

FILED  
AT 8:49 O'CLOCK A.M.

NOV 01 2017

CAUSE NUMBER CR-0623-16-G  
(COUNT ONE)

LAURA HINOJOSA, CLERK  
District Courts, Hidalgo County  
37011 DISTRICT COURT Deputy#13

THE STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE  
VS § OF  
MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON § HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

CHARGE OF THE COURT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

The Defendant, MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON, stands charged by indictment with the offense of Capital Murder, alleged to have been committed in Hidalgo County, Texas, on or about January 28, 2015; 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 commits the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration.

2.

The term "individual" means a human being who is alive, including an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth.

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.

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 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. Each party to an offense may be charged with the commission of the offense.

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.

During trial, you were given an instruction regarding your consideration of recordings of conversations between the defendant and Celestina Mascorro. You are instructed that the statements of Celestina Mascorro in the recordings were offered only to provide context and allow the jury to understand the defendant's responses, and not for the truth of Celestina Mascorro's statements contained in those recordings. You are instructed that you are to consider Celestina Mascorro's statements on the recordings for that purpose only and not for the truth of the statements made by Celestina Mascorro in the recordings. The statements of the defendant were admitted for all purposes.

3.

Now, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant, MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON, acting with Angel Mario Garza as a party to the offense, on or about the 28th day of January, 2015, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did then and there intentionally or knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely Martin Knell, by asphyxiating Martin Knell with an object unknown to the grand jurors, for remuneration or the promise of remuneration, namely, money, or the estate of Martin Knell, and that the Defendant, MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON, acting with intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense by Angel Mario Garza solicited, encouraged, directed, aided, or attempted to aid Angel Mario Garza to commit the offense of capital murder for remuneration, then you will find the defendant, MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON, guilty of CAPITAL MURDER;

Unless you so find beyond a reasonable doubt, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will acquit the Defendant of the offense of CAPITAL MURDER, and you will next consider the lesser included offense of MURDER.

4.

Now, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant, MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON, acting with Angel Mario Garza as a party to the offense, on or about the 28th day of January, 2015, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did then and there intentionally or knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely Martin Knell, by asphyxiating Martin Knell with an object unknown to the grand jurors, and that the Defendant, MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON, acting with intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense by Angel Mario Garza solicited, encouraged, directed, aided, or attempted to aid Angel Mario Garza to commit the offense of murder, then you will find the defendant, MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON, guilty of MURDER.

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 which offense she is guilty, then you should resolve that doubt in favor of the Defendant and, in such event, you will find the Defendant, MONICA MELISSA PATTERSON, guilty of MURDER.

Unless you unanimously find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant is guilty of Capital Murder, or 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 say by your verdict "Not Guilty".

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

5.

You are instructed that you may consider all relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the death of Martin Knell, 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 offense in question, if any.

6.

Our law provides that a Defendant may testify in her own behalf if she elects to do so. This, however, is a privilege accorded a Defendant, and in the event she elects not to testify, that fact cannot be taken as a circumstance against her. 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.

7.

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 her trial. The law does not require a Defendant to prove her 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. If the prosecution 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 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 1<sup>ST</sup> day of November, 2017, at 8:49 o'clock (a.m.) p.m.

  
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NOE GONZALEZ  
JUDGE PRESIDING  
370TH DISTRICT COURT  
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS