



NAVIGATING SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE INTERNET FOR JURORS



Serving on a jury is a rewarding experience, and you may naturally want to share the experience with others or learn more about the trial online. Nearly everyone seems to use social media and the internet these days; whether on a smartphone, tablet, or computer, our communities are more and more connected through the fast pace of technology. But sometimes the changes to technology happen faster than we can learn when they are appropriate to use and when they are not.

Jury duty is one such time and place where you must be careful. Limiting when you can use your devices to go online, what you can look up, and who you can post about is difficult.

But when serving as a juror, you are not allowed to:

- Use your devices in the courtroom
- Search social media or the internet for information about the case, just as you are restricted from doing with newspapers, books, and other sources
- Post to social media or the internet about the case

These rules help to make sure that everyone pays attention during the trial and makes their decisions based only on the evidence presented and the law provided.

People may go online or use social media for many reasons, such as boredom or habit, because they want to share and feel connected, as part of a religious or hobby group, or just for fun. They may want to go online to learn more about a case or post about a trial because they are confused, are frustrated, or truly believe that their actions will help make things fair or find the truth. Or they may simply be curious, want to right a wrong, or even have political reasons.

Regardless of why, many people use the internet and social media during their jury service without fully understanding the effects of their behavior as they carry out their duties as a juror.

In general, you are free to use your devices, social media, and the internet outside the courtroom

for activities unrelated to the case, except in rare instances, at the judge's direction. However, as stated earlier, you cannot use your devices when you are in the courtroom, even for reasons that have nothing to do with the case, and you cannot use social media or the internet to:

- Talk about the case
- Look up the parties in the case
- Conduct your own research about the case
- Post information or evidence presented at the trial
- Look up the meaning of a legal word or idea

When you do so, not only are you violating everyone's right to due process under the law, you may also find information that is false, off base, or inappropriate to share in the case. What you discover



can cause a bias or prejudice and affect your decisionmaking. It may also accidentally expose you to passive news or content, show you the biases of other people online, or put you in communication with someone you weren't looking for, which may affect your ability to perform your duty as a juror.

So, again, once you enter the courtroom, you will not be allowed to use the internet, social media, or your devices, including your phone. All technology will need to be powered off or silenced. You will need to focus your attention on what is happening in the courtroom so that you can be prepared for what you may be asked or presented with. If you are picked to serve as a juror for a trial, this restriction will also apply in the deliberations room when you are finally allowed to talk about the case with your fellow jurors. Turning off or silencing your devices will make sure that you are not distracted, that you stay informed, and that you can participate fully.

Once your jury service is over, you will be able to return to your normal social media and internet habits and use your devices freely outside the courtroom.

Navigating the internet and social media is tough enough in everyday life, let alone as a juror, but knowing that they can affect you and understanding how are two of the first steps in meeting your civic duty when asked to serve on a jury.

Thank you for your service and your respect for the rule of law, which guarantees everyone a right to be judged by a jury of their peers.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Please note that, because of the rapidly changing nature of social media and the internet, this list does not cover every term, and many terms may not be used regularly.

The internet includes the following:

- public websites
- private forums or blogs
- networks
- chatrooms
- social media

Social media includes the following:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Snapchat
- Reddit
- WhatsApp
- Foursquare
- Yelp
- WeChat
- TikTok
- LinkedIn
- Pinterest
- Discord
- Twitch
- YouTube
- Slack

#nofilter: A common handle on social media platforms such as Instagram to attach to photographs to indicate that no photographic editing filter has been applied to the image

#motivation: A popular hashtag on social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, used to accompany positive, inspirational, and uplifting content

AMA: *Ask me anything*; a common post on social networking site Reddit with which the user encourages and then answers questions posed by the Reddit community at large

avatar: Also known as your profile picture, a small image that represents you on a social network; can be a real photo of you, a corporate logo, or anything you want your followers to identify as you



back up: The act or instance of making a copy of computer data (such as a file or the contents of a hard drive); also can be written as backup

bio: A short text portion of any digital profile designed to explain who the user is; common to all social media platforms

block: An action by users of most social media networks, typically allowing them to prevent other users from sending messages or viewing the blocker's information or profile

blog: A website that contains online personal reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks, videos, and photographs provided by the writer; also refers to a feature appearing as part of an online publication that typically relates to a particular topic and consists of articles and personal commentary by one or more authors

chatbot: An artificial intelligence program—implemented on a number of social messaging apps, from Facebook Messenger to Slack—that can automate customer interactions for a company, provide customer service, answer questions, and even set up appointments automatically



Check In: Introduced by Facebook in 2010, a check-in feature on the social media platform that allows users to use the GPS on their mobile phones to let their “friends” know exactly where they are and to comment on what they are doing at that location

clickbait: Something designed to make readers want to click on a hyperlink, especially when the link leads to content of dubious value or interest

