

**PENNSYLVANIA INTERBRANCH COMMISSION FOR GENDER, RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS**  
**PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SECTION 4503 OF TITLE 42 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED**  
**STATUTES: RULES FOR EXEMPTION AND EXCUSAL**

4503. Exemptions and Excusals from Jury Duty.

(a) Exemptions. -- No person shall be exempt from jury duty except for the following persons who opt not to serve:

- (1) Spouses, children, siblings, parents, grandparents and grandchildren of victims of criminal homicide under 18 Pa.C.S. § 2501 (relating to criminal homicide) who are called to serve on a criminal jury.
- (2) Persons who have previously served for a term of 18 months on a Statewide investigating grand jury, including any extensions thereof.
- (3) Persons 75 years of age or older.

(b) Excusals. -- No person shall be excused from jury duty except the following:

- (1) Persons demonstrating to the court undue hardship or extreme inconvenience.
- (2) Persons in active service of the armed forces of the United States or of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- (3) Persons who have served more than three days on any jury within the previous three years and who opt not to serve.
- (4) Persons who have served less than three days on any jury within the previous year and who opt not to serve. The term of excusal shall be one year.
- (5) Sitting judges and magisterial district judges of the Commonwealth as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions) who opt not to serve.
- (6) Sitting judges of the United States as defined in 28 U.S.C. § 451 (relating to definitions) who opt not to serve.
- (7) Breastfeeding women who opt not to serve.
- (8) Parents or guardians who have custody of a child under seven years of age, who are the primary caregivers of the child and who opt not to serve.
- (9) Parents or guardians who are providing alternative education to a child who has been excused from attending public school and who opt not to serve.
- (10) Persons who are primary caregivers of an elderly or disabled family member and who opt not to serve.

(c) Term of Excusal. -- Persons may be excused for such period as the court determines necessary. At the end of the period, they may be assigned to the next jury array.

(d) Challenges. -- This subchapter shall not affect the existing practice with respect to peremptory challenges and challenges for cause.