

WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS

MEMBERS OF THE JURY:

By the oath which you take as jurors, you become officials of this court and active participants in the public administration of justice. I now give you further instructions which you must obey throughout the trial.

1. **Turn off your electronic devices that you are not using for the Zoom App during the trial.** That means **no taking phone calls, looking at text messages during this trial, or using social media (like Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter).** Do not look at websites, emails, or any other materials other than the Zoom App during the trial. **Do not be distracted during this trial.** It is the expectation of the Court and the litigants that you give your full attention to this trial. Do not close the video or audio of the Zoom App unless instructed by the Court. **Do not move away from your camera; jurors must take breaks at the same time and it not permitted for a juror to leave the view of the camera, even for a quick second, unless the Court give you permission.**

You are to view this trial alone on your electronic device. No other individuals are allowed to sit next to or be in the same room with you during any time the Court is in session. You are to remain secluded while court is in session as you are an active participant and observer during the trial, and as such, should protect yourself from any distractions.

2. 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.

3. Do not accept from, nor give to, any of those persons any favors, however slight, such as rides, food, or refreshments.

4. **Do not discuss anything about this case, nor even mention it to anyone whomsoever, including your spouse or family member,** 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 or one of the court staff at once.

5. **Do not discuss this case among yourselves, until you have heard all the evidence, final arguments, the court's charge, and until you have gathered in the jury room to consider your verdict.**

6. **Do not make any investigation about the facts of the law in this case.** Occasionally, a juror privately seeks information about the case on trial. That is improper. All evidence must be presented in open court to permit each side to question the witnesses and make proper objections. This avoids a trial based upon secret evidence. If you learn anything about this case, other than from the evidence admitted during the course of this trial, you should notify the court at once.

7. Do not make personal inspections, observations, investigations, or experiments, nor personally view premises, things or articles not produced in open court. Do not let anyone else do any of these things for you.

8. Do not tell other jurors of your own special expertise, nor that of other persons, nor relate any special information. A juror may have special knowledge of business, technical or professional matters; or a juror may have expert knowledge or opinions; or a juror may know what happened in this or some other lawsuit. To tell other jurors any of this information is a violation of these instructions.

9. Do not discuss nor consider attorney's fees unless evidence about attorney's fees is admitted.

10. Do not consider, discuss, nor speculate whether any party is or is not protected by insurance of any kind.

11. Do not seek information contained in law books, dictionaries, public or private records or elsewhere, which is not admitted in evidence nor given to you by the court.

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.**

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.

You may keep these instructions and review them as the case proceeds. **A violation of these instructions should be reported to me.**

Judge Nicholas Chu
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 5
Travis County, Texas