

**Verdict Sheet**

**STATE v. DEFENDANT**

**Ind. No. XX-XX-XXXX**

1. Has the State proven beyond a reasonable doubt that DEFENDANT did not act in self-defense?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ (Defendant did not act in self-defense)

NO \_\_\_\_\_ (Self-defense is applicable)

If you answered “YES,” please proceed to question 2.

If you answered “NO,” then you have found the defendant not guilty because they acted in self-defense. Your deliberations are complete. [IF THERE ARE NON-HOMICIDE OFFENSES THAT ARE UNRELATED TO SELF-DEFENSE, PROCEED TO QUESTION \_\_\_\_].<sup>1</sup>

2. As to Count One, **MURDER**, in violation of N.J.S. 2C:11-3, our verdict is:

NOT GUILTY \_\_\_\_\_ GUILTY \_\_\_\_\_

If you found the defendant “NOT GUILTY” of Murder, please proceed to question 3.

If you found the defendant “GUILTY” of Murder, your deliberations are complete.

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<sup>1</sup> If a defendant is found to have acted in self-defense, the jury may not consider possession of the weapon, used in the homicide, for an unlawful purpose. Whether unlawful weapons possession may be considered is a fact-sensitive inquiry. State v. Martinez, No. A-0431-23 (App. Div. Jan. 23, 2025) (slip op. at 6-8); see also State v. Martinez, 480 N.J. Super. 470 (App. Div. 2025).

3. As to the lesser included offense, **PASSION/PROVOCATION MANSLAUGHTER**, in violation of N.J.S. 2C:11-4(b)(2), our verdict is:

**NOT GUILTY** \_\_\_\_\_ **GUILTY** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you found the defendant “NOT GUILTY” of Passion/Provocation Manslaughter, please proceed to question 4.**

**If you found the defendant “GUILTY” of Passion/Provocation Manslaughter, your deliberations are complete.**

4. As to the lesser included offense, **AGGRAVATED MANSLAUGHTER**, in violation of N.J.S. 2C:11-4(a), our verdict is:

**NOT GUILTY** \_\_\_\_\_ **GUILTY** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you found the defendant “NOT GUILTY” of Aggravated Manslaughter, please proceed to question 5.**

**If you found the defendant “GUILTY” of Aggravated Manslaughter, your deliberations are complete.**

5. As to the lesser included offense, **RECKLESS MANSLAUGHTER**, in violation of N.J.S. 2C:11-4(b)(1), our verdict is:

**NOT GUILTY** \_\_\_\_\_ **GUILTY** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ADVISE THE SHERIFF’S OFFICER THAT YOU HAVE REACHED A VERDICT. DO NOT TELL THEM YOUR VERDICT.**