

GRAND JURY HANDBOOK



From the Office of
Your District Attorney

Welcome to
The Grand Jury

Welcome to the Grand Jury. You have just assumed a most important responsibility in the administration of justice in your community. Service on the Grand Jury is one way in which you, as a responsible citizen, can directly participate in government. The Grand Jury is one of the most powerful institutions of government. It has the responsibility of safeguarding individuals from unfounded prosecution while simultaneously protecting the public against crime and criminals. If your Grand Jury is to meet those responsibilities, you must be knowledgeable about your duties, responsibilities and limitations. You must serve willingly and accept your duties as a serious commitment to the community.

This handbook was prepared by the staff of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia and provided to you by your District Attorney to help you fulfill your duties as a Grand Juror. It summarizes the history of the Grand Jury as well as the law and procedures that govern the Grand Jury. However, it is not a comprehensive explanation of all of your duties and responsibilities and does not replace the instructions given to you by the Court nor the legal advice provided by the District Attorney. It will provide you with an overview of the duties, functions and limitations of the Grand Jury.

As you read this Handbook, it is important to remember that while the Grand Jury may appear to have considerable power and authority, the manner in which it can exercise its power and authority is strictly regulated by law and limited by the amount of time and resources which are available. Experience has taught that no single Grand Jury can do everything that the law allows them to do.

We sincerely hope you will find this opportunity to participate in the enforcement of the law a rich and rewarding experience. The Office of the District Attorney offers you its fullest cooperation and assistance as you undertake this important office. Please ask if you have any questions.



THANK YOU

Thank you for reviewing this handbook to better understand your duties as a grand juror. Serving on a grand jury is an extremely high honor. We greatly appreciate your participation and hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to assist in Georgia's system of justice. By performing these essential duties, you will provide your government and your community with an invaluable service.

Georgia Judicial Circuits & Districts

