

MEDICAL EXCUSE REQUIREMENTS

Submitted by Sherry Spears, Fresno

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Our policy to excuse jurors for a medical reason requires a medical note signed by a physician. For example, we do not currently accept medical excuses from nurses, psychiatrists, physician assistants or therapists. Here is an excerpt from the letter we send to jurors:

Prior to the above "Report On" date you must submit a current medical excuse from your physician describing your inability to serve jury duty. The letter must state your name, date of birth, the health issue, prognosis and expected duration of the health issue. Please be advised that we cannot accept medical excuses signed by nurse practitioners or physician assistants.

Could you please let me know what the practice is in your court and which professions you will accept a medical excuse from? I appreciate any and all responses, thank you! - Sherry

1	Deb Preston	Marin, we require a form to be completed by the physician that includes everything you mentioned; in addition, we ask if the patient is working. As a psychiatrist is an M.D., we do accept from them or other physicians only. The only exception is that we will issue a temporary exemption (but not a permanent one) when requested by a chiropractor. This is good for one year.
2	Debbie Cravea	In Napa, we accept... Letters from: M.D.'s (this includes Psychiatrists) Physicians Assistants and Nurse Practitioners (because these are supervised by an M.D. We do not accept letters from Psychologists., Nurses Staff or Chiropractors, as they are not M.D.'s. We do not ask for medical issue information because of the medical confidentiality laws. We only ask that the Physician state that the medical issue prevents them from serving jury duty, and that this issue is permanent. If the word permanent or indefinite is not in the letter, then they are removed on a temporary basis only.