

Final Court's Instruction Post-Closing Arguments

Suggestions for Deliberation Procedures (WPI 6.18 modified)

Now that you've heard the court's instructions on the law and the closing arguments, you are ready to begin your deliberations. You are free to conduct your deliberations in any way that seems suitable to you and is consistent with the instructions, which I've read orally and given to you in writing. Personal phones or electronic devices should not be used during deliberations.

As you deliberate, consider the following suggested guidelines:

- Respect each other's opinions and the different viewpoints each of you brings to the process. Don't be afraid to speak up and express your views.
- Be patient and generous in allowing everyone an opportunity to speak. Differences of opinion are healthy.
- Don't rush into a verdict to save time. The parties in this case deserve your thoughtful deliberation. The jury system depends on it.
- Carefully consider the evidence, discuss the issues fully and fairly with the other jurors, and listen to each other's views.

You should organize your discussions in whatever way you believe will be productive and fair. Some juries begin by reviewing the court's instructions on the law. Others begin by proceeding around the table with each juror in turn identifying the issues or concerns he or she would like to have discussed. Those are only 2 ideas.

There is no set way to conduct a vote. You might vote by show of hands, by voice vote, or by written ballot. Use a method that will encourage each juror to freely express opinions and conclusions.

These remarks are merely suggestions.