

1.14 INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PARTIES, COUNSEL AND SPECTATORS WHO HAVE BEEN CLOSELY FOLLOWING TRIAL, AFTER JURY HAS RETIRED TO DELIBERATE (REGARDING OUTBURSTS)¹ (Approved 6/95)

[Where necessary or appropriate, the following instructions might be given.]

You have been present when I explained the procedures about how the jury foreperson will announce the verdict by answering the questions from the verdict sheet.

The announcement of the verdict may be an emotional experience for you. I remind you that this is a courtroom, and I will allow no outbursts of emotion and condone no expressions or gestures of hostility toward the court, the jury, counsel or the parties. Such conduct may be considered contempt of the court, and contempt will be dealt with severely.

After the jury has rendered its verdict, there may be matters that I have to discuss with counsel. The litigants and spectators must remain in their seats until I discharge the jury. After the jury has been discharged, I will adjourn the court. Then the parties and counsel, after receiving their exhibits, are free to go.

¹ The judge should advise his or her staff to be watchful as to possible incidents. The judge should advise counsel, both on the record and off the record, to maintain civility. The judge may take other precautions to hold jurors until litigants leave or *vice versa* and may secure the assistance of the Sheriff's Office even to the point of escorting jurors to their car.

No attorney, or party, or person connected with the case can interview, examine or question any juror with respect to any matter relating to this case without a court order. [R. 1:16-1.] Any violation of these rules may be considered a contempt.