

AN ACT

*Codification
District of
Columbia
Official Code*

2001 Edition

2007 Winter
Supp.

West Group
Publisher

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend section 15-718 of the District of Columbia Official Code to clarify that the Board of Judges of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia may increase the attendance fee and travel allowance for jurors established under this section; and to amend Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code to protect the confidential information of citizens participating in jury selection, and to improve the accuracy of source lists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Jury Trial Improvements Act of 2006".

Sec. 2. Section 15-718 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) Section 15-718 is amended by adding a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) The Board of Judges of the Superior Court may increase the attendance fee and travel allowance provided by this section and, in such event, shall publish the new fee or allowance.”.

Sec. 3. Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) The table of contents is amended by adding the following at the end:

“51. Jury Selection.....16-5101”.

(b) A new Chapter 51 is added to read as follows:

“CHAPTER 51
“JURY SELECTION

“Section

“16-5101. Definitions.

“16-5102. Confidentiality of certain information developed during jury selection.

“16-5103. Penalties.

“16-5104. District of Columbia government agency source lists.

“§ 16-5101. Definitions.

“For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

“(1) “Court” means the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

“(2) “Identifying information” means any information which would reasonable lead someone to be able to communicate with or contact a citizen without his or her prior permission.

“§ 16-5102. Confidentiality of certain information developed during jury selection.

“(a) During the jury selection segment of any case pending in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the name, home address, business address (if any), and all other identifying information of any citizen who is called for jury service in that case shall not be used by anyone other than for the purpose of selecting a fair and impartial jury. After jury selection has been completed or terminated by the court, no person other than the subject of the identifying information or the court shall divulge or use the name, home address, business address (if any), or any other identifying information of any citizen who participated in that jury selection, whether or not the citizen was selected to serve on the jury, except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

“(b) An officer or employee of the court may divulge the name of any citizen who participated in jury selection pursuant to rules adopted by the court.

“(c) Nothing contained in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed to prohibit a citizen, party, or attorney, or their agents, from divulging, making known, or using the identifying information of any citizen who is called for jury service where the party, attorney, or agent has obtained authorization from the court:

“(1) Pursuant to § 11-1914(b) in connection with the preparation or presentation of a motion under § 11-1910; or

“(2) Based upon good cause shown and pursuant to rules promulgated by the court.”.

“§ 16-5103. Penalties.

“Any violation of § 16-1502 shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment of up to 180 days, or both.

“§ 16-5104. District of Columbia government agency source lists.

“Any agency or instrumentality of the District of Columbia government required to provide names and addresses of individuals to the Court pursuant to § 11-1905 for purposes of summoning individuals for jury service shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the names and addresses are accurate, including:

“(1) Entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Court for the prompt sharing of complete and accurate information; and

“(2) The purging of inaccurate name and address information by the provider agency or instrumentality not less than once every calendar year.”.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the December 4, 2006 fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia