

**STANDARD CIVIL VOIR DIRE QUESTIONS**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Deborah M. Fine

1. Read statement of the case.
  - Have any of you read or heard anything about this case from any source whatsoever?
  - Given this brief description of the facts, is there anything about this case that would cause you to believe that you could not consider the evidence fairly and impartially according to the law?
2. Introduce self and staff. Do any of you know any member of my staff on any basis, social, professional or otherwise?
3. The Plaintiff(s) is/are represented by \_\_\_\_\_ of the law firm of \_\_\_\_\_ . Counsel please stand.
  - Do any of you know Plaintiff’s counsel, or any of the employees in his/her office on any basis, social, professional or otherwise?
  - Counsel, please introduce your client and those present at the counsel table. Do any of you know these individuals on any basis, social, professional or otherwise?
  - If a company or corporation: Have any of you ever had a business or employment relationship of any kind with the plaintiff?
4. The defendant(s) is/are represented by \_\_\_\_\_ of the law firm of \_\_\_\_\_ . Counsel please stand.

- Do any of you know the Defendant's counsel or any employees of his/her office on any basis, social, professional or otherwise?
  - Counsel, please introduce your client and those present at the counsel table. Do any of you know these individuals on any basis, social, professional, or otherwise?
  - If a company or corporation: Have any of you ever had a business or employment relationship of any kind with the defendant?
5. The witnesses who may be called during this trial are: (See Witness Tab):
    - Do any of you know or think you might know any of these witnesses?
  6. Is there anything that has occurred to any of you, or are there any facts that you think we should know about, that might have a bearing on your judgment in this case?
  7. Do any of you have strong feelings either for or against a party who brings a lawsuit?
  8. This is a civil case which is to be decided by the preponderance of the evidence [clear and convincing on some issues]. This is different from a criminal case where the government has to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. Does anyone have a problem applying a lower burden of proof than used in a criminal case?
  9. Have any of you or members of your family been a party or witness in any litigation (excluding domestic relations, traffic, or probate)?
  10. Do any of you or any of the members of your family have any legal training?

11. I will instruct you on the law at the conclusion of the case. If selected as a juror, you will take an oath to follow the law. Do any of you think you would have trouble following the law even if you may disagree with it?
12. Will you be able to render your verdict solely on the basis of the evidence presented during the trial, setting aside any personal beliefs, opinions, or biases you might have?
13. This case is expected to last \_\_\_\_\_ days. Would the length of the trial create an undue hardship for any of you?
14. I expect to conduct trial on these dates and times:  
Tuesdays thru Thursdays, sometimes on Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
  
One hour break for lunch. We will usually take one break in the morning and one break in the afternoon of about 15 to 20 minutes.  
  
Would this schedule create an undue hardship for any of you?
15. Do any of you have any other reason whatsoever, such as a physical difficulty, a health problem or home problems that might interfere with your serving as a fair and impartial juror in this case?
16. We have handed you a sheet with several questions. Please stand and answer the questions. The last question asks about your prior jury service. With respect to any juries on which you have served, please indicate the nature of the case and the outcome of the trial.

17. Did any of you know each other before this morning? If so, would your acquaintance with the other juror affect your ability to deliberate and reach your own independent decision as a juror in this case?
18. If there are any matters that you would rather discuss privately that may affect your ability to be a fair and impartial juror, please let the Court know.