



Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
<https://courts.ca.gov/policy-administration/invitations-comment>

INVITATION TO COMMENT

W26-09

Title

Access and Fairness: Gender Inclusivity of Juror Identification and Juror Questionnaires (Implementation of Assembly Bill 1899)

Proposed Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes

Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008; revise forms JURY-001 and JURY-002; adopt Cal. Stds. Jud. Admin., standard 10.22; amend standards 3.25 and 4.30

Proposed by

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness

Hon. Kevin C. Brazile, Cochair

Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Cochair

Action Requested

Review and submit comments by January 7, 2026

Proposed Effective Date

July 1, 2026

Contact

Kristin Burford, 916-263-2989

kristin.burford@jud.ca.gov

Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, 415-865-4318

cristina.resendiz-johnson@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary and Origin

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness proposes a new standard of judicial administration to ensure gender inclusivity of juror identification and juror questionnaires, consistent with the directive in Assembly Bill 1899 (Cervantes; Stats. 2024, ch. 812). In line with AB 1899's directive and the proposed new standard, the committee proposes amending two standards and three rules and revising two forms, all of which use language for jurors that is not inclusive of all genders. In addition, the committee proposes minor changes to conform to style guidelines and to improve accuracy, consistency, clarity, and usability of the materials. Since this proposal includes revisions to materials for use in civil and criminal matters, the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness consulted with the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee and the Criminal Law Advisory Committee when developing this proposal to get input on the proposed revisions and identify additional minor clarifications to make in the materials.

This proposal has not been approved by the Judicial Council and is not intended to represent the views of the council, its Rules Committee, or its Legislation Committee. It is circulated for comment purposes only.

Background

AB 1899 added, effective January 1, 2026, subdivision (e) to Code of Civil Procedure section 205. That subdivision states:

The Judicial Council shall adopt a standard of judicial administration to ensure that juror identification and any juror questionnaire is inclusive, including allowing a juror the ability to express their gender identity or gender expression, if applicable.

Gender identity and expression in California law and Judicial Council materials

Changes in recent years to California law reflect a growing recognition of different gender identities and expressions. California’s broad antidiscrimination protections expressly prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression.¹ As of 2017, California law provides for a nonbinary gender marker on state identification documents (the Gender Recognition Act).² In 2018 the Legislature adopted a resolution to direct state agencies to use gender-neutral drafting in their materials.³

In response to the 2017 Gender Recognition Act, Judicial Council staff reviewed the forms to identify those containing gender identity questions or gender-specific terms (e.g., personal pronouns, like his/her, and honorifics, like Mr./Ms.). The advisory committees within the Judicial Council have been identifying forms and making recommendations to the Judicial Council for revisions to remove gender identity questions or to make the language more inclusive when the information is required.⁴

Proposal

New standard of judicial administration

First, this proposal would adopt a new standard of judicial administration consistent with the directive of AB 1899. As proposed, the new standard, 10.22, would be located near existing

¹ See, e.g., Civ. Code, § 51(e)(6) (Unruh Civil Rights Act defines “sex” to include a person’s gender, which is defined to include “a person’s gender identity and gender expression”); Gov. Code, § 12926(r) (California Fair Employment and Housing Act defines “sex” similarly to Civ. Code, § 51).

² See, e.g., Health & Saf. Code, § 103425 (originally enacted in Sen. Bill 179 (Atkins; Stats. 2017, ch. 853), leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB179).

³ Assem. Con. Res. No. 260 (Low; Stats. 2018, res. ch. 190), leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180ACR260.

⁴ For example, the Appellate Advisory Committee recommended an omnibus proposal. See Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Appellate Procedure: Technical Revisions to Forms to Use Gender-Neutral Language* (Apr. 1, 2020), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8265087&GUID=20EB59C4-44BC-406A-AF18-70385172C795; Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (May 15, 2020), item 20-126, pp. 2, 5, 6, jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=711580&GUID=BC840A3B-4EF6-404F-B8F0-AFED7EA2365F.

Work is ongoing to revise forms and other Judicial Council materials. See, e.g., Ongoing Project #8 on the Annual Agenda of the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee (2025–2026) courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/cscac-annual-agenda-2025-2026_0.pdf; Ongoing Project #11 on the Annual Agenda for the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee (2025–2026), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/famjuv-annual_0.pdf.

standards on preventing bias (10.20) and nondiscrimination in appointments (10.21). New standard 10.22 would be named “Gender-inclusive practices for juror identification and juror questionnaires.”

The new standard would have two subdivisions—the first stating the purpose and the second specifying recommended practices. In short, those practices are:

- Use gender-neutral language in general materials and communications to jurors.
- Avoid assuming gender of a juror by using honorifics or pronouns to refer to a juror who has not indicated the honorific or pronouns that the juror uses.
- Unless information about gender is necessary or relevant to a court’s administrative or adjudicatory functions, do not seek information about gender from jurors.
- If information about gender is necessary or relevant, provide jurors the option to indicate their gender identity or gender expression (as applicable). A question about gender should indicate whether the question is optional and, where answer options are provided, expressly permit the selection of multiple options and provide appropriate lead-in text for any fill-in-the-blank option.

Changes to existing Judicial Council materials for consistency with new standard

This proposal would also update existing Judicial Council materials to ensure that those materials are consistent with this new standard. Specifically, this proposal would:

- Amend rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008 to replace gender-specific language used to refer to jurors with gender-neutral language;
- Revise forms JURY-001 and JURY-002 to replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral language in (optional) voir dire questionnaires directed to prospective jurors; and
- Amend standards 3.25 and 4.30 to use gender-neutral language in a sample script for a judge to use in voir dire questioning of prospective jurors.

The proposed changes to those materials are described in more detail below.

Rules

Rule 2.1002(c) identifies situations in which a person has fulfilled their jury service. The rule uses the phrase “his or her jury service obligation.” This proposal would amend the rule to replace this language with “a person’s jury service obligation.”

Rule 2.1006 provides for deferral of jury service due to breastfeeding. The proposal would amend the rule to use gender-neutral language.

Rule 2.1008(d)(3)(D) describes one consideration for courts to evaluate when assessing whether a prospective juror's service would impose an extreme financial burden (making that juror eligible to be excused on the ground of undue hardship). That consideration is whether service "can reasonably be expected to compromise the prospective juror's ability to support himself or herself or his or her dependents." The proposal would amend this language to instead refer to the prospective juror's ability to support "the prospective juror or any dependents."

