

**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

June 25, 2014

Opinion No. 14-64

Qualifying Jurors and Assigning Jury-Service Dates Online

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**QUESTION**

Can jurors be qualified and assigned a jury-service date via the Internet?

**OPINION**

Yes.

**ANALYSIS**

Chapters 1 and 2 of Title 22 of the Tennessee Code govern the qualification and assignment of jurors. The primary goal in interpreting the statutory provisions relevant to this process is “to ascertain and carry out the legislature’s intent without unduly restricting or expanding a statute’s coverage beyond its intended scope.” *Premium Fin. Corp. of Am. v. Crump Ins. Servs. of Memphis, Inc.*, 978 S.W.2d 91, 93 (Tenn. 1998).

Subject to residency requirements, every person who is 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States is qualified for jury service, if not otherwise incompetent. Tenn. Code Ann. § 22-1-101.<sup>1</sup> A juror summons must include the “[d]ate, time and place [that the] juror is required to appear in response to the summons *or, in the alternative*, [the] date and method by which the juror is required to contact the jury coordinator or otherwise respond to the court regarding the juror’s service.” Tenn. Code Ann. § 22-2-306(a)(3) (emphasis added). *See also* Tenn. Code Ann. § 22-2-309(a) (“All persons summoned as members of the jury pool shall attend at the time and place designated in the summons, *or otherwise respond as specified in the summons . . .*”) (emphasis added). Title 22 expressly contemplates the use of an alternative method, in lieu of appearing, for potential jurors to respond to a summons for jury service and thus does not preclude the qualifying of jurors and the assignment of jury-service dates via the Internet.

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<sup>1</sup> Persons are incompetent to act as jurors upon conviction of a felony or other infamous offense, or upon conviction of perjury or subornation of perjury. Tenn. Code Ann. § 22-1-102.

ROBERT E. COOPER, JR.  
Attorney General and Reporter

JOSEPH F. WHALEN  
Acting Solicitor General

JASON COLEMAN  
Assistant Attorney General

Requested by:

The Honorable Robert J. Carter, Jr.  
Judge of Division III  
The Criminal Court of Tennessee  
30th Judicial District at Memphis  
201 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103