

STANDARD CIVIL VOIR DIRE QUESTIONS
Magistrate Judge Eileen S. Willett

1. Is there anything about the anticipated length or daily schedule of trial that presents a problem, whether it be personal, business, or health, that is significant enough that you feel the need to be excused from service on this jury?

2. Do any of you know, or think you might know, me or any of the members of my staff or the courtroom clerk?

3. Do any of you know, or think you might know, counsel or any member of counsel's law firm?

4. Do any of you know, or think you might know, the plaintiff, defendant, or any member of his/her family, or have had dealings with this corporation?

5. Have any of you ever seen, heard, or read anything about this case, or have any of you ever heard anyone express an opinion about it?

6. Have you, or any members of your family or close friends, ever been involved in any way in a case such as this?

7. Is there anything about the nature of this case that would make it difficult for any of you to serve as a fair and impartial juror?

8. I am now going to read a list of witnesses who may be called to testify during the trial. All of these persons may not be called to testify, but any of them might be. Please raise your hand if you know, or think you might know, any of these people.

[Read list of witnesses.]

9. Have any of you, or any members of your family or close friends, ever served as a [relevant title]?

10. [If relevant] Have any of you, or has anyone in your family, ever studied or practiced [law] [medicine] [other relevant area of expertise]?

11. In deciding the facts of the case, the jury will have to evaluate the testimony of the witnesses.

- Is there anyone who could not judge the testimony of each witness by the same standards?
- By this I mean, for example, is there anyone who is likely to give more or less weight to the testimony of a [relevant title] than to the testimony of another witness, simply because one is employed as a [relevant title] and one is not?

12. [If relevant] One or more of the parties is [particular national or ethnic group].

- Will the race or heritage of a person affect you in any way in evaluating the testimony of that person?
- Will it in any way affect your ability to be fair and impartial in the case?

13. Is there anyone who would be unable to follow the law as given in the instructions? Is there anyone who would be unable to disregard his or her own notions or ideas about what the law is or ought to be?

14. If selected to sit on this case, would any of you be unable or unwilling to render a verdict solely on the evidence presented at trial?

15. Do any of you know other members of the jury panel?

16. Ladies and gentlemen, there are some questions on the back side of your number card that I am going to ask each of you to answer.

- If you or your spouse/partner is retired, please tell us the occupation prior to retirement. If you have served on a jury before, please tell us the kind and type of case it was, if you remember. Please also tell us when and where the case was tried, whether there was a verdict and what it was (if you can recall), and whether you served as foreperson of the jury.
- Questions on the back side of jurors' cards:
 - a. Your juror number?
 - b. Your occupation?
 - Name of your employer?
 - How long employed there?
 - Type of work you do?
 - c. Family
 - Marital status?
 - Number of children and their ages if under 18?
 - d. Spouse's/partner's occupation?
 - Name of his or her employer?
 - How long employed there?
 - Type of work he or she does?
 - e. Have you ever sat as a juror before?
 - Civil?
 - Criminal?
 - Grand Jury?
 - Have you ever been involved in a lawsuit of any type?

17. Sometimes, by the time we get to the end of the questioning, jurors will have remembered additional answers to questions that were asked earlier. They then wonder if they should give the answers or not. Please give the answers now.