

Being on a jury is rewarding, but it can be demanding. Listening to a victim's story, viewing evidence, or reading a graphic report can bring up many different feelings. While most jury duty is a low-stress experience, certain experiences are more likely to produce higher levels of stress and contribute to symptoms of vicarious trauma.

These feelings are common, natural, and often go away over time. Yet when they linger, they can impact our daily lives. This brochure provides information about symptoms and techniques to cope and manage those feelings.

If symptoms begin to cause difficulty in your daily life, please reach out to a professional



Additional Resources

Tennessee

The Refuge Center for Counseling
615.591.5262
Refugecenter.org

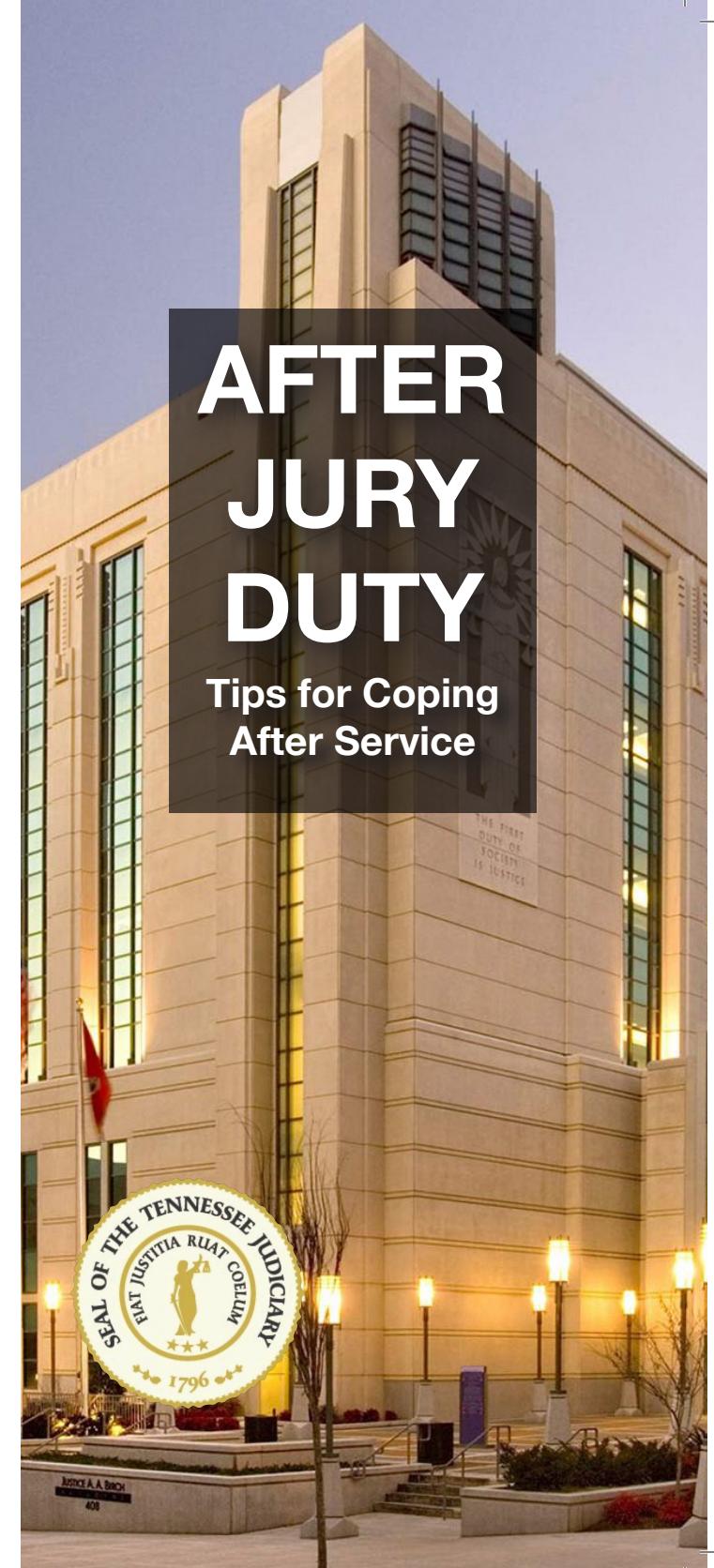
Nationwide

National Association of Mental Illness
Call: 1-800-950-6264 | Text: 62640
Chat: nami.org/help

TransLifeLine: 1-877-565-8860

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1-800-273-8255
Press 1 for veterans, 2 para Español

Tennessee State Trial Courts
20th Judicial District
408 2nd Ave North, Suite 1120
Nashville, TN 37201
615.862.5294
www.juryduty.nashville.gov



What is Vicarious Trauma?

Vicarious trauma describes the various mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual effects a person may suffer after witnessing or hearing about trauma experienced by someone else.

Vicarious trauma can show itself in different ways as each person has their own unique jury experience and emotional response. It is helpful to be aware of the symptoms and some strategies to cope if they arise.



Common Symptoms

- Replaying what you saw/heard/experienced for days after
- Unwanted or recurring distressing thoughts from cases
- Difficulty with concentration or memory
- Feelings of strong guilt or pain for those who experienced the trauma
- Feeling numb, desensitized, or disconnected from others
- Unexplained vague heaviness in our shoulders, gut, or chest
- Feeling “spacey” or “zoning out” (dissociation)



Coping Techniques

Process: Talking can help you work through the many mixed feelings after jury service.

Sleep: Sleep is the most effective tool to help the brain work at its optimum. Sleep reduces the brain's chemical signals that produce stress hormones.

Exercise: Moving your body releases endorphins, which are known to calm and heal the brain.

Nutrition: The food we eat affects our brain health and our mood.

Spirituality: Participate in activities that help you connect with others and cultivate a broader perspective in life.

Connection: If you suffer a sprained ankle, a doctor can help you heal properly. The same applies to your brain. Connect with a professional to help address mental, emotional, or physical pain.