Changes to Legislation: as of 13 October 2026, this Act is up to date with all changes known to be in force.

Number 4 *of* 1976

JURIES ACT 1976

REVISED

Updated to 3 February 2026

This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the *Juries Act 1976*. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the *Law Reform Commission Act 1975* (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.

All Acts up to and including the *Credit Review Act 2026* (1/2026), enacted 3 February 2026, and all statutory instruments up to and including the *Gambling Regulation Act 2024 (Commencement) Order 2026* (S.I. No. 31 of 2026), made 3 February 2026, were considered in the preparation of this Revised Act.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in the preparation of this Revised Act, the Law Reform Commission can assume no responsibility for and give no guarantees, undertakings or warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or up to date nature of the information provided and does not accept any liability whatsoever arising from any errors or omissions. Please notify any errors, omissions and comments by email to
revisedacts@lawreform.ie.

Number 4 *of* 1976

JURIES ACT 1976

REVISED

Updated to 3 February 2026

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Number 4 *of* 1976

JURIES ACT 1976

REVISED

Updated to 3 February 2026

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO JURIES [2*nd March*, 1976]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title.

1.—This Act may be cited as the Juries Act, 1976.

Interpretation.

2.—(1) In this Act—

"county" means an administrative county;

F1**[**"court office" has the same meaning as it has in section 13 of the Courts and Court Officers Act 2009;

"designated court office" means the court office standing designated pursuant to *section 4A*;**]**

"jury summons" means a summons under section 12;

F1**[**"relevant member of staff" means a member of the staff of the Courts Service for the time being assigned to the designated court office;**]**

"the Minister" means the Minister for Justice.

(2) References in this Act to any enactment shall be construed as references to that enactment as amended or extended by any subsequent enactment, including this Act.

(3) (*a*) A reference in this Act to a section or Schedule as a reference to a section of, or a Schedule to, this Act, unless it is indicated that reference to some other enactment is intended.

(*b*) A reference in this Act to a subsection is a reference to the subsection of the section in which the reference occurs unless it is indicated that reference to some other provision is intended.

Annotations

Amendments:

F1 Inserted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 18, S.I. No. 321 of 2024.

Expenses.

3.—The expenses incurred by the Minister in the administration of this Act shall, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Minister for Finance, be paid out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

Repeals.

4.—Each enactment mentioned in the Second Schedule is hereby repealed to the extent specified in column (3) of that Schedule.

F2**[**Designated court office

4A. (1) The Courts Service may designate a court office as the designated court office for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Courts Service may, at any time after designating a court office under *subsection (1)*, revoke that designation.

(3) There shall be employed in a designated court office such and so many members of the staff of the Courts Service as the Courts Service shall from time to time determine.

(4) The Courts Service shall, as soon as may be after it designates a court office under this section or revokes such a designation, publish notice of that fact in Iris Oifigiúil, but failure to so publish shall not affect the validity of the designation or revocation of the court office concerned.**]**

Annotations

Amendments:

F2 Inserted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 19, S.I. No. 321 of 2024.

Editorial Notes:

E1 The section heading is taken from the amending section in the absence of one in the amendment.

PART II

Qualification and Liability for Service as a Juror

Jury districts.

5.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, each county shall be a jury district and for this purpose the county boroughs of F3**[**...**]** Cork, Limerick and Waterford shall be deemed to form part of the counties of F3**[**...**]** Cork, Limerick and Waterford respectively F4**[**and the county borough of Dublin and the counties of South Dublin, Fingal and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown shall form one jury district**]**.

(2) The Minister may by order divide a county into two or more jury districts or limit a jury district to a part or parts of a county.

(3) The Minister may by order revoke or vary an order under this section.

(4) Every issue that is triable with a jury shall be triable with a jury called from a panel of jurors drawn from the jury district in which the court is sitting.

Annotations

Amendments:

F3 Deleted (1.01.1994) by *Local Government (Dublin) Act 1993* (31/1993), s. 28, S.I. Nos. 400, 401 of 1993.

F4 Inserted (1.01.1994) by *Local Government (Dublin) Act 1993* (31/1993), s. 28, S.I. Nos. 400, 401 of 1993.

Editorial Notes:

E2 Power pursuant to subs. (3) exercised (8.04.2013) by *Jury Districts Order 2013* (S.I. No. 115 of 2013), art. 3, in operation as per art. 2.

E3 Power pursuant to subs. (2) exercised (22.12.2004) by *Jury Districts Order 2004* (S.I. No. 724 of 2024), arts. 3 to 9 and sch., in operation as per art. 2.

E4 Previous affecting provision: power pursuant to subs. (2) exercised (5.09.1983) by *Jury Districts Order 1983* (S.I. No. 262 of 1983), art. 2 and sch., in operation as per art. 1(2); revoked (22.12.2004) by *Jury Districts Order 2004* (S.I. No. 724 of 2024), art. 10, in operation as per art. 2.

E5 Previous affecting provision: power pursuant to subs. (3) exercised (15.04.1977) by *Jury Districts Order 1977* (S.I. No. 59 of 1977), art. 3, in operation as per art. 2; revoked (16.12.1991) by *Jury Districts Order 1991* (S.I. No. 337 of 1991), art. 4, in operation as per art. 2.

