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Directive #07-12

**To: Assignment Judges
Criminal Presiding Judges**

From: Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D. 

Subj: Model Questions for the Selection of Grand Jurors

Date: July 16, 2012

This directive promulgates for statewide use the attached set of four model questions to be asked of prospective grand jurors at each empanelling of a grand jury, including State grand juries. The Supreme Court approved these model questions at its June 26, 2012 administrative conference on the recommendation of the Judicial Council. The model questions were developed by the Judiciary's Committee for Jury Management.

The use of this limited number of model questions will eliminate the potential for discrepancies or omissions, will reduce the risk of legal challenges to the selection process, and should assist grand jury selection when it is necessary that a judge be called upon to substitute for another judge and empanel a grand jury.

As with the model questions used during petit juror voir dire, the judge empanelling a grand jury can rephrase, add to, or change the sequence of the model questions, so long as all of the elements contained in the four questions are covered. The judge also has the discretion to ask additional voir dire questions beyond the four model questions.

The model questions promulgated by this Directive are to be used during each grand jury empanelling that occurs after September 1, 2012. The model questions may be used for grand jury selections prior to that date. I understand that some judges and some vicinages already are using these questions.

Questions regarding this Directive or the model grand jury voir dire questions may be

directed to Michael F. Garrahan, Esq., Chief, Jury Programs, by Lotus Notes e-mail or by telephone (609-292-2634).

G.A.G.

attachment

c: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Hon. Ariel A. Rodriguez
Hon. Patrick DeAlmeida
Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff
AOC Directors and Assistant Directors
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Vicinage Operations Managers
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Leigh Easty, Programs and Procedures
Michael F. Garrahan, Jury Programs

MODEL QUESTIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF GRAND JURORS

1. In order to be qualified under New Jersey law to serve as a grand juror, a person must have certain qualifications. A grand juror must be:
 - Age 18 or older;
 - A citizen of the United States;
 - Able to read and understand the English language;
 - A resident of _____ County [*the summoning county*].
[or for State Grand Juries: • A resident of New Jersey].

Also, a juror:

- Must not have been convicted of an indictable offense in any state or federal court;
- Must not be a federal, State, or local government police officer or prosecutor; or
- Must not have any physical or mental disability that would prevent the person from properly serving as a juror. Please consider that the Judiciary will provide reasonable accommodations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Does anyone have an issue regarding any of these requirements?

2. Is there anything about serving as a grand juror that will interfere with your ability to be fair and impartial?
3. The term of service will be _____. Is there anything about the length of service or the days involved that would interfere with your ability to serve as a grand juror?
4. Do you have any medical, personal or financial problem that would prevent you from serving as a grand juror?

Promulgated by Directive #07-12
July 16, 2012