

## STANDARD CRIMINAL VOIR DIRE

1. Have any of you ever seen or heard anything about this case from any source whatsoever?
2. Ladies and Gentlemen, on the sheet given to you are a list of questions. Starting with juror number one, please stand and answer the questions. The last question asks about your prior jury service. With respect to civil cases, please just tell me the number of civil juries on which you have served. With respect to criminal cases, please indicate the nature of the crime involved and the result of the case, guilty, not guilty or hung jury, for each of the criminal juries you have been on.

### Voir Dire Sheet questions:

1. Juror number
2. The general location of your residence
3. Length of time at current residence
4. Education after high school, if any. State your major
5. Marital status
6. Number of children. Ages of children, if under 18
7. Employment
  - A. Yourself – current job and types of jobs throughout lifetime
  - B. Spouse – current job and types of jobs throughout lifetime
8. Civil, social, fraternal, union or professional organizations. Offices held in them
9. Hobbies or recreational activities
10. Prior jury service – civil or criminal

3. Did any of you know each other before this morning? If so, would your acquaintance with any other juror affect your ability to deliberate and to reach your own independent decision as a juror in this case?
4. I will now read the names of the witnesses who may be called during this trial. If you know or think you might know any of the witnesses, please raise your hand and juror number at any time. The potential witnesses are:

(See Witness List)

5. Again, do any of you know or think you might know any of the witnesses?
6. Please note that the defendant, the attorneys and all witnesses have been instructed not to speak to you at any time either before or during the trial. Therefore, please do not feel offended if you see any of them outside the court room and they do not speak with you.
7. I expect to conduct trial on these dates and times:

[Tuesdays thru Thursdays, sometimes on Friday]

8:45a.m. to 4:30 p.m. One hour break for lunch.

We will usually take one break in the morning and one break in the afternoon of about 20 minutes.

1. Would this schedule create an undue hardship for any of you?
2. Would the length of the trial create an undue hardship for any of you?
8. Do any of you have any other reasons whatsoever, such as physical difficulty, a health problem or home problems that might interfere with your serving as a fair and impartial juror in this case?
9. Have you or any members of your family, including brothers, sisters, parents or children, or close friends ever been the victims of criminal conduct such that you would not be a fair and impartial juror in this case?
  - [As to each yes response:] If yes, please explain, including what the incident was, what police agency investigated, did you have to make a statement, and whether the responsible party apprehended, and why that experience prevents you from being a fair and impartial juror in this case.
10. Most people or their family or close friends have been victims of minor crimes, such as burglary, auto theft, and auto accidents involving impaired drivers. Have you or any members of your family, including brothers, sisters, parents or children, or close friends ever been the

victims of serious criminal conduct involving serious property damage or bodily injury?

- [As to each yes response:] If yes, please explain, including what the incident was, what police agency investigated, did you have to make a statement, and whether the responsible party apprehended, and why that experience prevents you from being a fair and impartial juror in this case.

11. Have you or any members of your family ever been convicted of a felony?

- If so, which family member, what offense, and what was the disposition? Would this experience prevent you from being fair and impartial in this case?

12. Are any of you or any members of your family or close friends now serving or have ever served in the capacity of law enforcement officer?

- Please note that in the definition of law enforcement officer, I am including not only police officers, but also employees of law enforcement agencies, military police, INS, border patrol, DEA, ATF, DOJ, Department of Homeland Security, or other government law enforcement or intelligence agency etc.

- Do you think this relationship would prevent you from being fair and impartial in this case?
13. There will be witnesses called during this trial who are members of law enforcement and who may have been in that profession for a number of years.
- Is there anything about the law enforcement profession and/or about the witness having been engaged in such profession for a number of years that would cause you to either give greater or lesser weight or credibility to their testimony solely by virtue of their employment in law enforcement?
14. Have any of you or members of your family been a party or witness in any litigation (excluding family law matters, traffic cases, and probate matters)?
- [Addressed to all who answer yes:] Do you think this experience would prevent you from being fair and impartial in this case?
  - [Addressed individually:] What kind of a case were you a witness in, and which party called you as a witness?
15. Do any of you or any of the members of your family have any legal training?

- [Addressed to all who answer yes:] Do you think this training would affect your ability to be fair and impartial in this case?
  - [Addressed individually:] What was your legal training?
16. The defendant in this case is a [relevant racial or ethnic status]. Is there anything about the defendant's racial or ethnic status that would prevent you from being a fair and impartial juror in this case?
  17. Have you had experiences with [relevant racial or ethnic status] that might influence your ability to be fair and impartial?
  18. [Do you disagree with the fact that the United States has the right to prosecute felony offenses on Indian Reservations?]
  19. [There may be evidence in this case of alcoholic beverage drinking to excess. Do any of you not drink alcoholic beverages?]
  20. [Have you or any member of your family or a close friend ever suffered harmful consequences from drinking alcohol?]
  21. [Do you have any strong feelings about drinking alcoholic beverages?]
  22. [Would your feelings about alcohol consumption affect your ability to be a fair and impartial juror in this case?]
  23. I will instruct you what the law is at the conclusion of the case. If selected as a juror, you will take an oath to follow the law. Does

anyone think you would have trouble following the law even if you may disagree with it?

24. In a civil case the burden of proof is preponderance of the evidence. This is a criminal case in which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. That requires proof that leaves you firmly convinced that the Defendant is guilty. Does anyone have any difficulty in holding the government to its burden?

25. Here are some fundamental principles of law:

- The fact that an indictment has been filed raises no presumption whatsoever of the guilt of the defendant.
- The United States government must satisfy you beyond a reasonable doubt of the guilt of the defendant.
- The defendant does not have any obligation to testify or to produce any evidence and you may not draw an adverse inference if the defendant chooses not to testify.
- The defendant is presumed to be innocent until his guilt is established beyond a reasonable doubt.
- You must wait until all of the evidence has been presented before making up your minds as to the innocence or guilt of the defendant.

Does anyone believe that they will have any difficulty following these principles of law?

26. Do you have any strong feelings regarding any government policies which would prevent you from giving either the government or the defendant a fair trial?
27. Do you have any strong feelings regarding the criminal justice system in this country, including but not limited to, your feelings about judges and lawyers, that would prevent you from giving either the government or the defendant a fair hearing in this matter.
28. Do you have a belief, whether religious or philosophical, which makes it difficult for you to sit in judgment of another?  
  
If so: Would this belief make it difficult for you to be a fair and impartial juror?
29. [If interpreters:] This case will involve official court interpreters. Do you know the [ ] language? If so, will you be able to set aside that knowledge and rely solely on the official English translation?
30. Counsel for the Government, do you have any further questions at this time?