E6 Previous affecting provision: power pursuant to subs. (2) exercised (5.03.1976) by *Jury Districts Order 1976* (S.I. No. 57 of 1976), arts. 3, 4 and sch., in operation as per art. 2; rendered inoperative in part (16.12.1991) by *Jury Districts Order 1991* (S.I. No. 337 of 1991), art. 3, in operation as per art. 2; rendered inoperative in further part (25.03.1997) by *Jury Districts Order 1997* (S.I. No. 129 of 1997), art. 3, in operation as per art. 2; rendered inoperative in further part (8.03.1999) by *Jury Districts Order 1999* (S.I. No. 60 of 1999), art. 3, in operation as per art. 2; revoked (22.12.2004) by *Jury Districts Order 2004* (S.I. No. 724 of 2024), art. 10, in operation as per art. 2.

Qualification and liability for jury service.

6.—Subject to the provisions of this Act, every citizen aged eighteen years or upwards F5**[**...**]** who is entered in a register of Dáil electors in a jury district shall be qualified and liable to serve as a juror for the trial of all or any issues which are for the time being triable with a jury drawn from that jury district, unless he is for the time being ineligible or disqualified for jury service.

Annotations

Amendments:

F5 Deleted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 54, S.I. No. 274 of 2008.

Ineligibility.

7.—F6**[**(1)**]** The persons specified in Part I of the First Schedule shall be ineligible for jury service.

F7**[**(2) A person who is deaf shall not be ineligible for jury service by reason only of his or her requiring the services of a sign language interpreter for the purpose of enabling him or her to perform the duties of a juror effectively.**]**

Annotations

Amendments:

F6 Designated (26.04.2023) by *Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022* (46/2022, s. 96(*a*)(i), S.I. No. 194 of 2023.

F7 Inserted (26.04.2023) by *Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022* (46/2022, s. 96(*a*)(i), S.I. No. 194 of 2023.

Disqualification.

8.—A person shall be disqualified for jury service if on conviction of an offence in any part of Ireland—

(*a*) he has at any time been sentenced to imprisonment or penal servitude for life or for a term of five years or more or to detention under section 103 of the Children Act, 1908, or under the corresponding law of Northern Ireland, or

(*b*) he has at any time in the last ten years—

(i) served any part of a sentence of imprisonment or penal servitude, being, in the case of imprisonment, a sentence for a term of at least three months, or

(ii) served any part of a sentence of detention in Saint Patrick's Institution or in a corresponding institution in Northern Ireland, being a sentence for a term of at least three months.

Excusal from service.

9.—(1) A county registrar shall excuse any person F8**[**who has been summoned**]** as a juror under this Act if—

(*a*) that person is one of the persons specified in Part II of the First Schedule and informs the county registrar of his wish to be excused, or

(*b*) that person shows to the satisfaction of the county registrar that he has served on a jury, or duly attended to serve on a jury, in the three years ending with the service of the summons on him, or

(*c*) that person shows to the satisfaction of the county registrar that, at the conclusion of a trial, a judge of any court has excused him from jury service for a period that has not terminated.

(2) A county registrar may excuse any personF9**[**who has been summoned**]** as a juror from attendance during the whole or any part of the sittings in question if that person shows to the registrar's satisfaction that there is good reason why he should be so excused.

(3) If a person summoned as a juror under this Act is unable, owing to illness or any other reason, to make any representation to a county registrar under subsection (1) or (2), another person may make the representation on his behalf.

(4) A person whom the county registrar has refused to excuse may appeal against the refusal to the court at which he has been summoned to attend.

(5) The procedure for the appeal, including the designation of the judge to hear the appeal, and the time within which and the manner in which it should be brought, shall be as provided by directions of the President of the High Court and the President of the Circuit Court respectively.

(6) The decision of the court shall be final.

(7) When a person is required to be in attendance as a juror at a court during a sitting, the judge shall have the same duty or discretion, as the case may be, as that imposed or conferred on the county registrar under this section to excuse that person from attendance or further attendance. The judge may also, for good reason, excuse the juror during the course of a trial from further service as a juror in the trial.

(8) The judge of any court may, at the conclusion of a trial of an exceptionally exacting nature, excuse the members of the jury from jury service for such period as the judge may think fit.

Annotations

Amendments:

F8 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 20(*a*), S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

F9 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 20(*b*), S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

PART III

SELECTION AND SERVICE OF JURORS

Supply of electoral registers.

10.—F10**[**For the purpose of enabling a relevant member of staff authorised in that behalf by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service to empanel and summon jurors, each county council, city council and city and county council, as registration authority (within the meaning of section 6 of the Electoral Act 1992), shall as soon as practicable after the publication of each register of Dáil electors for the county, city or city and county deliver to the designated court office such number of copies of the register as the designated court office may require.**]**

Annotations

Amendments:

F10 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 21, S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

Empanelling of jurors.

