

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**INTERNAL OPERATING PROCEDURE 98-11**

**IN RE: PLAN FOR SELECTION OF JURORS BY ELECTRONIC MEANS**

The following Order of the Court dated September 15, 1997, and filed of record September 18, 1997, is hereby continued and adopted as the Internal Operating Procedure of the Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit regarding the Plan for Selection of Jurors By Electronic Means.

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Pursuant to the authority of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the following plan is established by rule of the Court for the drawing of jurors by electronic means from the master lists assembled by the Jury Commissioners to serve as jurors in the courts of Forsyth County, Georgia.

As provided by the laws of Georgia.

1. There shall be a Board of Jury Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of not less than three nor more than five persons appointed by the Chief Judge of the Superior Court or his designee as provided by law.
2. The Clerk of the Superior Court shall serve as Clerk of the Board and shall implement and maintain the jury selection and jury drawing process in accordance with the law and the rules of this court.
3. The County of Forsyth shall provide necessary funding for adequate staff, equipment and supplies to insure expeditious implementation and continuation of this plan through operations of the Clerk's office on a year to year basis.
4. The computer program designated "Georgia Jury Computer Program" (GAJURY) shall be used for this plan. As this program was developed through cooperation with the Department of Administrative Services of the State of Georgia, DOAS is hereby designated a necessary component of this plan and is hereby ordered to cooperate, assist and participate with the Board and the Courts in the implementation, continuation and operation of the plan in a reasonable manner.

5. The Board shall compile and maintain two master lists, one for the Grand Jury and one for the Trial Jury box, of intelligent and upright citizens of Forsyth County, Georgia, to serve as Grand and Trial Jurors. The Board shall select a master list of the most experienced, most intelligent and upright citizens to serve as Grand Jurors. The number of Grand Jurors selected shall contain, as a minimum, a number equal to four times the number of Grand Jurors expected to be drawn in the county annually, not to exceed 5,000 jurors. The master lists, one for Trial Jurors, and one for Grand Jurors, so compiled, shall constitute the jury boxes of Forsyth County, Georgia, from which the juries in all the courts of the County shall be drawn. The boxes shall be updated periodically by the Board or the Clerk as hereinafter set out.

6. The most recently certified official registered voters list of Forsyth County shall be the primary source from which the Grand and Trial jury lists are compiled and updated; however, the Board is authorized to supplement the voter's list with other sources in such manner as pursuant to law, it finds necessary or desirable. The Board is further authorized to obtain such additional information about prospective jurors as it finds desirable to enable it intelligently to perform its function.

7. The lists of Grand and of Trial Jurors shall be entered into the Georgia Jury Computer Program in the Clerk's office. Back up copies shall be saved to diskettes which will be placed in the Vault of the Clerk's office for safekeeping for purposes of restoring files in case of loss for any reason.

8. The Georgia Jury Computer Program shall provide a printout of the lists (boxes), one Grand, and one Trial, of Jurors for the Clerk of Court to bind, which will then be filed as the official jury lists of the county.

9. The latest descentennial census shall be used for the statistical computation of this plan.

10. The drawing or computer selection system for prospective jurors for Trial and Grand Jury service shall be accomplished through a random number generated program of Georgia Jury Computer Program designed to provide each eligible juror in the box, either Grand or Trial, an equal chance of being selected. The selection process shall be conducted in response to an order of the court specifying the number of jurors required, the type of jurors, Grand or Trial, and the date and time of the required service. The Clerk of Court is authorized to enter the required data, to start the selection process, and to provide the required lists of jurors drawn to the Judge, the Sheriff, and to be filed in the Clerk's office.

11. Names of persons drawn from the jury boxes, either Grand or Trial, shall be coded so as to not be returned to the master lists for subsequent drawings, until the box is exhausted, reset or the Court so orders.

12. The Board may authorize and the Court hereby directly authorizes the Registrar to notify the Clerk when the death of a registered voter occurs. This notification may be made electronically. If that voter is on the Grand Jury and/or Trial Jury Lists the Clerk shall code that name as having served to prevent that name from being subsequently selected. The name shall be deleted from the Jury Lists by the Board when it revises the Jury List.

13. The Board may authorize and the Court hereby directly authorizes the Clerk to code, as having served, all permanently disabled persons and persons over the age of 70 years who request that their names be removed from the Jury Lists and all those who have moved from the County. The names of the persons in these categories shall be deleted from the Jury Lists by the Board when it revises the Jury List.

14. The Clerk of Court shall furnish to the Sheriff of Forsyth County a printout containing the names and addresses of the jurors selected for each term of Court in alphabetical order along with pre-printed, pre-addressed summons for each juror selected. The Sheriff shall then serve these summons as provided by law. If service is by mail, the summons shall be by first class mail. Such mailing may be authorized to be accomplished by the Clerk, as provided by law.

15. Update of the Jury Lists will be accomplished by the Board on an annual basis by removing all those persons who are deceased or have moved away and replacing these names with the new jurors of like race and sex. Each time the boxes are updated or revised, a new jury certificate shall be completed and recorded in the Clerk's office.

16. Address changes only may be made by personnel in the Clerk's office as authorized by the Clerk without the need for new certificates.

The above and foregoing is hereby approved and adopted by the Superior and State Court of Forsyth County, Georgia as the plan of this Court in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-12-42. The Clerk of the Court is ordered to spread same on the minutes of the Court and publish same in the legal organ of Forsyth County for two successive weeks.

**SO ORDERED**, this 9th day of July, 1998.

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Richard S. Gault, Chief Judge  
Forsyth County Superior Court  
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit