

NOTICE TO THE BAR

MODEL CIVIL JURY CHARGES REORGANIZED AND RENUMBERED

Over time, the Model Civil Jury Charges have become less than optimally organized and, in that regard, not particularly user friendly. Accordingly, as a service to the bench and the bar, the Supreme Court Model Civil Jury Charge Committee has reorganized and renumbered the Model Civil Jury Charges. The table of contents for the reorganized jury charges is appended to this Notice.

Effective as of the date of this notice, the Model Civil Jury Charges are reorganized and renumbered into chapters, sections and charges based on a three-factor decimal and alpha numbering system. The new organization is a flexible system that will allow for the integration of new charges into the appropriate sequence in the compilation of charges as they are prepared and approved by the Committee. Chapters and sections are organized by subject matter. Chapters are arranged in the order in which they commonly are presented to a jury; for example, Chapter 1 includes all general instructions. Chapter numbers appear to the left of the decimal; section numbers appear to the immediate right of the decimal. Sections are consecutively numbered within a chapter by tenths (.10, .20, .30 *et cetera*) leaving available numbers between sections so that new, related charges may be inserted without extension of the section number. As a result, charges with a similar focus now will have a common chapter and section number; for example, all medical malpractice charges begin with the chapter and section number 5.5. The new numbering system no longer will have sequential numbers for dissimilar charges. Thus, the current charge relating to a supermarket's duty to business invitees will now no longer be located immediately before the verbal threshold charge for automobile negligence.

The internal cross-references in the model charges have been amended to reflect the new numbering system. The substance of the charges is not being materially revised at this time. The reorganized and renumbered charges may be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word formats from the Judiciary's Model Civil Jury Charge site at www.njcourtsonline.com. To assist with Shepardizing, KeyCiting and historical research, the Judiciary's civil jury charge web page links to a cross-reference table showing for each new jury charge its corresponding, superseded charge number(s).

Any questions regarding this Notice, the appended table of contents for the reorganized jury charges, or the Model Civil Jury Charges themselves may be directed to Kevin M. Wolfe, Esq., Chief, Civil Practice Division, at 609-292-8470.

/s/ Philip S. Carchman

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MODEL CIVIL JURY CHARGES

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