F11**[11.**—A relevant member of staff duly authorised in that behalf by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service, using a procedure of random or other non-discriminatory selection, shall draw up a panel of jurors for one or more courts within each jury district from the register or registers relating to the jury district concerned delivered to the designated court office under *section 10* (omitting persons whom he or she knows or believes not to be qualified as jurors).**]**

Annotations

Amendments:

F11 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 22, S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

Editorial Notes:

E7 Previous affecting provision: section amended (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 55, S.I. No. 274 of 2008; substituted (1.07.2024) as per F-Note above.

Summoning of jurors.

12.—F12**[**(1) A relevant member of staff authorised in that behalf by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service shall cause a summons in writing and in both the Irish and English languages, in such form as the Minister may by regulations prescribe, to be served on every person who has been selected as a juror pursuant to *section 11* requiring the person—

(a) to attend as a juror at the court in question or other place specified in the summons for the reception of jurors on the day and at the time specified in the summons, and

(b) to thereafter attend at that court or place, as the case may be, or such other court or place as the court may direct, at such times as are directed by—

(i) the court, or

(ii) a relevant member of staff, where the member of staff is authorised to do so by the court.**]**

(2) A jury summons served on a person under this section shall be accompanied by a F13**[**notice in writing and in both the Irish and English languages**]** informing him—

(*a*) of the effect of *sections 6*, *7*, *8*, *9(1)*, *35* and *36*, and

(*b*) that he may make representations to F13**[**the county registrar for the jury district in which the court in question is located**]** with a view to obtaining a withdrawal of the summons, if for any reason he is not qualified for jury service or wishes or is entitled to be excused.

Annotations

Amendments:

F12 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 23(*a*), S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

F13 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 23(*b*), S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

Editorial Notes:

E8 Power pursuant to section exercised (5.03.1976) by *Jury Summons Regulations 1976* (S.I. No. 56 of 1976), art. 3 and sch., in operation as per art. 2.

E9 Previous affecting provision: subs. (1) amended (30.06.2024) by *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021* (49/2021), s. 16(*a*), S.I. No. 320 of 2024; substituted (1.07.2024) as per F-Note above.

E10 Previous affecting provision: subs. (1) substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 56, S.I. No. 274 of 2008; substituted (1.07.2024) as per F-Note above.

Service of jury summons.

13.—(1) A jury summons may be sent by post or delivered by hand.

(2) For the purposes of section 18 of the Interpretation Act, 1937, a letter containing a jury summons shall be deemed to be properly addressed if it is addressed to the juror at his address as shown in the current register of Dáil electors.

(3) In any proceedings for an offence of non-attendance in compliance with a jury summons or of not being available when called upon to serve as a juror—

F14**[**(*a*) where the summons was issued prior to the coming into operation of section 24 of the Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023—

(i) a certificate by the county registrar or an officer acting on his or her behalf that the registrar or officer posted a letter containing the summons addressed as provided in *subsection (2)* shall be evidence of the fact so certified, and

(ii) a certificate by the county registrar or an officer acting on his or her behalf or a member of the Garda Síochána that he or she personally delivered the summons to the juror on a specified date shall be evidence of the fact so certified,**]**

F15**[**(*b*) where the summons was issued after the coming into operation of section 24 of the Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023—

(i) a certificate by a relevant member of staff that the member of staff posted a letter containing the summons addressed as provided in *subsection (2)* shall be evidence of the fact so certified, and

(ii) a certificate by a relevant member of staff or a member of the Garda Síochána that he or she personally delivered the summons to the juror on a specified date shall be evidence of the fact so certified, and**]**

F16**[**(c) a certificate by—

(i) the registrar or other officer acting as registrar of a court, or

(ii) a member of the staff of the Courts Service duly authorised in that behalf by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service,

present when a person summoned to attend as a juror in that court failed to answer to his or her name at the time it was called out in that court or at the place specified in the summons shall be evidence, unless the contrary is proved, that that person failed to attend in compliance with the summons, or was not available when called on to serve, as the case may be.**]**

(4) A document purporting to be a certificate under this section of a county registrar, or officer acting on his behalf, officer of a court or member of the Garda Síochána and to be signed by him shall be deemed, for the purposes of this section, to be such a certificate and to be so signed unless the contrary is proved.

Annotations

Amendments:

F14 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 24(*a*), S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

F15 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 24(*b*), S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

F16 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 57, S.I. No. 274 of 2008.

Summoning of jurors to make up deficiency.

14.—(1) If it appears to a judge of a court that a jury to try any issue before the court will or may be incomplete, the judge may require any persons (being persons qualified and liable to serve as jurors in that court) to be summoned by F17**[**a relevant member of staff of Courts Service duly authorised in that behalf by the Chief Executive of the Courts Service**]** in order to make up the number needed.

(2) The judge shall specify the area from which persons may be summoned (which may be the area in the vicinity of the court) and the method of summons, whether by written notice or otherwise.

(3) *Section 9* shall apply to persons summoned under this section except that there shall not be an appeal from the county registrar.

(4) The names of persons summoned under this section shall be added to the panel of jurors.

Annotations

Amendments:

F17 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 25, S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

Selection of jury from panel.

15.—(1) The selection of persons empanelled as jurors to serve on a particular jury shall be made by balloting in open court.

