

Jury Service

Jury service is a legal and moral duty in the UK. However, if you have the sole responsibility of a duty of care of others and it may be possible to have this waved.

Being responsible for the home education of a child may be accepted a reason for being unable to undertake Jury service. Should you be called for jury service the following *pro forma* letter, which has been used with some success, may be used to attempt to have the court wave your jury service.

Dear **Sir/Madam**

I am requesting that I am excused Jury Service because I provide a full time home-based education for our *(no. of)* children.

The law states that every parent must provide an education for their children and while most do so by sending their children to school, we have chosen exercise our legal right to provide a homebased education.

As a home educating parent it is my responsibility to provide a full time education suitable to the ages, aptitudes and abilities of all my children.

(if any children have special needs add..."and that I ensure that the additional support for the special learning needs of (No. of) of my children are specifically provided for").

(eg: "our eldest son has Aspergers Syndrome and he has specific daily routines and rhythms that are crucial to his feeling secure.")

While a child minder could, in theory, provide a babysitting service for the children, they could not provide a suitable full time education for each of the (No of) children's specific aptitudes. I would then be failing in my legal responsibility to provide a continuous full time education.

This would result in my being the subject of a referral to *(Education Welfare in England Children's Reporter in Scotland)* and subsequent court action, which could lead to legal action being brought against me.

Child minders are given exemption on request because they are responsible for the children in their care. It is also usual practice for courts to grant exemption for home educators on request because they are not only responsible for their children's well being but for their full time education.

Yours faithfully