go through the judge's office. If they do not have time to write to the Judge they must appear on the day they are summoned and speak to the judge at that time.
2	Cathi Scamara	San Luis Obispo - We handle our jurors the same as you do. We specify on the summons if they want to reschedule or be excused they must send in their summons 3 "working" days prior to their date. We do not make exceptions on their day of service except for emergencies. We do have a problem however with jurors calling on their day of service as soon as the recording is placed telling us they cannot appear.
3	Dolores Curiel	Our practice in Merced is the same as yours Deb.
4	Debbie Jurevich	San Benito is the same as the other responses.
5	Arlene Cervantes	<p>Riverside is the same as yours with one exception. If we have more than enough jurors to meet our needs we will allow them to postpone their service date. Sometimes we can do this right away and sometimes it requires the juror to wait about an hour. We will also share with them that once they check in they will need to stay until we determine if we have enough jurors to let them postpone. If they can't wait we tell them to not check in and instead walk in within the next 10 days and serve.</p> <p>This works for us because:</p> <p>1. We don't get to many requests to postpone the day of service; 2. It also cuts down on the deferrals ordered by the judge; and 3. It makes some just stay because they are already here.</p>
6	Joe Yniquez	Stanislaus doesn't allow on the day they are scheduled to report or the day before they are scheduled to report.
7	Edwina Harper	<p>In Yolo County our summons states that all postponement and excuse requests must be submitted no later than five business days prior to their date of service. The only time we excuse anyone on their service date is if they come in and then discover during orientation that if they have a felony on their record or if they are no longer a resident of this county, they are not eligible to serve. The Presiding Judge has given us permission to release these jurors and not waste the court's time sending them to the courtroom. We also ask them to please read their summons in the future and submit the excuse request as instructed on the summons. In addition, we have permission to postpone anyone who comes in sick without sending them to the courtroom.</p> <p>All other requests for excuse or postponement on the day of service must be addressed in the courtroom. If the Judge grants them their request, they return to our office and select their own date for service with the understanding that they must serve on the new date and no further excuses will be granted. Depending on the juror's situation, we will allow them to postpone for a maximum of six months. College students and all teachers can postpone their service to one of their semester breaks or summer session depending on their school's schedule. Anyone in the medical field i.e. doctor, nurses, surgeons, etc... can postpone for a maximum of six months and then we are allowed to schedule them on our short trial dates so they know exactly</p>

		<p>how much time will be required so that they can schedule coverage. We handle everyone else on a case-by-case basis depending on their situation. Since the jurors know their new service date before they leave, it allows them more time to arrange their personal schedule around their selected jury date. I explain this entire process during orientation and then make sure to advise them that in the future if they cannot serve on the date scheduled, do not waste their time coming in. They can give us a call and we will work with them to schedule their service on a date that fits within their schedule.</p> <p>By doing this we are minimizing the number of jurors who are coming in and asking for excuses on the day of service.</p>
8	Sherry Spears	In Fresno we allow jurors to postpone the day of their service and if they don't report they also have 14 calendar days after their report date to reschedule or they get an FTA letter.
9	Elizabeth Renteria	Contra Costa also prohibits postponements on date of service. Of course exceptions are made if a juror reports for service ill or has an emergency. Jurors are able to postpone within five days of their service via the website.