# STATE BAR of TEXAS JURY SERVICE TOOLKIT

### **FACT SHEET**

#### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR JURY SERVICE**

You must have the following qualifications:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be a citizen of the United States and of this state.
- Reside in the county of jury service.
- Be qualified to vote in the county of jury service.
- Be able to read and write.
- Be of sound mind and good moral character.

You cannot serve on a jury if:

- You have served as a juror for six days during the preceding three months in county court or during the preceding six months in district court.
- You have been convicted of a felony or of any type of theft (unless rights have been restored).
- You are on probation or deferred adjudication for a felony or any type of theft.
- You are under indictment for a felony or are under criminal charges for any type of theft.

#### **EXEMPTIONS FOR JURY SERVICE**

You may be excused from jury service if:

- · You are more than 70 years of age.
- You have legal custody of a child under 10 years of age and jury service would leave the child unsupervised.
- You are a student in class.
- You are the caretaker of a person who is an invalid.
- You can show a physical or mental impairment or an inability to comprehend or communicate in English.
- You are required to appear in court on a religious holy day; you can contact the court to reschedule.

## PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO ANSWER A JURY SUMMONS

- If you fail to answer a jury summons, you are subject to a contempt action punishable by a fine of between \$100 and \$1,000.
- If you are picked for jury service but fail to attend court without a reasonable excuse or file a false exemption claim, you are subject to a fine of between \$10 and \$100.