

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

GENERAL ORDER AMENDING JURY PLAN

It is hereby ORDERED that the following amendment to Section 7c of Appendix E, the Plan for the Random Selection of Jurors, having been approved by the judges of this court, is adopted for immediate implementation:¹

c. Excuses from Jury Service

This district court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1863 and by adoption of this Plan, finds that the following persons must be excused from jury service upon individual request:

- (1) A person who is over 70 years of age;
- (2) A person who has served in federal court as a grand or petit juror within the last two years (see 28 U.S.C. § 1866(e)); ~~and~~
- (3) A person who serves as a volunteer (without compensation) in an official capacity as a firefighter or a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew for a public agency. A "public agency" for this purpose means the United States, any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or other territory of the United States, or any unit of local government, department, or instrumentality of any of the foregoing; and
- (4) A full-time student in a secondary school, college, university or technical school.

¹New language appears in underlined text; deleted language appears in ~~strikeout~~ text.

Comment: This automatic jury excuse category has been restored to avoid creating undue hardship for full-time students. In order to comply with their legal obligations under the existing jury plan, students 18 and older have to skip class, travel from as far away as they happen to be, and request a judge to excuse them from jury service. If they miss an exam, students might have to waste a semester's tuition in order to comply with the jury plan. Restoration of this excuse category avoids these potential results.

Signed this 9 day of August, 2007.

FOR THE COURT:


THAD HEARTFIELD
Chief Judge