CTR: *Click-through rate*; a common metric for reporting on the number of people who viewed a piece of content and then took an action, such as clicking on an advertisement or link (used in “pay-per-click” advertising)

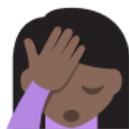
DM: *Direct message*; often used as shorthand for sending someone a private message to their account on social media

dropping a pin: The act of letting other users know one's location in Google Maps or any other application that shows one's location on a map



embedded: In the context of digital technology, a term to describe text, images, sound, or computer code placed in a computer file, HTML document, software program, or electronic device

facepalm: Used online in written form (including *facepalm* and [facepalm]) or visually represented by emojis, by emoticons, and in memes to refer to the physical gesture of placing one's hand across one's face or lowering one's face into one's hand or hands, covering or closing one's eyes, commonly understood as a display of frustration, disappointment, exasperation, shock, surprise, or incredulous disbelief



fake news: Deliberate falsehoods or hoaxes spread commonly online and via social media

feed: The stream of content one sees from other users; the homepage on most social networks, and the most common way to see people's posts and engage with them

follow: An action by users to subscribe to the feed of someone or something, especially on social media (a person who subscribes to your content on social media is typically called a "follower")

FOMO: *Fear of missing out*

GIF: *Graphic interchange format* (pronounced like "jiff" or "giff" with a hard g); used to create short, moving images—either from still pictures or clips from existing footage, often with accompanying text—that play on a loop

handle: User name on Twitter

hashtag: A word or phrase preceded by the symbol that classifies or categorizes the accompanying text (such as a tweet)



ICYMI: *In case you missed it*; commonly used on Twitter; used to draw someone's attention to previously posted material you think they should look at or read

IDK: *I don't know*

IMHO: *In my humble opinion*; used in posts on social media and other internet platforms to indicate that material posted is opinion as opposed to objective fact

influencer: A person with the ability to influence potential buyers of a product or service by promoting or recommending the product or service on social media

listserve: Email mailing list software that distributes emails to subscribers on an electronic mailing list.

LOL: *Laughing out loud*

meme: (Rhymes with "team") originally, any idea that spread, multiplied, and changed in a viral way; in a social media context, funny pieces of text, videos, or images that go viral and let users get in on the joke by creating their own variations and sharing them



mute: An option one can take to stop another user's content from appearing on one's social media or internet platform but still allow the option to view it and still allow the other user to see one's content; less severe than blocking

news feed: The constantly updating list of stories in the middle of a Facebook homepage, including status updates, photos, videos, links, app activity, and likes from people, pages, and groups that the user follows on Facebook

phishing: The practice of sending fraudulent electronic communications, commonly emails and electronic messages, purporting to be from reputable

companies, to induce individuals to reveal sensitive personal information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details

pop-up notifications: User alerts, about user social media activity, that pop up on the user's desktop computer and/or mobile phone, some of which cannot be turned off completely but can be adjusted in the user's settings

POV: *Point of view*

privacy settings: On Facebook, settings that are available to a user to restrict what content is visible and available to other users

profile: An individual's personal account in which to share information about themselves, upload photos and videos, post updates, and maintain a list of "friends"

screenshot: A snapshot or picture (captured static image file) of whatever is showing on the screen of a computer, mobile device, or tablet

share: The act of sending photos, videos, and other content on social media accounts, often to friends, followers, or other users

tag: A social media functionality, commonly used on Facebook and Instagram, that allows users to create a link back to the profile of the person shown in the picture or targeted by the update



TBH: *To be honest*; used widely in communications on social media and other internet platforms

TFW: *That feeling when or that face when*; a relatable occurrence

thread: A stream or list of content originating from a single post by a user, followed by subsequent posts in response to it

TIL: *Today I learned*; used in writing, for example on social media, before giving interesting new information

timeline: A social media feature introduced by Facebook in 2012 combining a user's Facebook wall and profile into one page; includes reverse-chronological details, by year, of a user's Facebook history and reorganizes all stored user information for display, rather than archives (it was previously more difficult or impossible to view outdated events, photos, and comments)

TL;DR: *Too long; didn't read*; a common comment posted online by readers to indicate that they didn't read a lengthy online publication; also used by authors of lengthy online publications to indicate the availability of a summary for readers who do not wish to read the entirety of the publication

trending: Material that is currently popular or widely discussed online, especially on social media platforms, such as Twitter

viral: A term describing content that spreads exponentially on social media; typically occurs because an increasing number of people share the content with their followers, then their followers share the same content with their followers, and so on, creating a snowball effect

wall: Part of a Facebook user's profile where the user can post status updates and receive messages from friends; a public portion of a user's profile, visible to the user's friends; shows updates of a user's recent activity, such as comments the user has posted on other friends' walls, the user's status updates, and who the user has recently added as a friend on Facebook

Thank you for your jury service!

*Sources consulted in the making of this brochure:
Tasmania Law Reform Institute.*



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