

Getting Excused from Jury Duty

Having an autism diagnosis does not necessarily mean you need to be excused from jury duty- this is a personal decision that should be made with your care providers

Requesting a Medical Disqualification from Jury Duty:

- 1) Once you have been summoned for jury duty, you will need to respond to your “summons” by requesting disqualification.**

- 2) You will need to obtain a letter from either a registered physician or Christian Science Practitioner that includes the following:**
 - The practitioner’s letterhead, name, address, and title or degree
 - An explanation of the nature of your condition
 - The practitioner’s opinion that the condition prevents you from serving jury duty
 - The practitioner’s signature
 - The Badge Number found on your summons

- 3) Because autism is a lifelong diagnosis, the practitioner should state that you are requesting “Permanent disqualification”.**
 - This is different than “Standard Disqualification”, which is for individuals with temporary conditions preventing them from participating.
 - Information for the practitioner on how to properly do this (there is a sample letter for permanent disqualification and information about the language that should be used) is available using this link: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-doctors-guidelines-for-jury-duty-medical-disqualification-letters>

- 4) Once you have the letter from your practitioner, you can send it by mail or by fax.**

By mail:

Office of Jury Commissioner
560 Harrison Ave., Suite 600

Boston, MA 02118

By fax:

(617)422-5869

5) Links with further information on jury duty and disqualifications:

- Guidelines for physician's letter: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-doctors-guidelines-for-jury-duty-medical-disqualification-letters>

- What is needed for medical disqualification: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/request-a-medical-disqualification-from-jury-duty>

- Information regarding caregiver disqualification from jury duty: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/request-a-caregiver-disqualification-from-jury-duty>

- Caregiver disqualification from jury duty is if you are the sole caregiver for a person with a medical disability in your household.