Forms

Forms JURY-001 and JURY-002 ask the prospective juror to specify the sex of each of the juror's children and use gender-specific terms to refer to individuals related to the juror. Both forms would be revised to remove the question asking the juror to specify the sex of their children. Individual changes would be made to each form to revise and remove gender-specific language on that form. Specifically, form JURY-001 would be revised to use broader, gender-neutral terms to refer to a juror's parents or guardians, and form JURY-002 would be revised to use gender-neutral phrasing to refer to the juror's spouse or other person with whom the juror has a significant personal relationship.

In addition, the cited statutory authority on the forms would be updated (to include language added by AB 1899).

Standards

Standards 3.25 and 4.30 relate to voir dire. Each standard contains a lengthy script of questions for a judge to ask of prospective jurors in the courtroom. In both standards, the scripts use gender-specific pronouns or honorifics to refer to jurors. The proposal would amend the standards to replace that language with gender-neutral phrasing.

Additional revisions

In the course of this work, the committee identified other language in the materials that would benefit from updates, minor revisions, or corrections. Those additional changes have been incorporated into the proposal and are described below.

Updated bias question

Standards 3.25 and 4.30 each include an optional question about bias to ask prospective jurors during voir dire. The committee found the existing language of that bias question outdated and underinclusive (notably, gender was not on the list of characteristics). The committee proposes expanding the list of characteristics that might be subject to bias and putting that list in brackets (to indicate that a judge can tailor the question to suit the circumstances of the case, as needed).

Gender-neutral language

The committee proposes changes to remove and replace gender-specific language referring to someone other than the juror in the Judicial Council materials included in this proposal. These changes are predominantly found in standards 3.25 and 4.30.

Minor updates to improve consistency, reflect drafting practices, and conform references

The committee also proposes assorted minor updates to improve consistency between the materials,⁵ replace or remove potentially confusing language,⁶ reflect current drafting practices,⁷ ensure references are up to date,⁸ and make corrections.⁹

Alternatives Considered

The committee did not consider the alternative of not adopting a new standard of judicial administration, as the adoption of the standard is directed by AB 1899. The committee considered not making conforming changes to the existing Judicial Council materials that might otherwise be inconsistent with the new standard; however, the committee concluded that Judicial Council materials should reflect the best practices recommended for the courts in the proposed new standard.

The committee considered different approaches for updating the existing Judicial Council materials. In crafting the proposed updates and revisions, the committee strove for accuracy, simplicity, and consistency.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The committee anticipates that this proposal will have minor initial fiscal and operational impacts to ensure court personnel are aware of the new standard and to adjust any local practices and materials accordingly.

⁵ For example, the committee proposes changing the language of standard 3.25(c)(20) to make clear that judges have the option to have jurors identify themselves by name or by juror identification number (as in standard 4.30(b)(22)).

⁶ For example, the committee proposes replacing the defined term “telephone standby” in rule 2.1002 with “standby,” as the existing rule does not require a specific means of communication to notify jurors of the need to report for service.

⁷ For example, the committee proposes removing use of “as to” in standard 4.30(b)(27)(B) and proposes changing the text from all capitals to sentence case and updating the form footers on forms JURY-001 and JURY-002.

⁸ For example, the committee proposes correcting the CALCRIM citation in item 1.35 on form JURY-002.

⁹ For example, the committee proposes minor corrections to the language in standard 3.25(f) that describes the circumstances under which jurors may be asked certain types of questions.

Request for Specific Comments

In addition to comments on the proposal as a whole, the advisory committee is interested in comments on the following:

- Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?

The advisory committee also seeks comments from *courts* on the following cost and implementation matters:

- Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.
- What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?
- Would two months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?
- How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?

Attachments and Links

1. Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008, at pages 7–8
2. Forms JURY-001 and JURY-002, at pages 9–31
3. Cal. Standards of Judicial Administration, standards 3.25, 4.30, and 10.22, at pages 32–41
4. Link A: Assem. Bill 1899 (Stats. 2024, ch. 812),
[leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1899](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1899)

Rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008 of the California Rules of Court would be amended, effective July 1, 2026, to read:

Rule 2.1002. Length of juror service

(a) * * *

(b) Definitions

As used in this rule:

(1)–(4) * * *

(5) ~~“Telephone standby”~~ “Standby” means all previous-day notice procedures used to inform prospective jurors of their date to report for service.

(c) One-day/one-trial

Each trial court system must implement a juror management program under which a ~~person has fulfilled his or her~~ person’s jury service obligation is fulfilled when the person has:

(1)–(4) * * *

(5) Served ~~no more than five court days on telephone standby.~~ standby for no more than five court days.

(d) * * *

Rule 2.1006. Deferral of jury service

A ~~mother~~ prospective juror who is breastfeeding a child may request that jury service be deferred for up to one year, and may renew that request as long as ~~she~~ the prospective juror is breastfeeding. If the request is made in writing, under penalty of perjury, the jury commissioner must grant it without requiring the prospective juror to appear at court.

Rule 2.1008. Excuses from jury service

(a)–(c) * * *

(d) Reasons for excusing a juror because of undue hardship

An excuse on the ground of undue hardship may be granted for any of the following reasons:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

(1)–(2) * * *

(3) The prospective juror will bear an extreme financial burden. In determining whether to excuse the prospective juror for this reason, consideration must be given to:

(A)–(C) * * *

(D) Whether service can reasonably be expected to compromise the prospective juror’s ability to support ~~himself or herself or his or her~~ the prospective juror or any dependents, or so disrupt the economic stability of any individual as to be against the interests of justice.

(4)–(7) * * *

(e) Excuse based on previous jury service

A prospective juror who has served on a grand or trial jury or was summoned and appeared for jury service in any state or federal court during the previous 12 months must be excused from service on request. ~~The~~ At the jury commissioner’s discretion, the jury commissioner, ~~in his or her discretion,~~ may establish a longer period of repose.

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

Code of Civil Procedure section 205(c)–(e)

Sec. 1. Statutory Authority

This Juror Questionnaire has been drafted under the authority of Code of Civil Procedure section 205(c)–(e) and is intended to expedite jury selection. It is not intended to alter statutes or rules governing the authority of the court or the role of counsel during voir dire.

Sec. 2. Use Notes for Courts

A. General

This Juror Questionnaire is intended for use in the court's discretion in appropriate civil cases. Its use in cases of brief duration may not be appropriate. Particular kinds of cases may require that this questionnaire be altered or augmented. The Personal Injury Supplement is intended to be used along with the General Questions in personal injury actions. Judges, in their own discretion, must determine what additional kinds of inquiry are appropriate in any given case.

B. Pre–Voir Dire Conference

The court should confer with counsel about voir dire before a jury panel is called. At this conference, the court may establish (1) guidelines for the use of the Juror Questionnaire, (2) any supplemental questions to be propounded to the panel by questionnaire, (3) the extent of the court's oral inquiry of the panel, and (4) the extent of oral questioning by counsel. Proposed supplemental questions drafted by counsel should be filed and served at least three court days before the pre–voir dire conference. Arrangements for duplication of completed questionnaires should be confirmed. The parties should share the cost of duplication.

C. Introduction of Questionnaire to Prospective Jurors

It is suggested that the Juror Questionnaire be used after the court has given its customary introductory remarks and any additional instructions that the court deems appropriate. The court also may wish to tell the panel members that a questionnaire will be used, encourage complete answers, and remind them that their answers will be given under penalty of perjury. In introducing the questionnaire, the court should instruct prospective jurors how to proceed if they have difficulty reading or filling out the form.

The court could direct that the Juror Questionnaire be given to prospective jurors by the jury commissioner in the jury assembly room. However, this procedure ordinarily will mean that jurors are not given complete instructions about the type of case they will hear or the identity of participants and witnesses. In addition, jurors who fill out the form before appearing in the trial court may not clearly understand that their answers are given under penalty of perjury. For these reasons, and to avoid the need to have jurors fill out supplemental questionnaires once they have been sent to the trial court, it is strongly recommended that the Juror Questionnaire be used in the trial court setting.



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

JURY-001

Introduction and Instructions

Thank you for coming to court as a potential juror. Before the case can start, a jury must be selected. The judge and the people involved in the case need to know something about you in order to select jurors who can be fair to both sides.

Everyone has attitudes and opinions that are shaped by their life experiences. Sometimes these experiences can make it difficult to look at a certain issue in an unbiased and unemotional way. As a juror, you must return a verdict based on the law and on the facts proved in court, not on emotion or on other views not supported by the evidence. The judge will give you instructions on the law and on how you should go about deciding the case. You must listen to and follow the judge's instructions.

The questions on this form are designed to help the court and the lawyers learn something about your background and your views on issues that may be related to this case. The questions are asked not to invade your privacy but to make sure that you can be a fair and impartial juror. If there is any reason why you might not be able to give both sides a fair trial in this case, it is important that you say so.

The judge has decided to use this form to save time and to give you a chance to tell the court and the lawyers about yourself.

In portions of this form, you will see the term "significant personal relationship." That term means a **current or** former spouse, domestic partner, life partner, or anyone with whom you have an influential or intimate relationship that you would characterize as important.

If there is anything you do not want to talk about in open court, please circle the question number. After you have finished the questionnaire, let the clerk know that you have circled one or more question numbers.

Do not write on the back of any page. Use an additional sheet of paper.

If you are called to the jury box, your answers to this questionnaire become a matter of public record, just as if you had answered the questions aloud in the courtroom.

If you have trouble reading, understanding, or filling out this form, please let the court clerk know.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY. YOUR ANSWERS MUST BE TRUE AND COMPLETE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN SELECTING A FAIR JURY.



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

JURY-001

General Questions

PLEASE PRINT ALL ANSWERS LEGIBLY

Full Name: _____

1.1 Date and place of birth: _____

1.2 Area, neighborhood, or community in this county where you currently live (do not give your address):

☐ House ☐ Apartment ☐ Own ☐ Rent

1.3 Area, neighborhood, or community where you have lived in the past 10 years (and dates):

1.4 What is the highest level of education you completed?

☐ Grade school or less

☐ Some high school

☐ High school graduate

☐ Other (*please explain*):

☐ Some college

(Major): _____

☐ College graduate

(Major): _____

☐ Postgraduate study

(Field): _____

☐ Technical or vocational school

(Field): _____

1.5 If you plan to attend or are currently attending school, describe:

1.6 If you have taken any courses or had any training in medicine or another health care field, describe:



1.7 If you have taken any courses or had any training in law or a related subject, describe:

1.8 Educational background of any other adult who lives in your home, including any degrees or certificates earned:

1.9 Your present employment status (*check all that apply*):

- ☐ Employed full-time
 ☐ Retired
 ☐ Unemployed, looking for work
☐ Employed part-time
 ☐ Student
 ☐ Unemployed, not looking for work
☐ Other (*specify*):

1.10 Your current or most recent occupation:

1.11 Name of your current or most recent employer or, if a student, your school:

1.12 Describe your specific duties and responsibilities in your current or most recent job:

1.13 Does your current job involve supervising other people? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, approximately how many? _____

1.14 Are you involved in the hiring or firing of other employees? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1.15 Are you involved in evaluating the job performance of other employees? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1.16 All other employment you have had (and for how long):

1.17 All full-time employment of your spouse or any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship (and for how long):

1.18 What are/were the occupations of your parents/guardians? (If retired, what did they do before?)

Parent/Guardian 1: _____

Parent/Guardian 2: _____

Additional Parent(s)/Guardian(s), if applicable: _____



1.19 If you have children, please list (including any children who do not currently live with you):

Age	Does the child live with you?	Education	Occupation
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

1.20 If you or your current spouse or person with whom you have a significant personal relationship has ever served in the military, please list for each the branch of service and dates of service:

1.21 What social, civic, professional, trade, or other organizations are you affiliated with?

1.22 Describe any offices you have held in organizations listed above:

1.23 Do you know anyone on this jury panel?

1.24 On how many cases have you served on a jury? _____

Where did you serve on a jury? _____

What kinds of cases did you hear while serving on a jury?

In how many of those cases did the jury reach a verdict? _____

In how many of those cases did you serve as the jury foreperson? _____

Was your jury service a positive or negative experience? _____

1.25 If you have ever been to court for any other reason (excluding divorce), explain:



1.26 If you personally know any judges or attorneys or court personnel, what are their names and relationship to you?

1.27 Describe any problems (vision, hearing, or other medical problems) that may affect your jury service:

1.28 If you or anyone close to you has ever made any type of claim for damages, explain:

1.29 If a claim for money damages has ever been made against you or anyone close to you, explain the circumstances:

1.30 If you or anyone close to you has ever sued or been sued in any type of lawsuit, explain:

1.31 Do you feel that money damages awarded in lawsuits are (*check one*):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally too low | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>specify</i>): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Often too large | <input type="checkbox"/> Often too low | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> About right | <input type="checkbox"/> I have no opinion | |

1.32 If you have any ethical, religious, political, or other beliefs that may prevent you from serving as a juror, explain:

1.33 If there is any matter not covered by this questionnaire that could affect your ability to be a fair and impartial juror, explain:



