

Background

The Tohono O'odham Constitution guarantees all members the right to a jury trial.¹ Jurors are necessary to ensure justice for all.

The Tohono O'odham have a long heritage of resolving disputes through group consensus. Traditionally, in serious disputes (murder, incest, etc.), parties would take disputes to the Keeper of the Smoke (Keeper of the Meeting). The Keeper of the Smoke met with the community's elders. This group listened to the accused, the victim, and their families. Because *himdag* (culture or way of life) encourages agreement, the group stayed together until a decision about what should happen was reached. The decision would then be shared with the community.²

Jurors help protect the Tohono O'odham Nation's sovereignty by making sure that members of the community decide case outcomes.

Important Information

All members of the Nation at least 18 years old are eligible to serve as jurors.

If you receive a jury summons, you **must** register your juror number (found on the summons) with the Jury Manager by either:

1. Emailing or texting your juror number to juryduty@tonation-nsn.gov; OR
2. Calling (520) 383-6311, leave your name, phone number, and juror number on this voicemail.

Jurors selected to serve on a jury will be paid \$15.00 per day. Please see your jury summons for details about mileage claims and juror payments.

All requests to be excused from jury duty must be submitted in writing and notarized. The form can be found at <https://tojc-nsn.gov/forms>. Send your request to one of the following:

Mail: Tohono O'odham Judicial Branch
P.O. Box 761
Sells, AZ 85634

Fax: (520) 383-2650

Email: juryduty@tonation-nsn.gov

For questions or information on jury service you can reach the jury clerk by:

1. Email at juryduty@tonation-nsn.gov; OR
2. Phone at (520) 383-6311. The number has an out-going message about pending trials. Be sure to listen carefully for your assigned trial date. If a trial is canceled, that information will be on this voicemail.
3. When contacting the Court, please include your name and juror number from the jury summons.

Please dress appropriately. **Mini-skirts, shorts, tank tops, halter tops, crop tops, t-shirts with derogatory or offensive lettering or design, and flip-flops are not allowed.** If you come to court wearing any of these items, you may be told to return home (at your own expense) to change. The Court's dress code can be found at www.tojc-nsn.gov.

¹ T.O. Constitution, Article III, Section 4.

² Ruth Murray Underhill, *Social Organization of the Papago Indians* 116-19 (AMS Press, 1969).