

CAUSE NO. 1238640

P17

THE STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE 177TH DISTRICT COURT
VS. § OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
JOHNATHAN ROSS NICKERSON § JULY TERM, A. D., 2013

Members of the Jury:

The defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, stands charged by indictment with the offense of capital murder, alleged to have been committed on or about the 24th day of October, 2009, in Harris County, Texas. The defendant has pleaded not guilty.

A person commits the offense of murder if he intentionally or knowingly causes the death of an individual.

A person commits the offense of capital murder if he intentionally commits murder, as hereinbefore defined, in the course of committing or attempting to commit the offense of robbery. Robbery is a felony offense.

A person commits the offense of robbery if, in the course of committing theft, and with intent to obtain or maintain control of property of another he intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to another.

A person commits the offense of aggravated robbery if he commits robbery, as hereinbefore defined, and he:

- (1) causes serious bodily injury to another; or
- (2) uses or exhibits a deadly weapon.

"In the course of committing theft" means conduct that occurs in an attempt to commit, during the commission, or in the immediate flight after the attempt or commission of theft.

"Attempt" to commit an offense occurs if, with specific intent to commit an offense, a person does an act amounting to more than mere preparation that tends, but fails, to effect the commission of the offense intended.

"Theft" is the unlawful appropriation of property with intent to deprive the owner of property.

"Appropriation" and "appropriate", as those terms are used herein, means to acquire or otherwise exercise control over property other than real property. Appropriation of property is unlawful if it is without the owner's effective consent.

"Property" as used herein means tangible or intangible personal property or documents, including money, that represents or embodies anything of value.

"Deprive" means to withhold property from the owner permanently or for so extended a period of time that a major portion of the value or enjoyment of the property is lost to the owner.

"Effective consent" means assent in fact, whether express or apparent, and includes consent by a person legally authorized to act for the owner. Consent is not effective if induced by deception or coercion.

"Owner" means a person who has title to the property, possession of property, or a greater right to possession of the property than the actor.

"Possession" means actual care, custody, control, or management of the property.

"Deadly weapon" means a firearm or anything manifestly designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting death or serious bodily injury; or anything that in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

"Bodily injury" means physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition.

"Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes death, serious permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

The definition of intentionally relative to the offense of capital murder is as follows:

A person acts intentionally, or with intent, with respect to a result of his conduct when it is his conscious objective or desire to cause the result.

The definitions of intentionally or knowingly relative to the offenses of robbery and aggravated robbery are as follow:

A person acts intentionally, or with intent, with respect to the nature of his conduct or to a result of his conduct when it is his conscious objective or desire to engage in the conduct or cause the result.

A person acts knowingly, or with knowledge, with respect to the nature of his conduct or to circumstances surrounding his conduct when he is aware of the nature of his conduct or that the

circumstances exist. A person acts knowingly, or with knowledge, with respect to a result of his conduct when he is aware that his conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result.

All persons are parties to an offense who are guilty of acting together in the commission of the offense. A person is criminally responsible as a party to an offense if the offense is committed by his own conduct, by the conduct of another for which he is criminally responsible, or by both.

A person is criminally responsible for an offense committed by the conduct of another if, acting with intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense, he solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid the other person to commit the offense. Mere presence alone will not constitute one a party to an offense.

If, in the attempt to carry out a conspiracy to commit one felony, another felony is committed by one of the conspirators, all conspirators are guilty of the felony actually committed, though having no intent to commit it, if the offense was committed in furtherance of the unlawful purpose and was one that should have been anticipated as a result of the carrying out of the conspiracy.

By the term "conspiracy" as used in these instructions, is meant an agreement between two or more persons with intent, that they, or one or more of them, engage in conduct that would constitute the offense. An agreement constituting a conspiracy may be inferred from acts of the parties.

Before you would be warranted in finding the defendant guilty of capital murder, you must find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt not only that on the occasion in question the defendant was in the course of committing or attempting to commit the felony offense of robbery of Roman Barragan, as alleged in this charge, but also that the defendant specifically intended to cause the death of Roman Barragan, by shooting Roman Barragan, with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm; or you must find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, with the intent to promote or assist in the commission of the offense of robbery, if any, solicited, encouraged, directed, aided, or attempted to aid David McFarland in shooting Roman Barragan, if he did, with the intention of thereby killing Roman Barragan; or you must find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on the occasion in question the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, entered into an agreement with David McFarland to commit the felony offense of robbery of Roman Barragan, as alleged in this charge, and pursuant to that agreement they did carry out their conspiracy, and while in the course of committing said conspiracy, David McFarland intentionally caused the death of Roman Barragan by shooting Roman Barragan with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm, and the murder of Roman Barragan was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy and was an offense that should have been anticipated by the defendant as a result of carrying out the conspiracy, and unless you so find, then you cannot convict the defendant of the offense of capital murder.

