



FAIRFIELD COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUDGE RICHARD E. BERENS

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR JURY SERVICE

What to do in case of a personal emergency?

While it is very important that you fulfill your role as a juror throughout the entire trial, we understand that personal emergencies can arise. If something comes up while you are at the Hall of Justice, please notify the Bailiff at the earliest opportunity. If something occurs while you are not at the Hall of Justice, you may **contact Court Administrator Joshua Horacek at 740-652-7424** at any time, day or night.

Can my family contact me at the Hall of Justice in the event of an emergency?

Absolutely. The number for the Judge's staff is 740-652-7435. You may provide this number to family members, schools, childcare providers, etc., in case an emergency arises during your service. If you are in trial, we will deliver urgent messages to you in the courtroom. Messages that are not urgent will be relayed to you during a break.

Can I keep my phone or mobile device with me during the trial?

Until jury deliberations begin, you may keep your phone or other mobile device with you (on silent or "airplane mode"). There will be breaks and downtime while the Court addresses matters outside the presence of the jury, which can be a good opportunity to check emails or messages. You may also wish to bring a book or magazine. However, you will not be permitted to use your phone during court proceedings, and the Bailiff will take custody of all juror phones and mobile devices during deliberations.

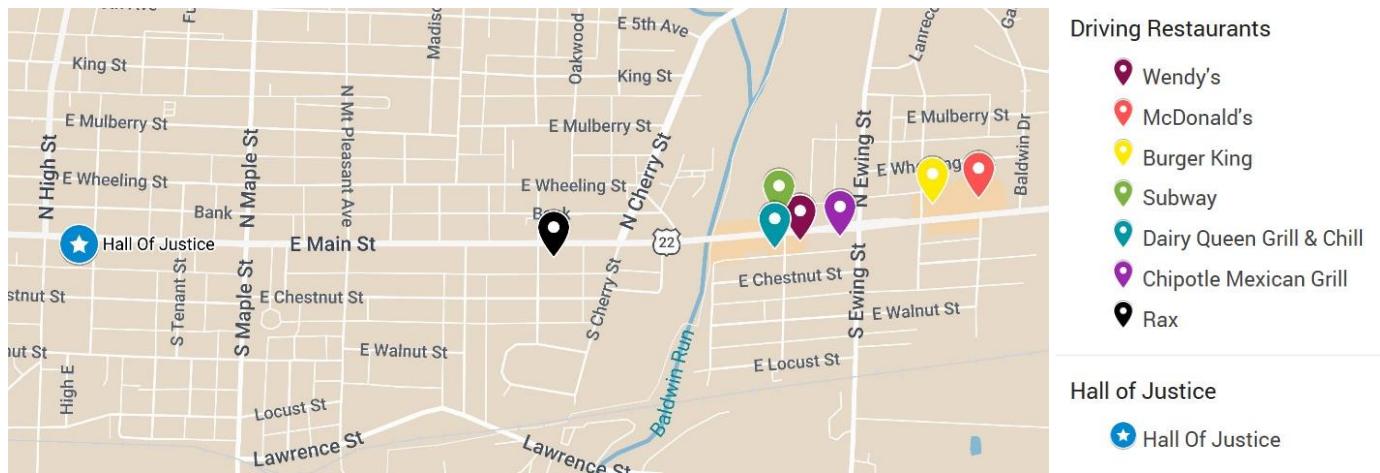
When will I be dismissed for the day?

The end of the trial day is determined by the Judge, who will consider the status of the evidence presentation and attempt to coordinate breaks at natural stopping points. Most days, court concludes between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., though this can occasionally vary. The Judge will do his best to accommodate jurors' scheduling concerns, so please communicate any after-hours issues to the Court through the Bailiff.

Where to eat?

Trials typically break for lunch around noon. The timing and length of the lunch break depend on several factors, but the Judge will ensure you have sufficient time to eat. The closest fast-food restaurants are located on Main Street east of the Hall of Justice (to the right if you are standing in front of the building facing the street). These locations are not within walking distance but are only a short drive away. There are several restaurants within walking distance in downtown Lancaster, west of the Hall of Justice (to the left if you are standing in front of the building facing the street). Some of the more popular options are highlighted on the maps below. Also, snacks are generally available from the vending machines near the restrooms on the second floor of the Hall of Justice.

Driving (“Fast Food”) Restaurants



Walking Restaurants

