

**AMENDED ORDER GOVERNING JURY  
MANAGEMENT, ORANGE & OSCEOLA COUNTIES**

**WHEREAS**, in AOSC06-13, the Florida Supreme Court's Chief Justice issued juror panel size guidelines and established other measures for jury management; and

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive jury management program is necessary to ensure compliance with that Administrative Order, to ensure sufficient numbers of jurors are available for court proceedings, that no jurors are unduly burdened by unnecessary jury summonses, and that fiscal resources are being used efficiently to compensate jurors;

**THEREFORE**, effective immediately, it is ordered that:

1. **Juror Qualifications**: Jury staff may qualify jurors under section 40.01 of the Florida Statutes.

2. **Juror Exemptions, Excuses and Postponements**: Jury staff may exempt/excuse prospective jurors for any of the reasons set forth in sections 40.013(1), 40.013(2), 40.013(3), 40.013(4), 40.013(7), 40.013(8) or 40.013(9) of the Florida Statutes. Jury staff may postpone jury service to a date no later than six months after the original jury report date, one time per prospective juror upon request. All other requests for exemption, additional postponement, or excuse, including requests for excuse because of limited English proficiency, must be submitted to the Chief Judge or designated Jury Judge for determination.

3. **Jury Panel Sizes**: Jury panel size is determined in accordance with the Panel Size Guidelines chart, attached as Attachment A. As indicated therein, acceptable deviation requests for an additional 2 or 3 potential jurors per case type as shown on the chart can be requested by the Presiding Judge without prior approval by the Jury Judge or Chief Judge. All requests for more than 2 or 3 additional jurors, depending on the chart, must be approved by the Jury Judge or Chief Judge.

4. **Procedures for Ordering Jury Venires**: Requests for jury panels must be made using the Jury Panel Request Form located on the Court's Intranet and must be submitted to the jury room staff by 3:30 p.m. on the business day before the panel is requested. Requests cannot be

made more than one business day in advance. If an additional judge is assisting your division, a separate form must be submitted for each judge. No new potential jurors will be summoned for Fridays unless the Chief Judge directs otherwise.

5. **Providing Jury Panels to Courtrooms:** Criminal cases in which the speedy trial period expires on that day will be provided with jury panels first. Otherwise, jury panels will be sent to courtrooms on a first-come, first-serve basis, unless directed otherwise by the Chief Judge. No judge may request a panel unless a case is actually ready to go to trial and all the parties are present in the courtroom. If voir dire does not begin within thirty (30) minutes after the jury panel arrives at the courtroom, the panel must be immediately returned to the jury room.

6. **Canceling Panels:** Judges must call the jury room to cancel a prior request for jurors as soon as it is determined there is no need for a jury panel.

7. **Releasing Jury Panels:** Unless the Chief Judge or Jury Judge orders otherwise, jurors will generally be released from service at 2:30 p.m. if not needed for a trial.

**DONE AND ORDERED** at Orlando, Florida, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick J. Lauten  
Chief Judge

Copies provided to:

Clerk of Courts, Orange County  
Clerk of Courts, Osceola County  
General E-Mail Distribution List  
<http://www.ninthcircuit.org>

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Panel Size Guidelines**

<b>Panel Size Guidelines for Typical Cases</b>			<b>Guidelines for Exempted Cases**</b>
<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Acceptable Deviations * (with approval of presiding judge)</b>	<b>Jury Panel Size to be Established by the Presiding Judge and Parties</b>  (Prompt notification to jury managers will be required)
Death Penalty Cases	No greater than 50	Plus 3 for each additional defendant; or Plus 3 for lengthy trials; or Plus 3 for high profile trials; or Plus 3 for extraordinary circumstances.	
Other 12 person juries (criminal or civil) and life felonies	No greater than 40	Plus 3 for each additional defendant/ party or; Plus 3 for lengthy trials; or Plus 3 for high profile trials; or Plus 3 for extraordinary circumstances.	
Sexual battery cases w/ child	No greater than 30	Plus 3 for each additional defendant; or Plus 3 for lengthy trials; or Plus 3 for high profile trials; or Plus 3 for extraordinary circumstances.	
Sexual battery cases no child	No greater than 25	Plus 3 for each additional defendant; or Plus 3 for lengthy trials; or Plus 3 for high profile trials; or Plus 3 for extraordinary circumstances.	
Other circuit criminal cases	No greater than 22	Plus 2 for each additional defendant; or Plus 2 for lengthy trials; or Plus 2 for high profile trials; or Plus 2 for extraordinary circumstances.	
Other circuit civil cases	No greater than 22	Plus 2 for each additional party; or Plus 2 for lengthy trials; or Plus 2 for high profile trials; or Plus 2 for extraordinary circumstances.	
Domestic violence cases	No greater than 16	Plus 2 for each additional party; or Plus 2 for lengthy trials; or Plus 2 for high profile trials; or Plus 2 for extraordinary circumstances.	
Driving under the influence cases	No greater than 16	Plus 2 for each additional defendant; or Plus 2 for lengthy trials; or Plus 2 for high profile trials; or Plus 2 for extraordinary circumstances.	
Other county cases	No greater than 14	Plus 2 for each additional defendant; or Plus 2 for lengthy trials; or Plus 2 for high profile trials; or Plus 2 for extraordinary circumstances.	

\* These deviations from the guidelines must be approved by the presiding judge. Deviations may be cumulative given case specifics. However, such deviations should not exceed 20 jurors above the guideline. Lengthy trials are those predicted to last more than five days. High profile trials are those receiving a significant amount of publicity as determined by the presiding judge. Extraordinary circumstances are any other factors that may impact the voir dire process as determined by the presiding judge.

\*\* Exemptions may be granted for complex, lengthy, or high profile cases as determined by the presiding judge.