

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT:



Message from the Chief Justice:

Your service as a juror helps to assure all Arizonans the constitutional right to a trial by jury. Thank you for your support of the jury system, an important component of a free society.

Robert Brutinel
Chief Justice
Arizona Supreme Court



THE ARIZONA LENGTHY TRIAL FUND



I consider trial by jury as the only anchor, ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its Constitution.

Thomas Jefferson

In an effort to reduce the financial burden on jurors who serve on extended trials, the Arizona Legislature established the Arizona Lengthy Trial Fund (ALTF). The fund is designed to replace unpaid earnings for a juror who serves on a trial that lasts six days or more. A trial day is any day a juror is required to report to the courthouse for service.

COMPENSATION FOR ELIGIBLE JURORS

Qualified jurors who serve six or more days may be compensated as follows:

- \$12 county-paid jury fee
- mileage reimbursement
- earnings replacement or supplementation (between \$28 and \$300/day) from the ALTF

Depending on local practice, jurors may receive this compensation on a daily, weekly, bi-weekly, other periodic basis, or after jury service is completed.

JURORS WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED

Jurors who are unemployed can receive ALTF supplemental compensation in the amount of \$28/day. Receipt of spousal maintenance, pension, retirement, unemployment compensation, disability benefits, or other similar income does not preclude a juror from receiving this supplemental compensation.

JURORS WHO ARE EMPLOYED

The Jury Commissioner will provide an ALTF Juror Claim Form to jurors who do not receive their full earnings while serving as a juror. The Jury Commissioner will also explain the supporting documentation that must be returned with the completed form. Jurors requesting earnings replacement under the fund are required to disclose information about their regular earnings and any earnings they continue to receive while serving as a juror. Employer verification of lost earnings is required.

The Jury Commissioner will use this information to determine the amount of reimbursement a juror is eligible to receive from the ALTF. A juror who does not agree with the Jury Commissioner's decision can ask to have the decision reviewed by the Presiding Judge.

EXAMPLES

After a juror serves for six days, the Jury Commissioner can determine the juror's eligibility and the amount of replacement earnings the juror is entitled to receive. The following examples illustrate how this amount is determined.

John Smith normally earns \$40/day. His employer is not paying John while he serves on the jury. John will receive a \$12/day county-paid jury fee, and his earnings replacement from the ALTF will be \$28/day, making his total jury

compensation \$42/day plus mileage reimbursement. John's total jury compensation is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \$40 - \$12 &= \$28 \\ \$28 + \$12 &= \$40 \\ \$40/\text{day} + \text{mileage reimbursement} \end{aligned}$$

Molly Kelly normally earns \$185/day. Her employer is not paying Molly while she serves on the jury, but Molly worked alternative hours for her employer and was paid \$35/day for these hours. Molly will receive a \$12/day county-paid jury fee, and her earnings replacement from the ALTF will be \$138/day, making her total jury compensation \$150/day plus mileage reimbursement. Molly's total jury compensation is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \$185 - \$35 - \$12 &= \$138 \\ \$138 + \$12 &= \$150 \\ \$150/\text{day} + \text{mileage reimbursement} \end{aligned}$$

Anna Martinez normally earns \$350/day. Her employer is not paying Anna while she serves on the jury. Anna will receive a \$12/day county-paid jury fee. Anna's daily earnings replacement from the ALTF would be \$338/day; however, the law limits ALTF earnings replacement to \$300/day. Anna's total jury compensation is calculated as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \$350 \text{ (reduced to } \$300) - \$12 &= \$288 \\ \$288 + \$12 &= \$300 \\ \$300/\text{day} + \text{mileage reimbursement} \end{aligned}$$