

BEFORE YOU REPORT: Please call (903) 389-1013 ext. 224 the night before the jury date for recorded jury instructions. Sometimes jury trials are cancelled.

INSTRUCTIONS TO JURY

MEMBERS OF THE JURY:

1. Do not mingle with nor talk to the lawyers, the witnesses, the parties, or any other person who might be connected with or interested in this case, except for casual greetings. They have to follow these same instructions and you will understand it when they do.
2. Do not accept from, nor give to, any of those persons any favors however slight, such as rides, food or refreshments.
3. Do not discuss anything about this case, or even mention it to anyone whomsoever, including your wife or husband nor permit anyone to mention it in your hearing until you are discharged as jurors or excused from this case. If anyone attempts to discuss the case, report it to me at once.
4. Do not even discuss this case among yourselves until you have heard all of the evidence, the court's charge, the attorney's arguments and until I have sent you to the jury room to consider your verdict.
5. Do not make any investigation about the facts of this case. Occasionally we have a juror who privately seeks out information about a case on trial. This is improper. All evidence must be presented in open court so that each side may question the witnesses and make proper objection. This avoids a trial based upon secret evidence. These rules apply to jurors the same as they apply to the parties and to me. If you know of, or learn anything about, this case except from the evidence admitted during the course of this trial, you should tell me about it at once. You have just taken an oath that you will render a verdict on the evidence submitted to you under my ruling.
6. Do not make personal inspections, observations, investigations, or experiments nor personally view premises, things or articles not produced in court. Do not let anyone else do any of these things for you.
7. Do not tell other jurors your own personal experiences nor those of other persons, nor relate any special information. A juror may have special knowledge of matters such as business, technical or professional matters or he may have expert knowledge or opinions, or he may know what happened in this or some other lawsuit. To tell the other jurors any of this information is a violation of these instructions.
8. Do not discuss or consider attorney's fees unless evidence about attorney's fees is admitted.
9. Do not consider, discuss, nor speculate whether or not any party is or is not protected in whole or in part by insurance of any kind.
10. Do not seek information contained in law books, dictionaries, public or private records or elsewhere, which is not admitted in evidence.
11. At the conclusion of all the evidence, I may submit to you a written charge asking you some specific questions called special issues. You will not be asked, and you should not consider, whether one party or the other should win. Since you will need to consider all of the evidence admitted by me, it is important that you pay close attention to the evidence as it is presented.
12. The Texas law permits proof of any violation of the rules of proper jury conduct. By this I mean that jurors and others may be called upon to testify in open court about acts of jury misconduct. I instruct you, therefore, to follow carefully all instructions which I have given you, as well as others which you later receive while this case is on trial.
13. You may keep these instructions and review them as the case proceeds. A violation of these instructions should be reported to me.