PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE UNIFORM JURY INSTRUCTIONS – CRIMINAL PROPOSAL 2025-015

March 6, 2025

The Uniform Jury Instructions-Criminal Committee has recommended the adoption of new UJIs 14-1610A, 14-1612, 14-1613, 14-1614, 14-1615, 14-1616, 14-1617, and 14-1618 NMRA and amendments to UJIs 14-1610 and 14-1611 NMRA for the Supreme Court's consideration.

If you would like to comment on the proposed amendments set forth below before the Court takes final action, you may do so by either submitting a comment electronically through the Supreme Court's website at https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov/rules-forms-files/rules-forms/open-for-comment/ or sending your written comments by mail, email, or fax to:

Elizabeth A. Garcia, Chief Clerk of Court New Mexico Supreme Court P.O. Box 848 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0848 rules.supremecourt@nmcourts.gov 505-827-4837 (fax)

Your comments must be received by the Clerk on or before April 5, 2025, to be considered by the Court. Please note that any submitted comments may be posted on the Supreme Court's website for public viewing. 14-1610. Shoplifting; conversion of property without payment; essential elements. 1 For you to find the defendant guilty of shoplifting [as charged in Count $1^{[1]2}$ the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable doubt each of the following elements of the crime: 1. [The defendant] (name of defendant) **Itook** possession^{[2]3} of]^{[3]4} [concealed] ___ (describe merchandise); This merchandise had [a] an aggregated retail market value [4] [over ^{[5]6}]; \$ This merchandise was offered for sale to the public [in a store;]⁶] by (name of retailer or store), a retailer⁷, located at retailer or store); At the time [the defendant] ___ (name of defendant) took this 4. (name of defendant) intended to take it without merchandise, [the defendant] paying for it; This happened in New Mexico on or about the 5. day of **USE NOTES** If using the aggregated retail market value of merchandise based on a person

engaging in shoplifting more than once over a ninety (90)-day period pursuant to Section 30-16-

- 20 (D) NMSA 1978 (2023), each discrete act of shoplifting should be instructed separately unless the parties agree to include multiple instances within a single instruction, in which case this instruction may be modified accordingly. If there is dispute as to whether the incidents occurred within a ninety (90)-day period, a special verdict form in UJI 14-1610A NMRA should be used.
- [1.] 2. Insert the count number if more than one count is charged. If a particular count number includes multiple instances of shoplifting within a ninety (90)-day period which the parties instruct on separately, then a letter referring to each incident should be given after the count number.
 - [2.] 3. Use UJI 14-130 NMRA if "possession" is in issue.
 - [3.] 4. Use applicable alternative.
- [4.] <u>5.</u> See UJI [<u>14-1602</u>] <u>14-1617 NMRA</u> for <u>the</u> definition of <u>aggregated retail</u> market value. Use this bracketed provision for merchandise if the value is over \$250. State whether the value of the merchandise at issue is "over \$250," "over \$500," "over \$2,500," or "over \$20,000." If the charge is a petty misdemeanor (\$250 or less), do not use this bracketed provision.
- [5-] 6. If the charge is a second degree felony (over \$20,000), use \$20,000 in the blank. If the charge is a third degree felony (over \$2,500), use \$2,500 in the blank. If the charge is a fourth degree felony (over \$500), use \$500 in the blank.
- [6-] 7. [For use if there is an issue as to whether or not the items taken were merchandise in a store.] If there is an issue as to whether the merchandise was taken from a retailer, UJI 14-1618 NMRA, the definition of "retailer," should be given.

[As amended by Supreme Court Order No. 10-8300-039, effective December 31, 2010; <u>as amended by Supreme Court Order No.</u>, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after ____.]

Committee commentary. — <u>See NMSA 1978, § 30-16-22.</u> UJI 14-1610 <u>NMRA</u> is to be used when the defendant is accused of taking possession of or concealing merchandise with the intent to convert it without paying for it. UJI 14-1611 <u>NMRA</u> is to be used when the defendant is accused of altering a price tag or other marking on the merchandise or transferring the merchandise from one container to another with the intent to deprive the merchant of all or part of its value.

