

CAUSE NUMBER CR-1106-07-C

THE STATE OF TEXAS
VS
ALFREDO VALDEZ

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IN THE 139th DISTRICT COURT
OF
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

CHARGE OF THE COURT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

The Defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, stands charged by indictment with the offense of Capital Murder, alleged to have been committed in Hidalgo County, Texas, on or about December 21, 2005; and to this charge the defendant has pled "Not Guilty."

1.

Our law provides that a person commits the offense of Murder when the person intentionally or knowingly causes the death of an individual.

A person commits the offense of Capital Murder when such person intentionally commits the Murder in the course of committing or attempting to commit the felony offense robbery or burglary of a habitation.

Our law provides that a person commits the offense of burglary of a habitation when, without the effective consent of the owner of the habitation, the person enters a habitation and attempts to commit or commits a felony.

Our law provides that a person commits the offense of robbery when, in the course of committing theft, as that term is hereinafter defined, and with intent to obtain or maintain control of property of another, he intentionally or knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another, or he intentionally or knowingly threatens or places another in fear of imminent bodily injury or death.

Our law provides that a person commits the offense of aggravated robbery when, if the person was committing robbery uses or exhibits a deadly weapon, or causes serious bodily injury to another.

"Enter" means to intrude any part of the body or any physical object connected with the body in to a habitation.

“Habitation” means a structure that is adapted for the overnight accommodation of persons, and includes: (a) each separately secured or occupied portion of the structure and (b) each structure appurtenant to or connected with the structure or vehicle.

“Theft” is the unlawful appropriation of property with intent to deprive the owner of said property.

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

“Appropriate” and “appropriation” mean 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” means tangible or intangible personal property or a document, including money that represent or embody 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 force, threats, deception or coercion.

“Owner” means a person who has a greater right to possession of the property than the defendant.

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

“Bodily injury” means physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition, including death.

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

“Deadly weapon” means a firearm or anything that in the manner of its use or intended use was capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

“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.

2. with respect

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

A person acts recklessly, or is reckless, with respect to circumstances surrounding his conduct or the result of his conduct when he is aware of but consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the circumstances exist or the result will occur. The risk must be of such a nature and degree that its disregard constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of care that an ordinary care that an ordinary person would exercise under all the circumstances as viewed from the actor's standpoint.

3.

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

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 a felony be committed, 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. You are instructed that the offenses of capital murder, murder, and burglary of a habitation, aggravated robbery, and robbery are all felony offenses.

The mere presence, if any, of the Defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, at the scene of the alleged offense, alone by itself, would not constitute him a party to the offense.

4.

Now if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 21st day of December, 2005, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, Alfredo Valdez, did then and there intentionally cause the death of an individual, namely, Larissa Cavazos, by shooting her with a firearm or striking her with a firearm or striking her with an object unknown to the grand jurors, and the defendant was then and there in the course of committing or attempting to commit the offense of robbery or burglary of a habitation of Larissa Cavazos, who was the owner of said habitation, OR

if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 21st day of December, 2005 in Hidalgo County, Texas, Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos did then and there intentionally cause the death of an individual, namely Larissa Cavazos, by shooting her with a firearm or by striking her with a firearm, or by striking her with an object unknown to the grand jurors, and the said Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos were then and there in the course of committing or attempting to commit the offense of burglary of habitation of Larissa Cavazos or the offense of robbery of Larissa Cavazos; and that the Defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, then and there knew of the intent, if any, of the said Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos to cause the death of Larissa Cavazos by shooting her with a firearm or by striking her with a firearm, or by striking ^{with an} object unknown to the grand jurors during the course of the committing or attempting to commit the offense of burglary of a habitation or robbery of Larissa Cavazos; and that with intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense of Capital Murder by Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos, the Defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, by forcing Larissa Cavazos to her knees with his hands or holding her down with his hands, during the commission of the offense, thereby encouraged, directed, aided or attempted to aid Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos to commit said offense of Capital Murder, then you will find the Defendant guilty of the offense of Capital Murder, OR

if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that ALFREDO VALDEZ, the defendant and Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos entered into a conspiracy to commit a burglary of habitation and/or a robbery, and that pursuant thereto did carry out, or attempt to carry out such conspiracy to commit burglary of the habitation or robbery on or about the 21st day of December, 2005 in Hidalgo County, Texas, in the course of committing the burglary of habitation or robbery of Larissa Cavazos, Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos intentionally caused the death of Larissa Cavazos by shooting her with a firearm or striking her with a firearm or striking

her with an object unknown to the grand jurors, and the defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, pursuant to said conspiracy, acted with intent to promote or assist Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos in the commission of the burglary of habitation and/or robbery, if any, by forcing Larissa Cavazos to her knees with his hands or holding her down with his hands, during the commission of the offense, and the killing of Larissa Cavazos by Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos, if there was such, was done in furtherance of the conspiracy to commit burglary of a habitation and/or robbery, if any, and was an offense that should have been anticipated as a result of the carrying out of the conspiracy, then you will find the defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, guilty of CAPITAL MURDER.

5.