(2) The power of summoning jurors under *section 14* may be exercised after balloting has begun, as well as earlier, and if it is exercised after balloting has begun the judge may dispense with balloting for persons summoned under that section.

(3) Before the selection is begun the judge shall warn the jurors present that they must not serve if they are ineligible or disqualified and as to the penalty under *section 36* for doing so; and he shall invite any person who knows that he is not qualified to serve or who is in doubt as to whether he is qualified or who may have an interest in or connection with the case or the parties to communicate the fact to the judge (either orally or otherwise as the judge may direct or authorise) if he is selected on the ballot.

(4) The foreman shall be such member as the jurors shall choose and the choice shall be made at such time as the judge may direct or, in the absence of a direction, before the jury bring in their verdict or make any other communication to the judge.

F18[Additional jurors

15A.—(1) Subject to *subsection (2)*, at any time before the selection of a jury in a trial of a criminal issue begins pursuant to *section 15*, a judge of the Circuit Court or the Central Criminal Court, as the case may be, may, on his or her own motion or on the application of the prosecution or the accused person, order that a specified number of persons not exceeding 15 in number be selected to serve as jurors and sworn in the trial concerned.

(2) A judge shall not make an order referred to in *subsection (1)* unless the judge is satisfied that—

(*a*) the duration of a trial is likely to exceed 2 months, and

(*b*) the selection of additional jurors for the trial is an appropriate means of ensuring that there will be a sufficient number of jurors for the jury to remain properly constituted for the purposes of giving a verdict in that trial.

(3) An application referred to in *subsection (1)* shall be made—

(*a*) not later than 10 working days before the selection of a jury in the trial of a criminal issue begins pursuant to *section 15*, and

(b) on notice—

(i) where the application is made by the prosecution, to each accused person in the trial, or

(ii) where the application is made by an accused person in that trial, to the prosecution and any other accused person in the trial concerned.

(4) Where an order is made pursuant to *subsection (1)*, the number of persons specified in the order shall be selected to serve as jurors pursuant to *section 15* and sworn in the trial concerned.

(5) Where—

(*a*) jurors have been sworn in the trial of a criminal issue following the making of an order under *subsection (1)*, and

(*b*) immediately before the jury in the trial retires to consider its verdict the jury comprises more than 12 jurors,

the judge shall direct that from the jurors then constituting the jury 12 jurors be selected to retire and consider the verdict in the trial.

(6) The selection of jurors to retire and consider the verdict in a trial pursuant to a direction under *subsection (5)* shall be made by balloting in open court.

(7) Where a ballot is held pursuant to subsection (6)—

(*a*) a juror who is selected shall retire to consider the verdict in the trial concerned, and

(*b*) a juror who is not selected shall be discharged by the judge.

(8) A jury which has been selected pursuant to *subsection (6)* to retire and consider the verdict in a trial shall continue to constitute the jury for the purposes of the trial and that trial shall proceed and a verdict may be found accordingly.**]**

Annotations

Amendments:

F18 Inserted (24.07.2013) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2013* (32/2013), s. 23(*a*), commenced on enactment.

Inspection of jury panel.

16.—(1) Every person shall be entitled to reasonable facilities to inspect a panel of jurors free of charge and a party to any proceedings, civil or criminal, to be tried with a jury shall be entitled to a copy free of charge on application to F19**[**the designated court office**]**.

(2) The rights under *subsection (1)* shall be exercisable at any time between the issue of the summonses and the close of the trial or the time when it is no longer possible to have a trial with a jury.

(3) The panel referred to in *subsection (1)* is the panel as prepared for and in advance of the sittings, including any supplemental panel so prepared, and it shall not be necessary to indicate in it that any of the persons in it have been excused in the meantime, or to include any persons summoned under *section 14*.

(4) The right to inspect the panel shall, however, include a right to be shown, on request, all alterations to the panel and the names of any persons summoned under *section 14* and, on request, to be told of any excusals.

Annotations

Amendments:

F19 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 26, S.I. No. 321 of 2024.

Mode of swearing a jury.

17.—(1) When swearing a juror the registrar or other officer acting as registrar shall call out the juror's name and direct him to take the Testament in his hand and shall administer the oath to him in accordance with *sections 18* and *19*.

(2) The jurors shall be sworn separately.

(3) Any juror who objects to be sworn in the ordinary manner shall make his objection immediately after his name is called out and before the administration of the oath to him has begun.

(4) Every challenge of a juror shall be made immediately after his name is called out and before the administration of the oath to him has begun.

(5) If any juror refuses to be sworn or insists on being sworn in a manner not authorised by this Act or otherwise by law, he shall not be included in the jury then being sworn.

(6) For the purposes of this section the administration of an oath shall be deemed to be begun when the registrar or other officer begins to say the words of the oath to the juror being sworn.

(7) In this section and in the next following section the word “Testament” means, in the case of a person of the Christian faith, the New Testament and, in the case of a person of the Jewish faith, the Old Testament.

Administration of oath to jurors.

18.—(1) The ordinary manner of administering the oath shall be as follows:

> The juror to be sworn shall hold the Testament in his uplifted hand and the registrar or other officer shall say to the juror the words "I swear by Almighty God that....." followed by the appropriate form of oath provided by section 19 and the juror shall repeat after him the words so spoken by him.

