

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

SUSAN OKI MOLLWAY  
United States District Judge

Amended September 6, 2019

GENERAL FEDERAL JURY  
INSTRUCTIONS IN CRIMINAL CASES

The following will be proposed as the court's instructions in all criminal cases. Additional instructions applicable to the particular case may be prepared and proposed by the parties. Such additional instructions are to be exchanged between the parties and submitted in conformity with the Local Rules, the Pretrial Order, and this court's Procedures for Trials Before Judge Susan Oki Mollway.

GENERAL FEDERAL JURY  
INSTRUCTIONS IN CRIMINAL CASES

INDEX

1	DUTY OF JURY
2	REASONABLE DOUBT
3	WHAT IS EVIDENCE
4	EVIDENCE – OBJECTIONS
5	EVIDENCE – EXCLUDING STATEMENTS OF JUDGE
6	EVIDENCE – STIPULATIONS OF FACT
7	EVIDENCE – STIPULATED TESTIMONY
8	EVIDENCE – DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL
9	EVIDENCE – CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES
10	EVIDENCE – EXPERT WITNESSES
11	GOVERNMENT'S USE OF UNDERCOVER AGENTS AND INFORMANTS
12	IMPEACHMENT – GENERALLY
13	IMPEACHMENT – PRIOR CONVICTION
14	DEFENDANT'S DECISION NOT TO TESTIFY
15	DEFENDANT'S DECISION TO TESTIFY
16	ON OR ABOUT
17	KNOWINGLY
18	ACTIVITIES NOT CHARGED
19(A)	SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF MULTIPLE COUNTS— SINGLE DEFENDANT
19(B)	SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE COUNT— MULTIPLE DEFENDANTS
19(C)	SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF MULTIPLE COUNTS— MULTIPLE DEFENDANTS
20	DUTY TO DELIBERATE
21	CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE— CONDUCT OF THE JURY
22	VERDICT FORM AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH COURT

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 1  
DUTY OF JURY

Members of the jury, now that you have heard all the evidence [and the arguments of the attorneys], it is my duty to instruct you on the law that applies to this case.

Each of you has received a copy of these instructions that you may take with you to the jury room to consult during your deliberations.

It is your duty to weigh and to evaluate all the evidence received in the case and, in that process, to decide the facts. It is also your duty to apply the law as I give it to you to the facts as you find them, whether you agree with the law or not. You must follow all of my instructions as a whole. You have no right to disregard or give special attention to any one instruction, or to question the wisdom or correctness of any rule I may state to you. That is, you must not substitute or follow your own notion or opinion as to what the law is or ought to be. It is your duty to apply the law as I give it to you, regardless of the consequences.

You must decide the case solely on the evidence and the law and must not be influenced by any personal likes or dislikes, opinions, prejudices,

or sympathy. You will recall that you took an oath promising to do so at the beginning of the case.

Please do not read into these instructions or into anything I may have said or done any suggestion as to what verdict you should return—that is a matter entirely up to you.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 2  
REASONABLE DOUBT

The indictment is not evidence. The defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until the government proves the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. In addition, the defendant does not have to testify or present any evidence to prove innocence. The government has the burden of proving every element of the charge[s] beyond a reasonable doubt. If it fails to do so, you must return a verdict of not guilty.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced the defendant is guilty. It is not required that the government prove guilt beyond all possible doubt.

A reasonable doubt is a doubt based upon reason and common sense and is not based purely on speculation. It may arise from a careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence, or from lack of evidence.

If after a careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence, you are not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty, it is your duty to find the defendant not guilty. On the other hand, if after a careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence, you are convinced

beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty, it is your duty to find the defendant guilty.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 3  
WHAT IS EVIDENCE

**Adjust when there is one or more stipulations or limiting instructions**

The evidence you are to consider in deciding what the facts are consists of:

1. the sworn testimony of any witness; [and]
2. the exhibits received in evidence[.] [; and]
- [3. any facts to which the parties have agreed.]

In reaching your verdict you may consider only the testimony and exhibits received in evidence. The following things are not evidence and you may not consider them in deciding what the facts are:

1. Questions, statements, objections, and arguments by the lawyers are not evidence. The lawyers are not witnesses. Although you must consider a lawyer's questions to understand the answers of a witness, the lawyer's questions are not evidence. Similarly, what the lawyers say in their opening statements, closing arguments, and at other times is intended to help you interpret the evidence, but it is not evidence. If the facts as you remember them differ from the way the lawyers state them, your memory of them controls.

2. Any testimony that I have excluded, stricken, or instructed you to disregard is not evidence. [In addition, some evidence was received only for a limited purpose; when I have instructed you to consider certain evidence in a limited way, you must do so.]

3. Anything you may have seen or heard when the court was not in session is not evidence. You are to decide the case solely on the evidence received at the trial.



COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 4  
EVIDENCE – OBJECTIONS

There are rules of evidence that control what can be received in evidence. When a lawyer asks a question or offers an exhibit in evidence and a lawyer on the other side thinks that it is not permitted by the rules of evidence, that lawyer may object. If I overrule the objection, the question may be answered or the exhibit received. If I sustain the objection, the question cannot be answered, or the exhibit cannot be received. Whenever I sustain an objection to a question, you must ignore the question and must not guess what the answer would have been.

Sometimes I may order that evidence be stricken from the record and that you disregard or ignore the evidence. That means that when you are deciding the case, you must not consider the evidence that I told you to disregard.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 5  
EVIDENCE – EXCLUDING STATEMENTS OF JUDGE

During the course of a trial I occasionally make comments to the lawyers, or ask questions of a witness, or admonish a witness concerning the manner in which he or she should respond to the questions of counsel. Do not assume from anything I may have said that I have any opinion concerning any of the issues in this case. Except for my instructions to you on the law, you should disregard anything I may have said during the trial in arriving at your own findings as to the facts.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 6  
EVIDENCE – STIPULATIONS OF FACT

The parties have agreed as to certain facts that have been stated to you. You should treat these facts as having been proved.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 7  
EVIDENCE – STIPULATED TESTIMONY

The parties have agreed what [name of witness]'s testimony would be if called as a witness. You should consider that testimony in the same way as if it had been given here in court.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 8  
EVIDENCE – DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL

Evidence may be direct or circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as testimony by a witness about what that witness personally saw or heard or did. Circumstantial evidence is indirect evidence, that is, it is proof of one or more facts from which you can find another fact.

You are to consider both direct and circumstantial evidence. Either can be used to prove any fact. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct or circumstantial evidence. It is for you to decide how much weight to give to any evidence.

While you should consider only the evidence in the case, you are permitted to draw such reasonable inferences from the testimony and exhibits as you feel are justified in the light of common experience. In other words, you may make deductions and reach conclusions that reason and common sense lead you to draw from the facts that have been established by the testimony and evidence in the case.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 9  
EVIDENCE – CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES

In deciding the facts in this case, you may have to decide which testimony to believe and which testimony not to believe. You may believe everything a witness says, or part of it, or none of it.

In considering the testimony of any witness, you may take into account:

(1) the witness's opportunity and ability to see or hear or know the things testified to;

(2) the witness's memory;

(3) the witness's manner while testifying;

(4) the witness's interest in the outcome of the case, if any;

(5) the witness's bias or prejudice, if any;

(6) whether other evidence contradicted the witness's testimony;

(7) the reasonableness of the witness's testimony in light of all the evidence; and

(8) any other factors that bear on believability.

The weight of the evidence as to a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of witnesses who testify. What is important is how believable the witnesses were, and how much weight you think their testimony deserves.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 10  
EVIDENCE – EXPERT WITNESSES

The rules of evidence provide that, if scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge might assist the jury in understanding the evidence or in determining a fact in issue, a witness qualified as an expert by knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education may testify and state an opinion or opinions concerning such matters.

Such opinion testimony should be judged like any other testimony. You may accept it or reject it, and give it as much weight as you think it deserves, considering the witness's knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education, the reasons given for the opinion, and all the other evidence in the case.



COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 11  
GOVERNMENT'S USE OF UNDERCOVER AGENTS  
AND INFORMANTS

You have heard testimony from [an undercover agent] [an informant] who was involved in the government's investigation in this case. Law enforcement officials may engage in stealth and deception, such as the use of informants and undercover agents, in order to investigate criminal activities. Undercover agents and informants may use false names and appearances and assume the roles of members in criminal organizations.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 12  
IMPEACHMENT – GENERALLY

A witness may be discredited or “impeached” by contradictory evidence, by a showing that the witness testified falsely concerning a material matter, or by evidence that at some other time the witness said or did something that is inconsistent with the witness’s present testimony or failed to say or do something that would be consistent with the present testimony had it been said or done.

If you believe that any witness has been so impeached, then it is your exclusive province whether or not to believe the witness and how much weight to give to the testimony of the witness.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 13  
IMPEACHMENT – PRIOR CONVICTION

You have heard evidence that a witness has previously been convicted of a crime. You may consider that evidence only as it may affect the witness's believability. You may not consider a prior conviction as evidence of the crime[s] charged in this trial.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 14  
DEFENDANT'S DECISION NOT TO TESTIFY

A defendant in a criminal case has a constitutional right not to testify. You may not draw any inference of any kind from the fact that the defendant did not testify.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 15  
DEFENDANT'S DECISION TO TESTIFY

A defendant in a criminal case has a constitutional right not to testify. If a defendant does testify, you should treat this testimony just as you would the testimony of any other witness.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 16  
ON OR ABOUT

