

# Preparing Jurors for Trial

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## Provide Information to Potential Jurors

- ◆ Introduce yourself, clerk, & bailiff
- ◆ Ask for phones on silent
- ◆ Thank the jurors for their service
- ◆ Explain the case/offense and jurisdiction (fine-only)
- ◆ Explain how many will be chosen
- ◆ Explain that each side will ask them questions
- ◆ Tell them not to mingle or communicate with parties or lawyers

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Why?

**Jurors will be more patient & be able to better pay attention if they know what to expect.**

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What works for you?

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Should you use a  
script?

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**Yes!**

See *TJCTC's Trial  
Notebook*

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## Oath for All Potential Jurors

"You, and each of you, do solemnly swear that you will true answers give to all questions propounded to you concerning your qualifications as a juror, (so help you God)."

## Voir Dire/Jury Selection

The 6 jurors have been  
selected.  
*Now what?*

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## Oath for Selected Jurors

You and each of you do solemnly swear that in the case of the State of Texas against the defendant, you will a true verdict render according to the law and the evidence." Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 35.22.

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## Explain the Process

- ◆ Not a court of record
- ◆ Prosecutor/State brought the case and will go first because it's their burden (beyond a reasonable doubt)
- ◆ Defendant will have a chance to respond
- ◆ Deliberation after cases are presented
  - ◆ Jury Charge

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## Preparing the Public

*This starts **before** they become jurors.*

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## Information & Education to the Public

- ◆ Juror Appreciation Week: first week in May
  - ◆ Hold an event with the other courts
- ◆ Having a strong speech to give jurors after the case ends and make yourself available to talk to them about the case after
- ◆ Use social media

# Thank You!