Now, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 24th day of October, 2009, in Harris County, Texas, the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing or attempting to commit the robbery of Roman Barragan, intentionally cause the death of Roman Barragan by shooting Roman Barragan with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm; or

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 24th day of October, 2009, in Harris County, Texas, David McFarland, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing or attempting to commit the robbery of Roman Barragan, intentionally cause the death of Roman Barragan by shooting Roman Barragan with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm, and that the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, with the intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense, if any, solicited, encouraged, directed, aided or attempted to aid David McFarland to commit the offense, if he did; or

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, and David McFarland entered into an agreement to commit the felony offense of robbery of Roman Barragan, and pursuant to that agreement, if any, they did carry out their conspiracy and that in Harris County, Texas, on or about the 24th day of October, 2009, while in the course of committing such robbery of Roman Barragan, David McFarland intentionally caused the death of Roman Barragan by shooting Roman Barragan with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm, and the murder of Roman Barragan was committed in furtherance of the

conspiracy and was an offense that should have been anticipated by the defendant as a result of carrying out the conspiracy, then you will find the defendant guilty of capital murder, as charged in the indictment.

Unless you so find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, or if you are unable to agree, you will next consider whether the defendant is guilty of the lesser offense of aggravated robbery.

Therefore, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 24th day of October, 2009, in Harris County, Texas, the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing theft of property owned by Roman Barragan, and with intent to obtain or maintain control of the property, intentionally or knowingly cause serious bodily injury to Roman Barragan by shooting Roman Barragan with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm; or

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 24th day of October, 2009, in Harris County, Texas, David McFarland, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing theft of property owned by Roman Barragan, and with intent to obtain or maintain control of the property, intentionally or knowingly cause serious bodily injury to Roman Barragan by shooting Roman Barragan with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm, and that the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, with the intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense, if any, solicited, encouraged, directed, aided or

attempted to aid David McFarland to commit the offense, if he did; or

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, and David McFarland entered into an agreement to commit the felony offense of robbery of Roman Barragan, and pursuant to that agreement, if any, they did carry out their conspiracy and that in Harris County, Texas, on or about the 24th day of October, 2009, while in the course of committing such robbery of Roman Barragan, David McFarland caused serious bodily injury to Roman Barragan by shooting Roman Barragan with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm, and said offense was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy and was an offense that should have been anticipated by the defendant as a result of carrying out the conspiracy, then you will find the defendant guilty of aggravated robbery.

If you believe from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of either capital murder on the one hand or aggravated robbery on the other hand, but you have a reasonable doubt as to which of said offenses he is guilty, then you must resolve that doubt in the defendant's favor and find him guilty of the lesser offense of aggravated robbery.

If you have a reasonable doubt as to whether the defendant is guilty of any offense defined in this charge you will acquit the defendant and say by your verdict "Not Guilty."

You are further instructed that if there is any evidence before you in this case regarding the defendant's committing an alleged offense or offenses other than the offense alleged against him in the indictment in this case, you cannot consider such evidence for any purpose unless you find and believe beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant committed such other offense or offenses, if any, and even then you may only consider the same in determining the motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or accident of the defendant, if any, in connection with the offense, if any, alleged against him in the indictment and for no other purpose.

You are instructed that a statement of an accused may be used in evidence against him if it appears that the same was freely and voluntarily made without compulsion or persuasion.

No oral statement of an accused made as a result of custodial interrogation shall be admissible against the accused in a criminal proceeding unless:

- (1) An electronic recording, which may include audio, motion picture, videotape, or other visual recording, is made of the statement;
- (2) Prior to the statement but during the recording the accused is given the following warning:
 - (a) he has the right to remain silent and not make any statement at all and that any statement he makes may be used against him at his trial;
 - (b) any statement he makes may be used as evidence against him in court;
 - (c) he has the right to have a lawyer present to advise him prior to and during any questioning;
 - (d) if he is unable to employ a lawyer, he has the right to have a lawyer appointed to advise him prior to and during any questioning;
 - (e) he has the right to terminate the interview at any time; and
 - (f) the accused knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives any rights set out in the warning;

(3) the recording device was capable of making an accurate recording, the operator was competent, and the recording is accurate and has not been altered; and

(4) all voices on the recording are identified.