[Although the statute, in defining degrees of the offense, uses the term "value," without specifying how value is to be determined, the statute is interpreted to mean "market value." *State v. Richardson*, 89 N.M. 30, 546 P.2d 878 (Ct. App. 1976). *See also* commentary to UJI 14-1602.]

NMSA 1978, Section 30-16-22 [NMSA 1978] creates two presumptions in the offense of shoplifting. The first is the presumption that one who willfully conceals merchandise intends to convert it. The second is the presumption that merchandise found concealed on a person or in his belongings has been willfully concealed. If the state is relying on either of these presumptions, UJI 14-5061 NMRA, Presumptions or inferences, should be given.

Section 30-16-20 was amended in 2023 to provide definitions for "aggregated retail market value" and "retailer," which are now set forth in UJI 14-1617 NMRA and UJI 14-1618 NMRA, respectively. See Laws 2023, ch. 194, § 1 (effective June 16, 2023). In addition, the Legislature added Subsection D, permitting the prosecution to charge an individual with larceny "based on either the aggregated retail market value of merchandise shoplifted from a single retailer at a single location or in a single charge based on the aggregated retail market value of merchandise shoplifted" when the "individual has engaged in shoplifting more than once over a ninety-day period." See § 30-16-22(D). Although this language gives prosecutors the option of either pursuing

multiple incidents of shoplifting as separate charges or of relying upon multiple incidents of shoplifting to elevate a single charge to a higher degree of offense, the Committee believes that each discrete act of shoplifting should be instructed separately unless the parties agree otherwise. The Committee believes that separate instructions for each discrete incident will ensure that the jury resolves any disputes about a defendant's involvement at a particular location on a particular date or about the amount taken from that location on that date.

Furthermore, if the parties dispute that the incidents occurred within a ninety-day period and determination of precise dates is required, the Committee believes that use of the special verdict form in UJI 14-1610A NMRA will ensure that the jury resolves the dispute. The Committee does not believe such specificity is necessary for the date requirement in UJI 14-1610 because it applies to both separately charged and combined incidents. Additionally, a more generalized date range, as represented by the "on or about" language contained in UJI 14-1610, may not give rise to disputes about whether the incidents occurred in a ninety (90)-day period. Finally, even if the jury uses the special verdict form in UJI 14-1610A and finds that the specific date of an incident is outside the ninety (90)-day period allowing for aggregation, the conviction can be upheld as a standalone incident based on the jury's findings under UJI 14-1610.

[As amended by	Supreme Order No.	 , effective fo	or all	cases	pending	or f	filed	on	or
after .]				_				

[NEW MATERIAL]

14-1610A. Special verdict; multiple shoplifting incidents within ninety (90) days. 1
If you find the defendant guilty of more than one incident of shoplifting as charged in
Count (list count number involving aggregated shoplifting incidents), you must determine
f these incidents occurred within a ninety (90)-day period, beginning (date of first
shoplifting incident included in count) and ending (date of last shoplifting incident
included in count), and indicate your finding below:
(a) (name of retailer or store) located at (address of
retailer or store), occurring on (list a specific day) as charged in Count 1(a);
VFS NO

NO

_____ (name of retailer or store) located at _____ (address of

USE NOTES

retailer or store), occurring on _____ (list a specific day) as charged in Count 1(b).2

YES

1. If the prosecution is using the aggregated retail market value of merchandise based on an individual engaging in shoplifting more than once over a ninety (90)-day period pursuant to Section 30-16-20(D) NMSA 1978 (2023) and there is dispute as to whether the incidents occurred within a ninety (90)-day period, then this special verdict form should be used.