(2) The Oaths Act, 1888 (which provides for the making of an affirmation instead of an oath) and also every Act for the time being in force authorising an oath to be taken in a court in any particular manner shall apply to the oaths required by this Act to be taken by jurors.

(3) A juror who states that he has a religious belief but that he is neither of the Christian nor of the Jewish faith may, if the judge so permits, be sworn in any manner that the juror states to be binding on him.

(4) The oath shall be administered to every juror in the ordinary manner without question unless the juror appears to be physically incapable of taking the oath in that manner or objects to taking the oath in that manner and satisfies the judge that he is entitled to take the oath in some other manner.

Forms of oaths to be taken by jurors.

19.—(1) Whenever the issue to be tried is whether an accused person is or is not guilty of an offence, the form of oath to be administered to the jurors shall be as follows :

> "I will well and truly try the issue whether the accused is (*or* are) guilty or not guilty of the offence (*or* the several offences) charged in the indictment preferred against him (*or* her *or* them) and a true verdict give according to the evidence."

(2) F20**[**...**]**

(3) Whenever the issue to be tried is not one of the issues hereinbefore expressly provided for, the form of oath to be administered to the jurors shall be as follows :

> "I will well and truly try all such issues as shall be given to me to try and true verdicts give according to the evidence."

Annotations

Amendments:

F20 Repealed (1.06.2006) by *Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006* (11/2006), s. 25(1) and sch. 2 ref. 9, S.I. No. 273 of 2006.

Challenges without cause shown.

20.—(1) In every trial of a civil issue which is tried with a jury each party may challenge without cause shown seven jurors and no more.

(2) F21**[**Subject to *subsection (2A)*, in every trial of a criminal issue,**]** which is tried with a jury the prosecution and each accused person may challenge without cause shown seven jurors and no more.

F22**[**(2A) In every trial of a criminal issue which is tried with a jury in which jurors have been selected following the making of an order under *section 15A*, the prosecution and each accused person may challenge without cause shown eight jurors and no more.**]**

(3) Whenever a juror is lawfully challenged without cause shown, he shall not be included in the jury.

Annotations

Amendments:

F21 Substituted (24.07.2013) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2013* (32/2013), s. 23(*b*)(i), commenced on enactment.

F22 Inserted (24.07.2013) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2013* (32/2013), s. 23(*b*)(ii), commenced on enactment.

Challenges for cause shown.

21.—(1) In every trial of a civil issue which is tried with a jury any party may challenge for cause shown any number of jurors.

(2) In every trial of a criminal issue which is tried with a jury the prosecution and each accused person may challenge for cause shown any number of jurors.

(3) Whenever a juror is challenged for cause shown, such cause shall be shown immediately upon the challenge being made and the judge shall then allow or disallow the challenge as he shall think proper.

(4) Whenever a juror is challenged for cause shown and such challenge is allowed by the judge, the juror shall not be included in the jury.

View by jury.

22.—(1) In the trial of any issue with a jury the judge may, at any time after the jurors have been sworn and before they have given their verdict, by order direct that the jurors shall have a view of any place specified in the order which in the opinion of the judge it is expedient for the purposes of the trial that the jurors should see, and when any such order is made the judge may adjourn the trial at such stage and for such time as appears to him to be convenient for the execution of the order.

(2) In the trial of a civil issue, an order under this section shall be made only on the application of one of the parties and the expenses of the conveyance of the jurors to and from the place specified in the order shall be paid in the first instance by the party on whose application the order was made but shall be included in the costs of that party and be ultimately borne accordingly.

(3) In the trial of a criminal issue, an order under this section shall be made only on the application of the prosecution or of the accused person or of one or more of the accused persons and the expenses of the conveyance of the jurors to and from the place specified in the order shall be paid by F23**[**the Courts Service**]** out of moneys to be provided by the Oireachtas.

(4) Whenever a judge makes an order under this section, he shall give such directions as appear to him to be expedient for the purpose of preventing undue communication with the jurors during the execution of the order.

Annotations

Amendments:

F23 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 27, S.I. No. 321 of 2024.

Death or discharge of juror during trial.

23.—Whenever in the course of the trial of any issue a juror dies or is discharged by the judge owing to his being incapable through illness or any other cause of continuing to act as a juror, or under *section 9(7)* or *24*, the jury shall, unless the judge otherwise directs or the number of jurors is thereby reduced below ten, be considered as remaining properly constituted for all the purposes of the trial and the trial shall proceed and a verdict may be found accordingly.

Discontinuance of juror's service.

24.—In any trial with a jury the judge may at any stage direct that any person summoned or sworn as a juror shall not serve, or shall not continue to serve, as a juror if the judge considers that for any stated reason it is desirable in the interests of justice that he should give that direction.

F24**[**Separation of juries during trial.

25.—(1) In any trial with a jury—

(*a*) the jurors may, at any time before they retire to consider their verdict, separate unless the judge otherwise directs, and

(*b*) the jurors may, after they retire to consider their verdict, only separate for such period or periods as the judge directs.