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

Personal Injury Supplement

JURY-001

Full Name: _____

2.1 If you or anyone close to you has ever been involved in an accident in which someone was injured, explain:

2.2 Place a check mark on the appropriate line(s) if you or anyone close to you has ever been employed in any capacity by any of the following types of businesses:

Yourself	Other Person	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any court in the state of California
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attorney, law firm, or law office
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claims adjustment, evaluation, review, settlement, or investigation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accident investigation or law enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability, health, life, casualty, or accidental injury benefits or programs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Economics, actuarial, or investments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health care doctor, nursing, hospital, dental, physical therapy, pharmacy, or any related field

2.3 If you checked any **box under Other Person** in **the** previous question (2.2), please state the relationship of that person to you, the type and details of that employment, and the years of that employment:

2.4 Do you have any beliefs against awarding damages for personal injury, pain, or suffering?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain:

2.5 Do you or any members of your immediate family or household see a doctor or other medical practitioner regularly for any continuing medical problem?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain:



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

JURY-001

Verification

I, _____, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State
(Type or Print Name)
of California that the foregoing responses I have given on this juror questionnaire, and on any attached sheets, are true
and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:



(Signature)

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Form JURY-002 (Optional Form) Code of Civil Procedure section 205(c)–(e)

Sec. 1. Statutory Authority

This Juror Questionnaire has been drafted under the authority of Code of Civil Procedure section 205(c)–(e) and is intended to expedite jury selection. It is not intended to alter statutes or rules governing the authority of the court or the role of counsel during voir dire.

Sec. 2. Use Notes for Courts

A. General

This Juror Questionnaire is an **optional form** and is **NOT** intended to constitute the complete examination of prospective jurors. **The utility and appropriateness of this questionnaire to a particular case is at the discretion of the judge.** Particular kinds of cases may require that this questionnaire be altered or augmented with the participation of counsel.

B. Pre-Voir Dire Conference

Rule of court 4.200 requires that the court confer with counsel about voir dire before a jury panel is called. At this conference, the court may establish (1) guidelines for the use of the Juror Questionnaire, (2) any supplemental questions to be propounded to the panel by questionnaire, (3) the extent of the court's oral inquiry of the panel, and (4) the extent of oral questioning by counsel. Arrangements for duplication of completed questionnaires should be confirmed.

C. Introduction of Questionnaire to Prospective Jurors

It is suggested that the Juror Questionnaire be used after the court has given its customary introductory remarks and any additional instructions that the court deems appropriate. The court also may wish to tell the panel members that a questionnaire will be used, encourage complete answers, and remind them that their answers will be given under penalty of perjury. In introducing the questionnaire, the court should instruct prospective jurors how to proceed if they have difficulty reading or filling out the form.

It is not recommended that the court direct the jury commissioner to give the Juror Questionnaire to prospective jurors in the jury assembly room. This procedure ordinarily will mean that jurors are not given complete instructions about the type of case they will hear or the identity of participants and witnesses. In addition, jurors who fill out the form before appearing in the trial court may not clearly understand that their answers are given under penalty of perjury. For these reasons, and to avoid the need to have jurors fill out supplemental questionnaires once they have been sent to the trial court, it is strongly recommended that the Juror Questionnaire be used in the trial court setting.



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Introduction and Instructions

JURY-002

Thank you for coming to court as a potential juror. Before the case can start, a jury must be selected. The judge and the parties need to know information about you and people you know in order to select jurors who can be fair to both sides.

Everyone has attitudes and opinions that are shaped by their life experiences. Sometimes these experiences can make it difficult to look at a certain issue in an unbiased and unemotional way. As a juror, you must return a verdict based on the law and on the facts proved in court. The judge will give you instructions on the law and on how you should go about deciding the case. You must listen to and follow the judge's instructions.

The questions on this form are designed to help the court and the lawyers learn something about your background and your views on issues that may be related to this case. The questions are asked not to invade your privacy but to make sure that you can be a fair and impartial juror.

In portions of this form, you will see the term “person with whom you share a significant personal relationship.” That term means a **current or** former spouse, domestic partner, life partner, or anyone with whom you have an influential or intimate relationship that you would characterize as important.

As you answer the questions that follow, please keep in mind that there are no “right” or “wrong” answers. The only right answer is one that reflects how you honestly feel. Please make sure your answers are as complete as possible. Complete answers are far more helpful and may help shorten the time it takes to select a jury. If you have trouble reading, understanding, or filling out this form, please let the court staff know. If a question does not apply to you, please write in “NA” for “not applicable” rather than leave the question blank.

The information you provide will become part of the court record in this case and will be a public document that is accessible to anyone. Some of the questions may require information that is personal and sensitive to you, and you may be reluctant to talk about this information with the other prospective jurors and the public present. If this is so, write “private” next to the question and the court **may** then give you an opportunity to share your information on the record with only the judge, counsel, the defendant, and the court reporter present. The answers you provide will, under most circumstances, be included as part of the public record, but you may not have to share the information in open court.

PLEASE PUT THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF YOUR JUROR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FOUND ON YOUR JUROR BADGE ON THE TOP OF EACH PAGE.

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY. YOUR ANSWERS MUST BE TRUE AND COMPLETE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN SELECTING A FAIR JURY.



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

General Questions

PLEASE PRINT ALL ANSWERS LEGIBLY

1.1 Age: _____

1.2 This (these) crime(s) allegedly took place (*specify location of crime(s)*):

Do you reside in the vicinity of this location, or do you frequent this location?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If yes, please explain:

1.3 Describe any difficulties (vision, hearing, or medical problems) that may affect your jury service:

1.4 If you have any ethical, religious, political, or other beliefs that may prevent you from serving as a juror, explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.5 What is the highest level of education you completed?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade school or less | <input type="checkbox"/> Some college
(Major): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some high school | <input type="checkbox"/> College graduate
(Major): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate | <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate study
(Field): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):

_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical or vocational school
(Field): _____ |

1.6 If you plan to attend or are currently attending school, describe:

1.7 If you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative have taken any courses or had any training in law or a related subject, describe:

1.8 Educational background of any other adult who lives in your home, including any degrees or certificates earned:

1.9 Your present employment status (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed full-time | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, looking for work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed part-time | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, not looking for work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ | | |

1.10 Your current or most recent occupation (and for how long):



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.11 Name of your current or most recent employer or, if a student, your school:

1.12 Describe your specific duties and responsibilities in your current or most recent job:

1.13 Does your current job involve supervising other people?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, approximately how many? _____