2. If additional shoplifting incidents occurred and there is dispute as to whether these occurred within the ninety (90)-day period, add lines for each incident included in the ninety (90)-
day period requiring further factual resolution.
[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No, effective for all cases pending or filed
on or after]
on or arci
Committee commentary. — See NMSA 1978, § 30-16-20. See committee commentary to UJI 14-1610 NMRA.
[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No, effective for all cases pending or filed
on or after]
14-1611. Shoplifting; alteration of label or container; essential elements. 1
For you to find the defendant guilty of shoplifting [as charged in Count $ ^{[+]2}$,
the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable doubt each of the following elements
of the crime:
1. [The defendant] (name of defendant) [altered a label, price tag or
marking upon $(describe \ merchandise)^{[2]3}$ [transferred $(describe \ merchandise)$] from the container [in] [on] ^{[2]3} which it was
displayed to another container];
2. The [altered] [transferred] ^{[2]3} merchandise had $[a]$ an aggregated retail market
value $^{[3]4}$ [over \$
[f]3. The [altered] [transferred] $\frac{[2]3}{}$ merchandise was offered for sale to the public by
(name of retailer or store), a retailer of located at (address of retailer); [in
a store;] ⁵]
4. [The defendant] (name of defendant) intended to deprive
(name of [merchant] retailer) of all or some part of the value of this
merchandise;
5. This happened in New Mexico on or about the day of
USE NOTES
1. If using the aggregated retail market value of merchandise based on a person
engaging in shoplifting more than once over a ninety (90)-day period pursuant to Section 30-16-
20 (D) NMSA 1978 (2023), each discrete act of shoplifting should be instructed separately unless
the parties agree to include multiple instances within a single instruction, in which case this
instruction may be modified accordingly. If there is dispute as to whether the incidents occurred
within a ninety (90)-day period, a special verdict form in UJI 14-1610A NMRA should be used.
[1.] 2. Insert the count number if more than one count is charged. If a particular count
number includes multiple instances of shoplifting within a ninety (90)-day period which the parties
instruct on separately, then a letter referring to each incident should be given after the count
number

- [2.] 3. Use applicable alternative.
- [3.] 4. See UJI [14-1602] 14-1617 NMRA for the definition of aggregated retail market value. Use this bracketed provision for merchandise if the value is over \$250. State whether the value of the merchandise at issue is "over \$250," "over \$500," "over \$2,500," or "over \$20,000." If the charge is a petty misdemeanor (\$250 or less), do not use this bracketed alternative.

- [4.] 5. If the charge is a second degree felony (over \$20,000), use \$20,000 in the blank. If the charge is a third degree felony (over \$2,500), use \$2,500 in the blank. If the charge is a fourth degree felony (over \$500), use \$500 in the blank. If the charge is a misdemeanor (over \$250), use \$250 in the blank. [5.] 6. [For use if there is an issue as to whether or not the items were merchandise in a store.] If there is an issue as to whether the merchandise was taken from a retailer, UJI 14-1618 NMRA, the definition of "retailer," should be given. [As amended by Supreme Court Order No. 10-8300-039, effective December 31, 2010; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. , effective for all cases pending or filed on Committee commentary. — See NMSA 1978, § 30-16-20. See committee commentary to UJI 14-1610 NMRA. [As amended by Supreme Court Order No. , effective for all cases pending or filed on or after .1 [NEW MATERIAL] 14-1612. Aggravated shoplifting. For you to find the defendant guilty of aggravated shoplifting [as charged in Count ¹, the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable doubt each of the following elements of the crime: _____ (name of defendant) [took possession of] 1. _____(describe merchandise); [concealed]² This merchandise was offered for sale to the public by 2. (name of retailer or store), a retailer³, located at (address of retailer or store): At the time _____ (name of defendant) took this merchandise, _____(name of defendant) intended to take it without paying for it: 4. Immediately after shoplifting, _____ (name of defendant) [unlawfully]⁴ assaulted or struck at another⁵ with a [_____]⁶ [deadly weapon. The defendant used a (name of instrument or object). A _____ (name of instrument or object) is a deadly weapon only if you find that a _____ (name of object), when used as a weapon, could cause death or great bodily harm⁷]⁸; and (name of defendant) acted with the intent to [retain possession of stolen property] [or] [effect an escape from the scene of an act of shoplifting]⁹; This happened in New Mexico on or about the day of **USE NOTES**
 - Insert the count number if more than one count is charged. 1.
- Use the applicable alternative form of shoplifting from UJI 14-1610 NMRA. If the defendant is charged with shoplifting by alteration or transfer in accordance with UJI 14-1611 NMRA, the elements for that theory of shoplifting should be given in place of or in addition to these alternatives.