(2) A direction under *subsection (1)(b)* may be given in respect of a jury whether or not the jury is present when the direction is given.**]**

Annotations

Amendments:

F24 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 58, S.I. No. 274 of 2008.

Non-effect of appeals as to electoral register on jury service.

26.—The qualification or liability of a person to serve as a juror shall not be affected by the fact that an appeal is pending under section 8 of the Electoral Act, 1963 (which relates to appeals regarding the register of electors).

PART IV

GENERAL

Administrative instructions.

27.—F25**[**...**]**

Annotations

Amendments:

F25 Repealed (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 28, S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

Person standing mute.

28.—Whenever a person charged with an offence to be tried with a jury stands mute when called upon to plead, the issue whether he is mute of malice or by the visitation of God shall be decided by the judge and, if the judge is not satisfied that he is mute by the visitation of God, the judge shall direct a plea of not guilty to be entered for him.

Jury service by employees and apprentices.

29.—(1) For the purposes of any contract of service or apprenticeship or any agreement collateral thereto (including a contract or agreement entered into before the passing of this Act), a person shall be treated as employed or apprenticed during any period when he is absent from his employment or apprenticeship in order to comply with a jury summons.

(2) Any provision contained in any such contract or agreement shall be void in so far as it would have the effect of excluding or limiting any liability of the employer in respect of the payment of salary or wages to the employee or apprentice during any such absence.

Commission *de lunatico inquirendo*.

30.—Whenever a panel of jurors is lawfully in attendance before a commissioner under a commission *de lunatico inquirendo*, then, for the purposes of this Act, the commissioner shall be deemed to be a court and also a judge of the court.

Liability to serve on coroner's jury.

31.—Every citizen of the age of eighteen years or upwards F26**[**...**]** residing in a coroner's district shall be qualified and liable to serve on the jury at any coroner's inquest held in that district unless he is ineligible or disqualified under this Act for jury service or is among the persons specified in Part II of the First Schedule.

Annotations

Amendments:

F26 Deleted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 59, S.I. No. 274 of 2008.

Modifications (not altering text):

C1 Application of section restricted (22.07.2022) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022* (19/2022), s. 50(4), S.I. No. 370 of 2022.

Definitions (Part 8)

48. In this Part—

"Act of 1962" means the Coroners Act 1962;

"Act of 1976" means the Juries Act 1976;

"Stardust death" means a reportable death, within the meaning of the Act of 1962, which occurred at the premises known as "Stardust", Kilmore Road, Artane, Dublin 5 on 14 February 1981 or thereafter as a result of injuries sustained at that premises on that date;

"Stardust inquest" means an inquest in relation to a Stardust death held pursuant to a direction of the Attorney General under section 24 of the Act of 1962.

...

Application of Act of 1962 and Act of 1976

50. ...

(4) Section 31 of the Act of 1976 shall not apply in respect of a Stardust inquest.

Non-application of provisions to coroners' inquests.

32.—Nothing in this Act except *section 31* shall apply to a coroner's inquest, and in this Act the word "jury" does not include a jury at such an inquest and the word "juror" does not include a juror serving on such a jury.

Restriction of functions of sheriff.

33.—The powers and duties conferred and imposed on a county registrar under this Act shall be exercised and performed by him notwithstanding anything in section 12 of the Court Officers Act, 1945 (which refers to the duties of sheriffs) or in any order made thereunder.

PART V

OFFENCES

Failure of juror to attend court etc.

34.—(1) Any person who, having been duly summoned as a juror, fails without reasonable excuse to attend in compliance with the summons or to attend on any day when required by the court shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding F27**[**€500**]**.

(2) A juror who, having attended in pursuance of a summons, is not available when called upon to serve as a juror, or is unfit for service by reason of drink or drugs, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding F27**[**€500**]**.

(3) Except in a case to which *section 14* applies, a person shall not be guilty of an offence under *subsection (1)* in respect of failure to attend in compliance with a summons unless the summons was served at least fourteen days before the date specified therein for his first attendance.

Annotations

Amendments:

F27 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 60(*a*), (*b*), S.I. No. 274 of 2008. A fine of €500 translates into a class E fine, not greater than €500, as provided (4.01.2011) by *Fines Act 2010* (8/2010), ss. 3, 8(3) and table ref. no. 1, S.I. No. 662 of 2010.

False statements by or on behalf of juror.

35.—F28**[**(1) If any person who has been duly summoned as a juror makes or causes or permits to be made on his behalf a false representation to—

(*a*) the county registrar or any person acting on his behalf,

(*b*) a relevant member of staff, or

(*c*) a judge,

with the intention of evading jury service, he or she shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €500.**]**

(2) If any person makes or causes or permits to be made on behalf of another person duly summoned as a juror a false representation in order to enable that other person to evade jury service, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding F29**[**500**]**.

(3) If any person refuses without reasonable excuse to answer, or gives an answer known to him to be false in a material particular, or recklessly gives an answer that is false in a material particular, when questioned by a judge of a court for the purpose of determining whether that person is qualified to serve as a juror, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding F29**[**500**]**.

Annotations

Amendments:

F28 Substituted (1.07.2024) by *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023), s. 29, S.I. Nos. 321 of 2024.