You will note that the indictment charges that the offense was committed “on or about” a certain date. Although it is necessary for the government to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense was committed on a date reasonably near the date alleged in the indictment, it is not necessary for the government to prove that the offense was committed precisely on the date charged.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 17  
KNOWINGLY

An act is done knowingly if the defendant is aware of the act and does not [act] [fail to act] through ignorance, mistake, or accident. [The government is not required to prove that [his] [her] acts or omissions were unlawful.] You may consider evidence of the defendant's words, acts, or omissions, along with all the other evidence, in deciding whether the defendant acted knowingly.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 18  
ACTIVITIES NOT CHARGED

You are here only to determine whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of the charge[s] in the indictment. The defendant is not on trial for any conduct or offense not charged in the indictment. Nor are you called upon to return a verdict as to whether any other person or persons not on trial as defendants in this case are guilty or not guilty.

Also, the punishment provided by law for any crime charged in the indictment is for the court to decide. You may not consider punishment in deciding whether the government has proved its case against the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.



COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 19(A)  
SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF MULTIPLE COUNTS—  
SINGLE DEFENDANT

A separate crime is charged against the defendant in each count.

You must decide each count separately. Your verdict on one count should not control your verdict on any other count.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 19(B)  
SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE COUNT—  
MULTIPLE DEFENDANTS

A separate crime is charged against each defendant. The charges have been joined for trial. You must consider and decide the case of each defendant separately. Your verdict as to one defendant should not control your verdict as to any other defendant.

All the instructions apply to each defendant [unless a specific instruction states that it applies to only a specific defendant].

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 19(C)  
SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF MULTIPLE COUNTS—  
MULTIPLE DEFENDANTS

A separate crime is charged against one or more of the defendants in each count. The charges have been joined for trial. You must decide the case of each defendant on each crime charged against that defendant separately. Your verdict on any count as to any defendant should not control your verdict on any other count or as to any other defendant.

All the instructions apply to each defendant and to each count [unless a specific instruction states that it applies only to a specific [defendant] [count]].

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 20  
DUTY TO DELIBERATE

When you begin your deliberations, elect one member of the jury as your foreperson who will preside over the deliberations and speak for you here in court.

You will then discuss the case with your fellow jurors to reach agreement if you can do so. Your verdict, whether guilty or not guilty, must be unanimous.

Each of you must decide the case for yourself, but you should do so only after you have considered all the evidence, discussed it fully with the other jurors, and listened to the views of your fellow jurors.

Do not be afraid to change your opinion if the discussion persuades you that you should. But do not come to a decision simply because other jurors think it is right.

It is important that you attempt to reach a unanimous verdict but, of course, only if each of you can do so after having made your own conscientious decision. Do not change an honest belief about the weight and effect of the evidence simply to reach a verdict.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 21  
CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE—CONDUCT OF THE JURY

Because you must base your verdict only on the evidence received in the case and on these instructions, I remind you that you must not be exposed to any other information about the case or to the issues it involves. Except for discussing the case with your fellow jurors during your deliberations:

Do not communicate with anyone in any way and do not let anyone else communicate with you in any way about the merits of the case or anything to do with it. This includes communications in person, in writing, by phone or electronic means, or through any internet or social media application. If you are asked or approached in any way about your jury service or anything about this case, you must respond that you have been ordered not to discuss the matter and to report the contact to the court.

Do not read, watch, or listen to any news or media accounts or commentary about the case or anything to do with it; do not do any research, such as consulting dictionaries, searching the Internet or using other reference materials; and do not make any investigation or in any other way

try to learn about the case on your own. Do not visit or view any place discussed in this case, and do not use Internet programs or other devices to search for or view any place discussed during the trial. Also, do not do any research about this case, the law, or the people involved—including the parties, the witnesses or the lawyers—until you have been excused as jurors. If you happen to read or hear anything touching on this case in the media or through any other source, turn away and report it to me as soon as possible.

The law requires these restrictions to ensure the parties have a fair trial based on the same evidence that each party has had an opportunity to address. A juror who violates these restrictions jeopardizes the fairness of these proceedings.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 22  
VERDICT FORM AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH COURT

[A verdict form has] [Verdict forms have] been prepared for you.

Explain verdict form[s].

After you have reached unanimous agreement on a verdict, your foreperson should complete the verdict form according to your deliberations, sign and date the back of it, and advise the bailiff that you are ready to return to the courtroom.

If it becomes necessary during your deliberations to communicate with me, you may send a note through the bailiff, signed by any one or more of you. No member of the jury should ever attempt to communicate with me except by a signed writing, and I will respond to the jury concerning the case only in writing or here in open court. If you send out a question, I will consult with the lawyers before answering it, which may take some time. You may continue your deliberations while waiting for the answer to any question. Remember that you are not to tell anyone—including me—how the jury stands, numerically or otherwise, on any question submitted to you, including the question of the guilt of the defendant, until after you have reached a unanimous verdict or have been discharged.