

Office of the Clerk of Court Greenville County



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Clerk of Court
JAY GRESHAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE COUNTY CLERK OF COURT ACTS SWIFTLY TO FIX JURY PARTICIPATION CHALLENGES

Greenville, SC — Greenville County Clerk of Court Jay Gresham is taking decisive action to prevent justice delays caused by a recent juror shortage that disrupted court proceedings this week. Of 161 jury summonses issued for this week's General Sessions trial term, only 59 jurors reported for duty, delaying cases and creating challenges across the docket. Although these summonses predate his administration, Gresham is focused on addressing and preventing similar disruptions.

"You can't build a house without a solid foundation, and jurors are just that for our justice system," Gresham said. "When jurors don't show, justice comes to a screeching halt, and that's not acceptable. That's why we're taking immediate action to fix this issue."

In response, the Clerk's Office requested Chief Administrative Judge for General Sessions, G. D. Morgan, Jr., to issue an order summoning 100 additional jurors for the February 10th trial term, increasing the total to 311. These summonses were mailed in official envelopes bearing the Greenville County seal and Gresham's name to demonstrate their authenticity and protect citizens from potential scams.

To protect the integrity of the jury process, Gresham has launched a public awareness campaign in collaboration with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, emphasizing the importance of jury duty and educating citizens on how to avoid scams. "If you get a call claiming you owe money or face arrest for missing jury duty, it's a scam," Gresham warned. "Our office communicates through official mail only. If you're ever in doubt, contact us directly—we're here to guide you."

The Clerk emphasized the legal and civic weight of jury service. Under South Carolina law, failing to respond to a jury summons can result in serious consequences. In certain circumstances, and at the presiding judge's discretion, individuals who fail to appear may be brought before the court to address their absence. "Answering the call to jury duty is not just a legal responsibility—it's an act of service to your fellow citizens and a commitment to the ideals that unite us as proud Americans," Gresham said. "Together, we can maintain fairness and trust in Greenville County's justice system, ensuring justice for our community."

For questions about jury service or to verify the authenticity of a jury summons, contact the Clerk of Court's Office at jurysummons@greenvillecounty.org. Media Contact: John Waelde, Greenville County Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, email: clerkofcourt@greenvillecounty.org.

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