1.14 Are you involved in the hiring or firing of other employees?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1.15 Are you involved in evaluating the job performance of other employees?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1.16 All other employment you have had in the past 10 years (and for how long):

1.17 The present employment status of your spouse or any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship (check all that apply):

☐ Employed full-time

☐ Retired

☐ Unemployed, looking for work

☐ Employed part-time

☐ Student

☐ Unemployed, not looking for work

☐ Other (specify): _____

1.18 The current or most recent occupation of your spouse or any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship (and for how long):

1.19 The name of the current or most recent employer of your spouse or any other person with whom you have a significant personal relationship or, if a student, name of the school:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

- 1.20 Describe the specific duties and responsibilities for the current or most recent job of your spouse or any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship:

- 1.21 If you, your spouse, a person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative are currently working or have ever worked in law enforcement, please list the agency, position, and the person's relationship to you:

- 1.22 If you have children, please list (including any children who do not currently live with you):

Age	Does the child live with you?	Education	Occupation
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- 1.23 If you, your spouse, or a person with whom you have a significant personal relationship has ever served in the military, please list for each the branch of service and dates of service:

- 1.24 If you, your spouse, or a person with whom you have a significant personal relationship ever had involvement with the military police or the military justice system, please describe:

- 1.25 Social, civic, professional, trade, or other organizations with which you are affiliated:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.26 Describe any offices you have held in organizations listed above:

1.27 Do you know anyone on this jury panel?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1.28 If you personally know any judges or attorneys or court personnel, what are their names and relationships to you?

1.29 Have you previously served on a criminal or civil trial jury?

☐ Yes

☐ No

On how many cases did you serve? _____

Approximate year(s)? _____

Where did you serve on a jury? _____

Were you a juror or an alternate? _____

What kinds of cases did you hear while serving on a jury? _____

Was there anything about your jury service that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:

1.30 Have you ever served on a grand jury panel?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Criminal or civil grand jury? _____

Approximate year(s)? _____

Where did you serve on a grand jury? _____

How long did you serve on a grand jury? _____

What kind of matter did you hear while serving on a grand jury? _____

Was there anything about your jury service that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.31 Have you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative ever been a victim of a crime?☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, who? _____

What crime(s)? _____

When? _____

What happened?

Was anyone arrested?

☐ Yes☐ No

Was there a trial?

☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, did you attend the trial?

☐ Yes☐ No

Did the person who is the subject of this question testify?

☐ Yes☐ No

Did the police interview the person who is the subject of this question?

☐ Yes☐ No

Did anyone working for the defendant interview the person who is the subject of this question?

☐ Yes☐ NoAs a result of that experience, is there anything that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:

_____**1.32 Have you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative ever been a witness to a crime?**☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, who? _____

What crime(s)? _____

When? _____

What happened?

Was anyone arrested?

☐ Yes☐ No

Was there a trial?

☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, did you attend the trial?

☐ Yes☐ No

Did the person who is the subject of this question testify?

☐ Yes☐ No

Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

Did the police interview the person who is the subject of this question?

☐ Yes☐ No

Did anyone working for the defendant interview the person who is the subject of this question?

☐ Yes☐ No

As a result of that experience, is there anything that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:

1.33 Have you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative ever had any contact with law enforcement, including but not limited to being: (a) stopped by the police; (b) accused of misconduct, whether or not it was a crime; (c) investigated as a suspect in a criminal case; (d) charged with a crime; or (e) a criminal defendant?

☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, who?

What crime(s)?

When?

What happened?

Was anyone arrested?

☐ Yes☐ No

Was there a trial?

☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, did you attend the trial?

☐ Yes☐ No

Did the person who is the subject of this question testify?

☐ Yes☐ No

Did the police interview the person who is the subject of this question?

☐ Yes☐ No

Did anyone working for the defendant interview the person who is the subject of this question?

☐ Yes☐ No

As a result of that experience, is there anything that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.34 Have you ever been to court for any other reason? Explain:

1.35 The following is a principle of law that applies to all criminal cases:

A defendant in a criminal action is presumed to be innocent. This presumption requires that the People prove a defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Whenever the judge tells you the People must prove something, the judge means they must prove it beyond a reasonable doubt [unless the judge specifically tells you otherwise].

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you with an abiding conviction that the charge is true. The evidence need not eliminate all possible doubt because everything in life is open to some possible or imaginary doubt.

In deciding whether the People have proved their case beyond a reasonable doubt, you must impartially compare and consider all the evidence that was received throughout the entire trial. Unless the evidence proves the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, the defendant is entitled to an acquittal and you must find the defendant not guilty. (CALCRIM No. 103.)

Do you understand this principle of law?

☐ Yes☐ No

Do you agree with this principle of law?

☐ Yes☐ No

Will you follow this principle of law?

☐ Yes☐ No

If you answered no to any question, please explain:

1.36 In general, what are your opinions, if any, about law enforcement officers?

1.37 Have you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative ever had a particularly pleasant or unpleasant experience with law enforcement or the district attorney's office?☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, please explain:

1.38 Would the fact that a witness is a member of law enforcement cause you to automatically believe or disbelieve the testimony of that witness?☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, please explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Capital Case Supplement

By asking the following questions regarding your feelings or opinions about capital punishment, the court is not suggesting in any way that you will ever need to decide this question. The court does not know in advance what the evidence in this case will be or whether you will find a defendant guilty or not guilty of any charge at all. The court is asking the following questions because *if* a defendant is found guilty of murder in the first degree as well as what we call "special circumstances" that have been charged, the possible sentences to be decided in a separate penalty trial are the sentence of death or the sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. A defendant may also be acquitted or found guilty of lesser charges, which means there never will be a penalty trial. Since we do not know in advance what your decisions may be, the court must know whether you could be fair to all sides on the issue of punishment if and only if a penalty trial is necessary.

To clarify, you will only make a sentence decision between life without the possibility of parole and death in a separate penalty trial if you find a defendant guilty of murder in the first degree beyond a reasonable doubt and you find a "special circumstance" (to be defined for you later) true.

If the penalty trial is necessary, you will first hear evidence and arguments from counsel. The law also provides very specific guidelines as to what a jury can consider in deciding the sentence in this separate penalty trial. These guidelines are called "aggravating factors" and "mitigating factors" and are explained in *Judicial Council of California Criminal Jury Instructions* number 763:

In reaching your decision, you must consider and weigh the aggravating and mitigating circumstances or factors shown by the evidence.

