

GRAND JURY REPORT  
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2011

The Grand Jury of November and December, 2011 would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Christian County Commonwealth's Attorney Lynn Pryor and her staff for the hard work they do. Ms. Pryor did an excellent job at helping this jury understand the law and explaining how it applied to the cases we were presented.

We would also like to thank the Christian County and Hopkinsville law enforcement officers for serving our community everyday and keeping our streets as safe as possible.

This Grand Jury would like to thank Christian County Court Clerk, Mike Kem, for presenting a report concerning the November 2011 Election. There were no allegations of voter fraud or misconduct. We were surprised and saddened to hear that Christian County had an 18% voter turn out. Mr. Kem also stated the need for more citizens to help in the elections at the voter's precincts. We would like to encourage the citizens of Christian County to become more involved in the voting process.

During our term we had several food stamp fraud cases. We were surprised to find out how people are defrauding the system. We feel that when an application is submitted, whether it be for Food Stamps, Unemployment Benefits, or Social Services through the Social Security Administration, more time should be spent in investigating the applicant. It is our understanding that use of the Kentucky Network would show if the applicant is already receiving one or more of the Social Services. We realize that caseworkers have a heavy load, but we believe that earlier detection of applicants - who have been approved and are receiving benefits because their application was falsified - would save the Commonwealth of Kentucky money.

Throughout our term on the Grand Jury, we were given the opportunity to hear and deliberate on a variety of criminal cases. There were a number of home burglaries. We suggest to the citizens to get involved or start a Neighborhood Watch Program in your area. Keep your eyes open for your neighbors.

The current system and punishment doesn't seem to deter criminal activity. We heard numerous cases which involved repeat offenders. There are far too many drug related repeat offenders on our streets - free to continue their activities. Our police officers are risking their lives everyday to arrest these criminals that are selling drugs to our Christian County children, and the offenders are only getting a slap on the hand by our court system before they are released to repeat the offense over and over again. We also feel there are too many repeat offenders of operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, endangering the lives of Christian County residents. This Grand Jury believes that more stringent punishments should be imposed on repeat spouse abuse and child abuse offenders.

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CHRISTIAN COUNTY GRAND JURY  
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