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about DECEMBER 21, 2005, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, is guilty of intentionally or knowingly causing the death of Larissa Cavazos by shooting her with a firearm or striking her with a firearm or striking her with an object unknown to the grand jurors, but you have a reasonable doubt as to whether the Defendant was then and there engaged in the commission of burglary of habitation or robbery or attempted burglary of habitation or attempted robbery of Larissa Cavazos at the time of the said killing, if any, then you will find the Defendant guilty of Murder, but not Capital Murder, OR

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about DECEMBER 21, 2005, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, is guilty of knowingly causing the death of Larissa Cavazos by shooting her with a firearm or striking her with a firearm or striking her with an object unknown to the grand jurors, but you have a reasonable doubt as to whether the murder of Larissa Cavazos was with intent or intentionally committed, as the term "with intent" and "intentionally" have been defined herein, then you will find the Defendant guilty of Murder, but not Capital Murder, regardless of whether you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that Defendant was then and there in the course of committing or attempting to commit the offense of Burglary of a Habitation or Robbery, OR

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about DECEMBER 21, 2005, in Hidalgo County, Texas, that Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos knowingly caused the death of Larissa Cavazos by shooting her with a firearm or striking her with a firearm or striking her with an object unknown to the grand jurors, but you have a reasonable doubt as to

whether the murder of Larissa Cavazos by Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos was with intent or intentionally committed, as the term “with intent” and “intentionally” have been defined herein, and you find that the Defendant acted with intent to promote or assist Mario Quintanilla and/or Jesus Oscar Arcos in knowingly causing the death of Larissa Cavazos, then you will find the Defendant guilty of Murder, but not Capital Murder, regardless of whether you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that Defendant was then and there in the course of committing or attempting to commit the offense of Burglary of a Habitation or Robbery.

You are instructed that if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant is guilty of Capital Murder or of Murder under these instructions, but you have a reasonable doubt as to of which offense he is guilty, then you should resolve that doubt in the favor of the Defendant and, in such event, you will find the Defendant Guilty of Murder.

Unless you unanimously find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant is guilty of Capital Murder, and unless you unanimously find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of Murder, as defined herein, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will acquit the Defendant of Capital Murder and Murder, and next consider whether the Defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, is guilty of the lesser offense of burglary of a habitation.

6.

The offense of Capital Murder as defined in these instructions includes the lesser offense of burglary of a habitation.

Our law provides that a person commits the offense of burglary of a habitation when, without the effective consent of the owner of the habitation, the person enters a habitation and attempts to commit or commits a felony. The offenses of aggravated robbery and robbery are felonies.

Now, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 21st day of December, 2005 in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, ALFREDO VALDEZ, did then and there intentionally or knowingly enter a habitation, without the effective consent of Larissa Cavazos, the owner thereof, and attempted to commit or committed the felony offense of robbery,

or aggravated robbery, then you will find the defendant GUILTY of the offense of burglary of a habitation.

Unless you unanimously find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of Burglary of a Habitation as defined in this paragraph, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will acquit the defendant of Burglary of a Habitation as defined in this paragraph, and say by your verdict "Not Guilty".

7.

You are instructed that the Defendant may be convicted of only one of the offenses defined in these instructions, to wit: Capital Murder, Murder, or Burglary of a Habitation; and that the defendant can be convicted only as to that offense, if any, which is proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

8.

You are instructed that you may consider all relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the killing, if any, and the previous relationship existing between the accused and the deceased, if any, together with all relevant facts and circumstances going to show the condition of the mind of the accused at the time of the shooting in question, if any.

9.

You are instructed that voluntary intoxication does not constitute a defense to the commission of a crime.

"Intoxication" means the disturbance or mental or physical capacity resulting from the introduction of any substance into the body.

10.

Our law provides that a Defendant may testify in his own behalf if he elects to do so. This, however, is a privilege accorded a Defendant, and in the event he elects not to testify, that fact cannot be taken as a circumstance against him. In this case, the Defendant has elected not to testify, and you are instructed that you cannot and must not refer or allude to that fact throughout your deliberations or take it into consideration for any purpose whatsoever as a circumstance against the Defendant.

11.

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 issue 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 a person 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 ^{the} Defendant 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. You will be governed by the law you shall receive in these written instructions.

When you retire to the jury room, you should first select one of your members as Presiding Juror. It is the Presiding Juror's 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 thereto, and signing the same as Presiding Juror.

In order to return a verdict, each juror must agree thereto, but jurors have a duty to consult with each other and to deliberate with a view of reaching an agreement, if it can be done without violence to individual judgment.

Each juror must decide the case for himself or herself, but only after an impartial consideration of the evidence with his or her fellow jurors.

In the course of deliberations, a juror should not hesitate to re-examine his or her own views and change his or her opinion if convinced it is erroneous. However, no juror should surrender his or her honest conviction as to the weight or effect of the evidence solely because of the opinion of his or her fellow jurors, or for the mere purpose of returning a verdict.

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.

You should not discuss or consider punishment for the offense charged for any purpose. You must concern yourselves solely with the question of guilt or innocence of the Defendant under these written instructions without regard to any possible punishment imposed by law for the offense charged.

During your deliberations, you are instructed that you should not consider the remarks, rulings or actions of the presiding judge during this trial as any indication of the Court's opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the Defendant. The remarks, rulings and actions of the presiding judge were upon matters of the law only and were not upon the facts which you, and you alone, must determine.

While you are deliberating, no one has authority to communicate with you except the officer who has you in charge being the Bailiff. However, after you have retired, you may communicate with the Court as to any questions you may have, but that communication must be in writing through the officer of the Court.

When you have reached a verdict you will notify the bailiff in writing, as to reaching a verdict, but not what the verdict is.

Do not let bias, prejudice, or sympathy play any part in your deliberations.

Your verdict must be unanimous, and after you have reached a unanimous verdict, the Presiding Juror will certify thereto by signing the appropriate form attached to this charge.

Filed on this the 17th day of February, 2009, at 2:09 o'clock ~~a.m.~~ p.m.



J.R. "BOBBY" FLORES
JUDGE PRESIDING
139TH DISTRICT COURT
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS