

CHALLENGES FOR CAUSE

1. Grounds. N.C.G.S. 15A-1212.
 - a. Is incapable by reason of mental or physical infirmity.
 - b. Has been or is a party, witness, grand juror, trial juror, or otherwise has participated in civil or criminal proceedings involving a transaction which relates to the charge.
 - c. Has been or is a party adverse to the defendant in a civil action, or has complained against or been accused by him in a criminal prosecution.
 - d. Is related by blood or marriage within the sixth degree to the defendant or victim of the crime.
 - e. Has formed or expressed an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of defendant.
 - f. Is presently charged with a felony.
 - g. As a matter of conscience, would be unable to render a verdict with respect to the charge in accordance with the law.
 - h. For any other cause is unable to render a fair and impartial verdict.

BUZZ PHRASES

1. Substantially impair? Automatically vote? St. v. Cummings, 326 N.C. 298 (1990); St. v. Chapman, 359 N.C. 328 (2005).
2. “Stake out” questions? (Hypothetical) Ask: Can you consider? St. v. Clients, 135 N.C. App. 690 (1999).
3. Can you set aside opinion and reach decision solely upon evidence?
4. Juror statement he could follow the law but defendant’s failure to testify would “stick in the back of his mind” while deliberating should have been excused for cause. *State v. Hightower*, 331 N.C. 636 (1992).