An aggravating circumstance or factor is any fact, condition, or event relating to the commission of a crime, above and beyond the elements of the crime itself, that increases the wrongfulness of the defendant's conduct, the enormity of the offense, or the harmful impact of the crime. An aggravating circumstance may support a decision to impose the death penalty.

A mitigating circumstance or factor is any fact, condition, or event that makes the death penalty less appropriate as a punishment, even though it does not legally justify or excuse the crime. A mitigating circumstance is something that reduces the defendant's blameworthiness or otherwise supports a less severe punishment. A mitigating circumstance may support a decision not to impose the death penalty.



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

2.1 Which do you think is the more severe punishment?☐ The death penalty☐ Life in prison without parole

Why?

2.2 Which would you say accurately states your general belief regarding the death penalty?☐ Strongly in favor☐ Strongly opposed☐ Neutral☐ Moderately in favor☐ Moderately opposed**Please explain in more detail your beliefs about the sentence of death:**

2.3 Which would you say accurately states your general belief regarding life without the possibility of parole?☐ Strongly in favor☐ Strongly opposed☐ Neutral☐ Moderately in favor☐ Moderately opposed**Please explain in more detail your beliefs about the sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole:**

2.4 What purposes, if any, do you believe that life imprisonment without the possibility of parole serves?



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

2.5 What purposes, if any, do you believe the death penalty serves?

2.6 Do you believe the death penalty is imposed:

- ☐ Too often
 ☐ Enough
 ☐ Do not know
☐ Not enough
 ☐ Randomly

2.7 Have your views about the death penalty changed substantially in either intensity or nature in the last few years?
☐ Yes
 ☐ No

If yes, how have your views about the death penalty changed?

2.8 Can you set aside any opinions you may have about the death penalty, and make a decision in this case based on the evidence and the law as it is given by the judge?
☐ Yes
 ☐ No

If no, why not?

2.9 Do you have any religious or personal beliefs that may influence you in your determination of whether to vote to impose either the penalty of death or life in prison without the possibility of parole?
☐ Yes
 ☐ No

If yes, please explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

2.10 Are you a member of, or have you contributed to or otherwise supported a church, religious organization, political or social advocacy group, or any other organization that takes a position for or against the imposition of the penalty of death?

☐ Yes☐ No

a. If yes, what group(s)?

b. What is the group's position?

c. Do you feel obligated to accept this position?

☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, please explain why:

2.11 Even if you believed the prosecutor had proved guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, would you, because of any views you may have regarding the death penalty, refuse to find the defendant(s) guilty or find a special circumstance to be true in order to avoid having to decide whether to impose the death penalty?

☐ Yes☐ No

2.12 If you find the defendant(s) guilty of the crime, would you automatically in all cases vote for a sentence of life without the possibility of parole regardless of the evidence concerning aggravating and mitigating factors?

☐ Yes☐ No

2.13 If you find the defendant(s) guilty of the crime, would you automatically in all cases vote for a sentence of death regardless of the evidence concerning aggravating and mitigating factors?

☐ Yes☐ No

Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Verification

I, _____, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State
(Type or Print Name)
of California that the foregoing responses I have given on this juror questionnaire, and on any attached sheets, are true
and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:



(Signature)

Standard 10.22 of the California Standards of Judicial Administration would be adopted and standards 3.25 and 4.30 would be amended, effective July 1, 2026, to read:

Standard 3.25. Examination of prospective jurors in civil cases

(a) In general

(1) Methods and scope of examination

The examination of prospective jurors in a civil case may be oral, by written questionnaire, or by both methods, and should include all questions necessary to ensure the selection of a fair and impartial jury. ~~The Juror Questionnaire for Civil Cases~~ (form ~~MC-001~~ JURY-001) may be used. During any supplemental examination conducted by counsel for the parties, the trial judge should permit liberal and probing examination calculated to discover possible bias or prejudice with regard to the circumstances of the particular case.

(2) Examination by counsel

When counsel requests to be allowed to conduct a supplemental voir dire examination, the trial judge should permit counsel to conduct such examination without requiring prior submission of the questions to the judge unless a particular counsel has demonstrated unwillingness to avoid the type of examination proscribed in (f). In exercising ~~his or her~~ sound discretion ~~as to~~ regarding the form and subject matter of voir dire questions, the trial judge should consider, among other criteria: (1) any unique or complex elements, legal or factual, in the case, and (2) the individual responses or conduct of jurors that may evince attitudes inconsistent with suitability to serve as a fair and impartial juror in the particular case. Questions regarding personal relationships of jurors should be relevant to the subject matter of the case.

(b) Pre-voir dire conference

Before the examination the trial judge should, outside the prospective jurors' hearing and with a court reporter present, confer with counsel, at which time specific questions or areas of inquiry may be proposed that the judge in ~~his or her~~ their discretion may inquire of the jurors. Thereafter, the judge should advise counsel of the questions or areas to be inquired into during the examination and voir dire procedure. The judge should also obtain from counsel the names of the witnesses whom counsel then plan to call at trial and a brief outline of the nature of the case, including any alleged injuries or damages and, in an eminent domain action, the respective contentions of the parties concerning the value of the property taken and any alleged severance damages and special benefits.

1 (c) Examination of jurors

2
3 Except as otherwise provided in (d), the trial judge's examination of prospective
4 jurors should include the following areas of inquiry and any other matters affecting
5 their qualifications to serve as jurors in the case:
6

7 (1) *To the entire jury panel after it has been sworn and seated:*
8

9 I am now going to question the prospective jurors who are seated in the jury
10 box concerning their qualifications to serve as jurors in this case. All
11 members of this jury panel, however, should pay close attention to my
12 questions, making note of the answers you would give if these questions were
13 put to you personally. If and when any other member of this panel is called to
14 the jury box, the member will be asked to ~~give his or her answers to~~ answer
15 these questions.
16

17 (2)–(10) * * *
18

19 (11) Have any of you served as a juror in any other case? (If so, was it a civil or
20 criminal case?) You must understand that there is a basic difference between
21 a civil case and a criminal case. In a criminal case a defendant must be found
22 guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; in a civil case such as this, you need only
23 find that the evidence you accept as the basis of your decision is more
24 convincing, and thus has the greater probability of truth, than the contrary
25 evidence.
26

27 In the following questions I will be using the terms “family,” “close friend,”
28 and “anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship.” The
29 term “anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship” means
30 a current or former spouse, domestic partner, life partner, ~~former spouse~~, or
31 anyone with whom you have an influential or intimate relationship that you
32 would characterize as important.
33

