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**Minnesota Practice Series Jury
Instruction Guides—Criminal**

2023–2024 Seventh Edition
Minnesota Practice Series Volumes 10 and 10A

Prepared by the Minnesota District Judges Association Committee on Criminal
Jury Instruction
Jonathan M. Hoffmann, Reporter

Enclosed is the 2023–2024 Seventh Edition for Jury Instruction Guides—
Criminal, Volumes 10 and 10A in the Minnesota Practice Series. This enclosure
replaces the prior supplements and the Sixth Edition. Please note that, for ease of
handling, the materials in this shipment may ship in more than one box.

Filing Instructions

REMOVE and RECYCLE the Sixth Edition of Jury Instruction Guides—
Criminal, Volumes 10 and 10A (Minnesota Practice Series) and their
corresponding 2022–2023 Supplement Pamphlets.

PLACE the new 2023–2024 Seventh Edition of Jury Instruction Guides—
Criminal, Volumes 10 and 10A (Minnesota Practice Series) on your shelf.

Highlights

This Seventh Edition of the Criminal Jury Instruction Guides (CRIMJIGS) continues 45 years of judicial review of laws and appellate cases by the Minnesota District Judges Association Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions to aid judges and attorneys in the preparation of jury instructions. This is a milestone year for the CRIMJIGS, which now transform from the iconic hunter green hardcover two-volume set issued approximately every seven years to a softcover publication that will be issued annually.

This volume reflects current legislation and current case law of the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals through July 2023.

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In preparing this edition for publication, the Committee made special efforts on a number of different fronts. Members reviewed the entirety of the CRIMJIGS for accuracy of the elements and of the definitions of terms as provided by statute. Throughout, the sources of legal definitions, and of any elements not deriving from the charging statute itself, have been footnoted. The trial judge should always compare the model jury instruction to the charging statute to ensure that the CRIMJIG accurately reflects the trial judge's interpretation of the statute.

Another goal of this Seventh Edition was to make the CRIMJIGS easier to use. The "Defined" and "Elements" for each crime have been combined into a single instruction, and JIGS that previously were cross-referenced for insertion have been fully incorporated. Jury instructions that required users to select among five choices for the first element and seven unrelated choices for the second element have been broken into discrete JIGS in an effort to simplify drafting for the trial judge. The visual format has been adapted to assist jurors in discerning the elements and relevant definitions. Additionally, the CRIMJIGS volume as a whole has been reorganized largely in keeping with the organization of the Minnesota Statutes, such that the user often will be able to pick up this volume and flip to the particular JIG sought.

In Minnesota, "[a]lthough district courts may favor pattern jury instructions, their use is not required." *State v. Thao*, 875 N.W.2d 834, 842 (Minn. 2016). Nonetheless, we hope this publication is of great assistance to the judges and attorneys of the state in providing accurate guidance to jurors so that the truth may be ascertained and criminal proceedings justly determined.

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