

R v [Insert name of accused]

Instructions from the Trial Judge to the Jury

No outside influence or information

It is of critical importance that you comply with the following instructions because a failure to do so will not only render the trial unfair, it may very well result in a mistrial:

- 1. You must not discuss the case with anyone, other than with your other jurors when you are in the jury room.** Do not allow yourself to be drawn into conversations about the case or any aspect of the case. You can tell family, employers and people who have to know that you are on a jury, but avoid telling them the name of the case and under no circumstances tell them what the case is about.
- 2. You must decide the case on the evidence presented to you in court – and only that evidence.** The evidence presented to you in court will consist of what you see and hear the witnesses say as well as such photographs, documents, recordings or other things that are received in evidence as exhibits. If at any stage any other material should find its way into the jury room that is not an exhibit in the case, you should notify me through the bailiff immediately.
- 3. You must not decide the case, or in any way take into account in your deliberations any outside information or other outside influence.** Ignore anything you may hear or read about the case out of court. There may have been some media reporting about this case in the past. There may be some as the trial proceeds. You must ignore all of it.
- 4. You must not make your own enquiries or investigations about the case or anyone connected with the case.** Do not consult any source such as a newspaper, reference book or the internet for information. Do not conduct any research. This includes using the internet or communicating with someone by telephone, email or social media such as Twitter, Facebook or Instagram to discuss the case or to make enquiries about it, some aspect of it or some person connected with it. You may commit a criminal offence if you do.
- 5. You must immediately report to me any breach of the above instructions that you have made or which you become aware has been made by any of the other jurors.** If anyone, including a member of your family or a friend, attempts to speak to you about the case, stop them immediately. Should the attempt persist, report that to me via the bailiff as soon as possible; although do not mention it to any other juror. If, while you are outside this courtroom, you inadvertently overhear something about this trial, do not tell anyone else on the jury but tell the bailiff so that it can also be brought to my attention. If any of you learns that an impermissible inquiry or investigation has been made by another juror, or that another juror had engaged in discussions about the case outside the jury room, you are duty-bound to bring that to my attention, via the bailiff, as soon as possible but you should not mention it to any other juror.