So in this case, if you find from the evidence, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, that prior to the time the defendant gave the alleged oral statement or oral confession to Sergeant Cisneros, if he did give it, the said Sergeant Cisneros did not warn the defendant in the respects outlined above, or as to any one of such requirements, then you will wholly disregard the alleged oral confession and not consider it for any purpose nor any evidence obtained as a result thereof; if, however, you find beyond a reasonable doubt that the aforementioned warning was given the defendant prior to his having made such oral statement, if he did make it, still, before you may consider such oral statement as evidence in this case, you must find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that prior to and during such oral statement, if any, the defendant knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waived the rights hereinabove set out in the said warning, and unless you so find, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will not consider the oral statement or oral confession for any purpose whatsoever or any evidence obtained as a result of same.

For purposes of this case, a person is in Custody only if, under the circumstances, a reasonable person would believe that his freedom of movement was restrained to the degree associated with a formal arrest.

If a person is not in custody, the warning provided above does not apply.

You are instructed that NO evidence obtained by an officer or other person in violation of any provisions of the Constitution or laws of the State of Texas, shall be admitted in evidence against the accused on the trial of any criminal case.

A defendant in a criminal case is not bound by law to testify in his own behalf therein and the failure of any defendant to so testify shall not be taken as a circumstance against him nor shall the same be alluded to nor commented upon by the jury, and you must not refer to, mention, comment upon or discuss the failure of the defendant to testify in this case. If any juror starts to mention the defendant's failure to testify in this case then it is the duty of the other jurors to stop him at once.

A Grand Jury indictment is the means whereby a defendant is brought to trial in a felony prosecution. It is not evidence of guilt nor can it be considered by you in passing upon the question of guilt of the defendant. The burden of proof in all criminal cases rests upon the State throughout the trial and never shifts to the defendant.

All persons are presumed to be innocent and no person may be convicted of an offense unless each element of the offense is proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The fact that he has been arrested, confined, or indicted for, or otherwise charged with the offense gives rise to no inference of guilt at his trial. The law does not require a defendant to prove his innocence or produce any evidence at all. The presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to acquit the defendant, unless the jurors are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in the case.

The prosecution has the burden of proving the defendant guilty and it must do so by proving each and every element of the offense charged beyond a reasonable doubt and if it fails to do so, you must acquit the defendant.

It is not required that the prosecution prove guilt beyond all possible doubt; it is required that the prosecution's proof excludes all reasonable doubt concerning the defendant's guilt.

In the event you have a reasonable doubt as to the defendant's guilt after considering all the evidence before you,

and these instructions, you will acquit him and say by your verdict "Not Guilty."

You are the exclusive judges of the facts proved, of the credibility of the witnesses and the weight to be given their testimony, but the law you shall receive in these written instructions, and you must be governed thereby.

After you retire to the jury room, you should select one of your members as your Foreman. It is his or her duty to preside at your deliberations, vote with you, and when you have unanimously agreed upon a verdict, to certify to your verdict by using the appropriate form attached hereto and signing the same as Foreman.

During your deliberations in this case, you must not consider, discuss, nor relate any matters not in evidence before you. You should not consider nor mention any personal knowledge or information you may have about any fact or person connected with this case which is not shown by the evidence.

No one has any authority to communicate with you except the officer who has you in charge. After you have retired, you may communicate with this Court in writing through this officer. Any communication relative to the cause must be written, prepared and signed by the Foreman and shall be submitted to the court through this officer. Do not attempt to talk to the officer who has you in charge, or the attorneys, or the Court, or anyone else concerning any questions you may have.

Your sole duty at this time is to determine the guilt or innocence of the defendant under the indictment in this cause and

restrict your deliberations solely to the issue of guilt or innocence of the defendant.

Following the arguments of counsel, you will retire to consider your verdict.

Doug Shaver

Doug Shaver, Judge Presiding
177th District Court
Harris County, TEXAS

FILED

Loren Jackson
District Clerk

OCT 30 2013

Time: _____ 2:01 PM
By: _____
Harris County, Texas

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VS. § OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
JOHNATHAN ROSS NICKERSON § JULY TERM, A. D., 2013

CHOOSE ONE

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, guilty of capital murder, as charged in the indictment."

FILED
Loren Jackson
District Clerk

OCT 30 2013

Time: 5:32 PM

By: [Signature]
Deputy

[Signature]
Foreman of the Jury

Timothy Ward
(Please Print) Foreman

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, guilty of aggravated robbery."

Foreman of the Jury

(Please Print) Foreman

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Johnathan Ross Nickerson, not guilty."

Foreman of the Jury

(Please Print) Foreman