34 (12)–(15) * * *
35

36 (16) *When appropriate:*
37

38 ~~It may appear that~~ The background or experiences of one or more of the
39 parties, witnesses, or attorneys ~~come from a particular national, racial, or~~
40 ~~religious group (or may have a lifestyle different than your own).~~ may appear
41 to be different from yours related to their [ethnicity, religion, age, gender,
42 gender expression, gender identity, national origin, disability, race, sexual
43 orientation, socioeconomic status, or other personal characteristic]. Would

1 this in any way affect your judgment or the weight and credibility you would
2 give to their testimony or ~~to their contentions?~~ arguments?
3

4 (17)–(19) * * *

5
6 (20) Each of you should now state your:

7
8 (A) Name; (or Juror ID number);
9

10 (B) Children’s ages and the number of children, if any;
11

12 (C) Occupation;
13

14 (D) Occupational history; and
15

16 (E) Present employer;
17

18 And for your spouse or anyone with whom you have a significant personal
19 relationship, their:
20

21 ~~(F)~~ Names;
22

23 ~~(G)~~ (F) Occupations;
24

25 ~~(H)~~ (G) Occupational histories; and
26

27 ~~(I)~~ (H) Present employers.
28

29 Please begin with juror number one.
30

31 (21) * * *
32

33 **(d) Examination of jurors in eminent domain cases**

34 In eminent domain cases, the trial judge's examination of prospective jurors should
35 include, in the areas of inquiry in (c)(1) through (c)(12), the following matters, and
36 any other matters affecting their qualifications to serve as jurors in the case:
37

38 (1)–(6) * * *
39

40 (7) *When appropriate:*
41

42 ~~It may appear that~~ The background or experiences of one or more of the
43 parties, witnesses, or attorneys come from a particular national, racial, or
44 religious group (or may have a lifestyle different from your own); may appear

1 to be different from yours related to their [ethnicity, religion, age, gender,
2 gender expression, gender identity, national origin, disability, race, sexual
3 orientation, socioeconomic status, or other personal characteristic]. Would
4 this in any way affect your judgment or the weight and credibility you would
5 give to their testimony or ~~contentions~~? arguments?
6

7 (8)–(12) * * *

8
9 (13) The Constitution of this state requires that a property owner be paid just
10 compensation for the taking (or damaging) of ~~his or her~~ the owner's property
11 for public use. It will be the duty of the jury ultimately selected in this case to
12 determine the just compensation to be paid.
13

14 (14)–(25) * * *

15
16 (26) In a condemnation case the property owner produces ~~all of his or her~~
17 evidence of value first, then the government calls its witnesses. Having this in
18 mind, will you keep your mind open throughout all the case and not
19 determine the matter in your mind until all of the evidence is in?
20

21 (27) * * *

22
23 (28) Each of you should now state your:
24

25 (A) Name; (or Juror ID number);

26
27 (B) Children's ages and number of children, if any;

28
29 (C) Occupation;

30
31 (D) Occupational history; and

32
33 (E) Present employer;

34
35 And for your spouse or anyone with whom you have a significant personal
36 relationship, their:

37
38 ~~(F)~~ Names;

39
40 ~~(G)~~ (F) Occupations;

41
42 ~~(H)~~ (G) Occupational histories; and

43
44 ~~(I)~~ (H) Present employers.

Please begin with juror number one.

(29)–(30) * * *

(e) * * *

(f) **Improper questions**

When any counsel examines the prospective jurors, the trial judge should not permit counsel to attempt to precondition the prospective jurors to a particular result or allow counsel to comment on the personal lives and families of the parties or their attorneys. Nor should the trial judge allow counsel to question the jurors concerning the pleadings, the applicable law, the meaning of particular words and phrases, or the comfort of the jurors, except in unusual circumstances, ~~where,~~ when, in the trial judge's sound discretion, such questions ~~become~~ are necessary to ~~insure~~ ensure the selection of a fair and impartial jury.

Standard 4.30. Examination of prospective jurors in criminal cases

(a) **In general**

(1) * * *

(2) The examination of prospective jurors in a criminal case should include all questions necessary to ~~insure~~ ensure the selection of a fair and impartial jury.

(3) * * *

(b) **Examination of jurors**

The trial judge's examination of prospective jurors in criminal cases should include the areas of inquiry listed below and any other matters affecting their qualifications to serve as jurors in the case. The trial judge may want to use the *Juror Questionnaire for Criminal Cases* (form JURY-002) to assist in the examination of prospective jurors. Form JURY-002 is an optional form and is not intended to constitute the complete examination of prospective jurors. Form JURY-002 is a tool for trial judges to use to make the initial examination of prospective jurors more efficient. If the court chooses to use form JURY-002, its use and any supplemental questions submitted by counsel must be discussed at the pre-voir dire conference required by rule 4.200. Excusing jurors based on questionnaire answers alone is generally not advisable.

(1)–(2) * * *

1
2 (3) *At this point the court may wish to submit any juror questionnaire that has*
3 *been developed to assist in voir dire. The court should remind panel members*
4 *that their answers on the questionnaire are given under penalty of perjury. In*
5 *addition, if a questionnaire is used, the court and counsel may wish to*
6 *question individual prospective jurors further based on their responses to*
7 *particular questions, and a procedure for doing so should be established at*
8 *the pre-voir dire conference. Therefore, it may not be necessary to ask all of*
9 *the prospective jurors questions 5 through 25 that follow, although the text*
10 *may assist the court with following up with individual jurors about answers*
11 *given on the questionnaire.*

12
13 *To the entire jury panel:*

14
15 I am now going to question the prospective jurors who are seated in the jury
16 box concerning their qualifications to serve as jurors in this case. All the
17 remaining members of this jury panel, however, should pay close attention to
18 my questions, making note of the answers you would give if these questions
19 were put to you personally. If and when any other member of this panel is
20 called to the jury box, ~~he or she~~ the member will be asked to answer these
21 questions.
22

23 (4)–(5) * * *

24
25 (6) ~~Ladies and gentlemen~~ Members of the jury: This is a criminal case entitled
26 The People of the State of California v. _____. The (defendant
27 is)(defendants are) seated _____.
28

29 (A) ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ (Name of defendant), please stand and face the prospective
30 jurors in the jury box and in the audience seats. *(Defendant complies.)*
31 Is there any member of the jury panel who is acquainted with the
32 defendant or who may have heard ~~(his)(her)~~ the name (name of
33 defendant) before today? If your answer is yes, please raise your hand.
34
35

36 (B) The defendant, _____, is represented by ~~(his)(her)~~ an attorney,
37 _____, who is seated _____. ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ (Name of defense
38 attorney), would you please stand? Is there any member of the jury
39 panel who knows or who has seen ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ _____ (name of
40 defense attorney) before today?
41