F29 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 61(*b*), (*c*), S.I. No. 274 of 2008. A fine of €500 translates into a class E fine, not greater than €500, as provided (4.01.2011) by *Fines Act 2010* (8/2010), ss. 3, 8(3) and table ref. no. 1, S.I. No. 662 of 2010.

Editorial Notes:

E11 Previous affecting provision: subs. (1) amended (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 61(*a*), S.I. No. 274 of 2008; substituted (1.07.2024) as per F-Note above.

Service by ineligible or disqualified person.

36.—(1) Any person who serves on a jury knowing that he is ineligible for service shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding F30**[**€500**]**

(2) Any person who serves on a jury knowing that he is disqualified shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding F31**[**€2,000**]**.

Annotations

Amendments:

F30 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 62(*a*), S.I. No. 274 of 2008. A fine of €500 translates into a class E fine, not greater than €500, as provided (4.01.2011) by *Fines Act 2010* (8/2010), ss. 3, 8(3) and table ref. no. 1, S.I. No. 662 of 2010.

F31 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 62(*b*), S.I. No. 274 of 2008. A fine of €2,000 translates into a class C fine, not greater than €2,500, as provided (4.01.2011) by *Fines Act 2010* (8/2010), ss. 3, 6(3), table ref. no. 1, S.I. No. 662 of 2010.

Refusal to be sworn as a juror.

37.—Any person who, on being called upon to be sworn as a juror, refuses to be sworn in a manner authorised by this Act or otherwise by law shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding F32**[**€500**]**.

Annotations

Amendments:

F32 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 63, S.I. No. 274 of 2008. A fine of €500 translates into a class E fine, not greater than €500, as provided (4.01.2011) by *Fines Act 2010* (8/2010), ss. 3, 8(3) and table ref. no. 1, S.I. No. 662 of 2010.

Sections 7, 9, 31.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Persons Ineligible and Persons Excusable as of Right

PART I

Persons Ineligible

Uachtarán na h-Éireann.

Persons concerned with administration of justice

Persons holding or who have at any time held any judicial office within the meaning of the Courts (Establishment and Constitution) Act 1961 (No. 38).

Coroners, deputy coroners and persons appointed under section 5(2) of the Local Authorities (Officers and Employees) Act 1926 (No. 39) to fill the office of coroner temporarily.

The Attorney General and members of his staff.

The Director of Public Prosecutions and members of his staff.

Barristers and solicitors actually practising as such.

Solicitors' apprentices, solicitors' clerks and other persons employed on work of a legal character in solicitors' offices.

Officers attached to a court or to the President of the High Court and officers and other persons employed in any office attached to a court or attached to the President of the High Court.

Persons employed from time to time in any court for the purpose of taking a record of the proceedings of the court.

Members of the Garda Síochána.

Prison officers and other persons employed in any prison F33**[**...**]** or any place provided under section 2 of the Prisons Act 1970 (No. 11) or in any place in which persons are kept in military custody pursuant to section 2 of the Prisons Act 1972 (No. 7) or in any place specified to be used as a prison under section 3 of the latter Act; chaplains and medical officers of, and members of visiting committees for, any such establishment or place.

Persons employed in the welfare service of the Department of Justice.

A person in charge of, or employed in, a forensic science laboratory.

Members of the Defence Forces

Every member of the Permanent Defence Force, including the Army Nursing Service.

Every member of the Reserve Defence Force during any period during which he is in receipt of pay for any service or duty as a member of the Reserve Defence Force.

F34**[***Other persons*

Persons who have—

(a) an incapacity to read, or

(b) an enduring impairment,

such that it is not practicable for them to perform the duties of a juror.**]**

F35**[**A person who does not, in the opinion of the court, have sufficient mental or intellectual capacity to serve as a juror.**]**

Annotations

Amendments:

F33 Deleted (7.04.2017) by *Prisons Act 2015* (57/2015), s. 12, S.I. No. 134 of 2017.

F34 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 64, S.I. No. 274 of 2008.

F35 Substituted (26.04.2023) by *Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022* (46/2022, s. 96(*b*), S.I. No. 194 of 2023.

PART II

PERSONS EXCUSABLE AS OF RIGHT

Members of either House of the Oireachtas.

Members of the Council of State.

The Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Clerk of Dáil Éireann.

The Clerk of Seanad Éireann.

A person in Holy Orders.

A regular minister of any religious denomination or community.

Vowed members of any religious order living in a monastery, convent or other religious community.

The following persons if actually practising their profession and registered (including provisionally or temporarily registered), enrolled or certified under the statutory provisions relating to that profession :

Medical practitioners;

Dentists;

Nurses;

Midwives;

Veterinary surgeons;

Pharmaceutical chemists.

A member of the staff of either House of the Oireachtas on a certificate from the Clerk of that House that it would be contrary to the public interest for the member to have to serve as a juror because he performs essential and urgent services of public importance that cannot reasonably be performed by another or postponed.

Heads of Government Departments and Offices and any civil servant on a certificate from the head of his Department or Office that it would be contrary to the public interest for the civil servant to have to serve as a juror because he performs essential and urgent services of public importance that cannot reasonably be performed by another or postponed.