42 (C) *(If there is more than one defendant, repeat (a) and (b) for each*
43 *codefendant.)*

1
2 (7) The People are represented by _____, Deputy District Attorney, who is
3 seated _____. ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ (Name of district attorney), would you please
4 stand? Is there any member of the jury panel who knows or who has seen
5 ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ _____ (name of district attorney) before today?
6

7 (8) The defendant is charged by an (information)(indictment) filed by the district
8 attorney with having committed the crime of _____, in violation of
9 section _____ of the _____ Code, _____ Code section _____, it being
10 alleged that on or about _____ in the County of _____, the defendant
11 did *(describe the offense)*. To (this charge)(these charges) the defendant has
12 pleaded not guilty, and the jury will have to decide whether the defendant's
13 guilt has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt. Having heard the charge(s)
14 that (has)(have) been filed against the defendant, is there any member of the
15 jury panel who feels ~~that he or she cannot~~ unable to give this defendant a fair
16 trial because of the nature of the charge(s) ~~against (him)(her)~~?
17

18 (9)–(12) * * *

19
20 (13) How many of you have served previously as jurors in a criminal case?
21

22 *To each person whose hand is raised:*
23

24 (A) ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ _____ ~~(or Juror (Name or Juror ID number))~~, you
25 indicated you have been a juror in a criminal case. What were the
26 charges in that case? *(Response.)*
27

28 (B) Do you feel you can put aside whatever you heard in that case and
29 decide this case on the evidence to be presented and the law as I will
30 state it to you? *(Response.)*
31

32 (14) May I see the hands of those jurors who have served on civil cases, but who
33 have never served on a criminal case? *(Response.)* You must understand that
34 there are substantial differences in the rules applicable to the trial of criminal
35 cases from those applicable to the trial of civil cases. This is particularly true
36 respecting the burden of proof that is placed on the People. In a civil case we
37 say that the plaintiff must prove ~~(his)(her)~~ the case by a preponderance of the
38 evidence. In a criminal case, the defendant is presumed to be innocent, and
39 ~~before (he)(she) may be found guilty for the jury to make a finding of guilt,~~
40 the People must prove ~~(his)(her)~~ the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable
41 doubt. If the jury has a reasonable doubt, the defendant must be acquitted.
42 Will each of you be able to set aside the instructions that you received in your
43 previous cases and try this case on the instructions given by me in this case?

1
2 (15) The fact that the defendant is in court for trial, or ~~that charges have been~~
3 ~~made against (him)(her)~~ has been charged, is no evidence ~~whatever~~
4 whatsoever of ~~(his)(her)~~ guilt. The jurors are to consider only evidence
5 properly received in the courtroom in determining whether the defendant's
6 guilt has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The defendant has entered
7 a plea of "not guilty," which is a complete denial, making it necessary for the
8 People, acting through the district attorney, to prove beyond a reasonable
9 doubt the case against the defendant. If the evidence does not convince you
10 of the truth of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt, the defendant is
11 entitled to a verdict of not guilty.
12

13 In the following questions I will be using the terms "relative," "close friend,"
14 and "anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship." The
15 term "anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship" means
16 a current or former spouse, domestic partner, life partner, ~~former spouse~~, or
17 anyone with whom you have an influential or intimate relationship that you
18 would characterize as important.
19

20 (16)–(19) * * *

21
22 (20) *When appropriate:*
23

24 ~~It may appear that~~ The background or experiences of one or more of the
25 parties, attorneys, or witnesses come from a particular national, racial, or
26 religious group (or may have a lifestyle different from your own). may appear
27 to be different from yours related to their [ethnicity, religion, age, gender,
28 gender expression, gender identity, national origin, disability, race, sexual
29 orientation, socioeconomic status, or other personal characteristic]. Would
30 this in any way affect your judgment or the weight and credibility you would
31 give to their testimony? or arguments?
32

33 (21)–(26) * * *

34
35 (27) *If a new prospective juror is seated, the court should ask ~~him or her:~~ that*
36 *juror:*
37

38 (A) Have you heard my questions to the other prospective jurors?
39

40 (B) Have any of the questions I have asked raised any doubt in your mind
41 ~~as to~~ whether you could be a fair and impartial juror in this case?
42

(C) Can you think of any other reason why you might not be able to try this case fairly and impartially to both the prosecution and defendant, or why you should not be on this jury?

(D) Give us the personal information requested concerning your occupation, that of your spouse or anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship, that of your adult children, and your prior jury experience.

(Thereupon, ~~as to~~ for each new juror seated, the court must permit counsel to ask supplemental questions; and proceed with challenges as above.)

(c) * * *

Standard 10.22. Gender-inclusive practices for juror identification and juror questionnaires

(a) Statement of purpose

Consistent with the court’s duty to prevent bias, as described in standard 10.20, and to ensure the inclusivity of juror identification and any juror questionnaire under Code of Civil Procedure section 205(e), the court, its judicial officers, and its employees should use gender-inclusive language on juror questionnaires and in written and oral communications directed to jurors. For the purpose of this standard, “juror” includes a prospective juror.

(b) Recommended practices

- (1) The court, its judicial officers, and its employees should use gender-neutral language in general materials and communications directed to jurors whenever applicable.
- (2) To avoid making assumptions about gender, the court, its judicial officers, and its employees should not use gendered honorifics or pronouns to identify or refer to a juror who has not indicated the honorific or pronouns that the juror uses.
- (3) The court, its judicial officers, and its employees should avoid seeking information about the gender of a juror or a relevant individual associated with the juror (a family member, friend, or person with whom the juror has a significant personal relationship) when such information is not necessary or relevant to the proper exercise of the court’s adjudicatory or administrative functions.

1
2 (4) When the court seeks information about the gender of a juror or an associated
3 individual to properly carry out its adjudicatory or administrative functions,
4 the court should allow the juror to indicate their gender identity or gender
5 expression, as applicable. To assist a juror who has privacy concerns with
6 disclosing such information, the court should, whenever possible, either
7 specify that responding to a question about gender is optional or provide a
8 “decline to state” option.
9

10 (A) When a question about gender provides multiple responses to choose
11 from, the question should allow for multiple options to be selected
12 (e.g., “select all that apply”).
13

14 (B) When a question about gender provides multiple options to choose
15 from (e.g., man, nonbinary, woman), including a write-in response
16 option, the accompanying text for the write-in option, if included,
17 should use phrases like “prefer to self-identify” or “identify as” and
18 avoid phrases like “other” or “none of the above.”