Any civilian employed by the Minister for Defence under section 30(1)(*g*) of the Defence Act 1954 (No. 18) on a certificate from the Secretary of the Department of Defence that it would be contrary to the public interest for the civilian to have to serve as a juror because he performs essential and urgent services of public importance that cannot reasonably be performed by another or postponed.

Chief officers of local authorities for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1941 (No. 23), health boards established under the Health Act 1970 (No. 1) and harbour authorities within the meaning of the Harbours Act 1946 (No. 9) and any employee of a local authority, health board or harbour authority on a certificate from its chief officer that it would be contrary to the public interest for the employee to have to serve as a juror because he performs essential and urgent services of public importance that cannot reasonably be performed by another or postponed.

The head or principal teacher of the college of a university, of a school or other educational institution, and any professor, lecturer or member of the teaching staff of any such institution on a certificate from such head or principal teacher that the person concerned performs services in the institution that cannot reasonably be performed by another or postponed.

Whole-time students at any such educational institution as is mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

The secretary to the Commissioners of Irish Lights and any person in the employment of the Commissioners on a certificate from the secretary that the person concerned performs services for the Commissioners that cannot reasonably be performed by another or postponed.

Masters of vessels, duly licensed pilots and duly licensed aircraft commanders.

Persons aged sixty-five years or upwardsF36**[**...**]**.

Annotations

Amendments:

F36 Substituted (1.01.2009) by *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), s. 64, S.I. No. 274 of 2008.

SECOND SCHEDULE

REPEALS

Section 4.

Number and Year (1) (1)	Short Title (2) (2)	Extent of repeal (3) (3)
1908, c. 48	Post Office Act, 1908.	In section 43, the words "or on any jury or inquest,".
1919, c. 71	Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919.	So much of section 1 as empowers a judge to order an all-male or all-female jury.
No. 23 of 1927	Juries Act, 1927.	The whole Act.
No. 27 of 1930	Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1930.	Section 23(4).
No. 48 of 1936	Courts of Justice Act, 1936.	Section 80.
No. 21 of 1940	Local Government (Dublin) (Amendment) Act, 1940.	Section 9(3).
No. 24 of 1945	Juries Act, 1945.	The whole Act.
No. 18 of 1954	Defence Act, 1954.	Section 105.
No. 11 of 1961	Juries Act, 1961.	The whole Act.
No. 9 of 1962	Coroners Act, 1962.	Sections 42 and 59.
No. 19 of 1963	Electoral Act, 1963.	In section 7 (1), the words ", after consultation with the Minister for Justice,". Sections 7(2) (*b*), (6) and (8) and 8 (5).
No. 5 of 1964	Criminal Justice Act, 1964.	Section 7.

Number 4 *of* 1976

JURIES ACT 1976

REVISED

Updated to 3 February 2026

About this Revised Act

This Revised Act presents the text of the Act as it has been amended since enactment, and preserves the format in which it was passed.

Related legislation

This Act is not collectively cited with any other Act.

Annotations

This Revised Act is annotated and includes textual and non-textual amendments, statutory instruments made pursuant to the Act and previous affecting provisions.

An explanation of how to read annotations is available at www.lawreform.ie/annotations.

Material not updated in this revision

Where other legislation is amended by this Act, those amendments may have been superseded by other amendments in other legislation, or the amended legislation may have been repealed or revoked. This information is not represented in this revision but will be reflected in a revision of the amended legislation if one is available.

Where legislation or a fragment of legislation is referred to in annotations, changes to this legislation or fragment may not be reflected in this revision but will be reflected in a revision of the legislation referred to if one is available.

A list of legislative changes to any Act, and to statutory instruments from 1972, may be found linked from the page of the Act or statutory instrument at www.irishstatutebook.ie.

Acts which affect or previously affected this revision

• *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023* (18/2023)

- *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022* (19/2022)
- *Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022* (46/2022)
- *Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021* (49/2021)
- *Prisons Act 2015* 57(/2015)
- *Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2013* (32/2013)
- *Fines Act 2010* (8/2010)
- *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008)
- *Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006* (11/2006)
- *Local Government (Dublin) Act 1993* (31/1993)

All Acts up to and including *Credit Review Act 2026* (1/2026), enacted 3 February 2026, were considered in the preparation of this revision.

Statutory instruments which affect or previously affected this revision

- *Jury Districts Order 2013* (S.I. No. 115 of 2013)
- *Jury Districts Order 2004* (S.I. No. 724 of 2004)
- *Jury Districts Order 1999* (S.I. No. 60 of 1999)
- *Jury Districts Order 1997* (S.I. No. 129 of 1997)
- *Jury Districts Order 1991* (S.I. No. 337 of 1991)
- *Jury Districts Order 1983* (S.I. No. 262 of 1983)
- *Jury Districts Order 1977* (S.I. No. 59 of 1977)
- *Jury Districts Order 1976* (S.I. No. 57 of 1976)
- *Jury Summons Regulations, 1976* (S.I. No. 56 of 1976)

All statutory instruments up to and including *Gambling Regulation Act 2024 (Commencement) Order 2026* (S.I. No. 31 of 2026), made 3 February 2026, were considered in the preparation of this revision.