- 3. If there is an issue as to whether a retailer was involved, UJI 14-1618 NMRA, the definition of "retailer," must be given.
- 4. If the "unlawfulness" of the act is in issue, UJI 14-132 NMRA is given. If the issue of "lawfulness" involves self-defense or defense of another, *see* UJI 14-5181 NMRA to UJI 14-5184 NMRA.
 - 5. The elements of assault should be given, *see* UJI 14-301 NMRA.
- 6. Insert the name of the weapon. Use this alternative only if the deadly weapon is specifically listed in Section 30-1-12(B) NMSA 1978.
 - 7. UJI 14-131 NMRA, the definition of "great bodily harm," must also be given.

8. T	This alternative is	given only if th	e object u	sed is not sp	ecifically lis	sted in Section
30-1-12(B) NM	SA 1978.					
9. L	Jse the applicable	alternative.				
[Adopted by Su	preme Court Orde	er No	, eff	fective for all	cases pend	ing or filed on
or after					_	
	tee commentary.					-
	ve amendment to					
	E, and F, allowing					for the charge
of aggravated sh	oplifting. See Lav	vs 2023, ch. 194	4, § 1 (eff	ective June 1	6, 2023).	
[Adopted by Suj	preme Court Orde	er No	, eff	fective for all	cases pend	ing or filed on
or after]					
NEW MATER	<u>rial</u>]					
14-1613. Organ	nized retail crime	e; theft.				
For you	to find	(name o	f defenda	nt) guilty of	organized re	etail crime [as
charged in Cour	nt] ¹	, the state must	prove to	your satisfac	ction beyond	d a reasonable
doubt each of th	e following eleme	ents of the crime	e :			
1.	(n	ame of defenda	(nt) and a	nother person	n or persons	acted with an
organized plan t	o steal merchandi	se from [a retai	ler ²] ³ [reta	ilers];		
2. T	The aggregated ret	ail market valu	e ⁴ of the	merchandise	stolen was	two thousand
five hundred do	llars (\$2,500) or m	nore;				
3.	(n	name of defend	ant) inter	nded to [sell]] ³ [exchange	e] [return] the
merchandise for					_	
4. T	This happened in	New Mexico	on or	about the		day of
	,	$]^3$ [wit	hin the	span of o	one year,	between the
	day of			, and th	ie	day of
	-					

USE NOTES

- 1. Insert the count number if more than one count is charged.
- 2. If there is an issue as to whether the merchandise was taken from a retailer, UJI 14-1618 NMRA, the definition of "retailer," should be given.
 - 3. Use the applicable alternative.
- 4. If there is dispute as to the value of the merchandise, UJI 14-1617 NMRA, the definition of "aggregated retail market value" should be given.

[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after]
Committee commentary. — See NMSA 1978, § 30-16-20.1. Sections 30-16-20.1 (A)(1) and (A)(2) of the statute penalize a person for acting "in concert with" others to steal merchandise or receive, purchase, or possess stolen merchandise. "In concert with" is not defined in New Mexico law, but Section 30-16-20.1(A)(3) uses the term "an organized plan." For consistency and clarity, the Committee uses the language set forth in Subsection (A)(3) for the instant instruction. [Adopted by Supreme Court Order No, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after]
[NEW MATERIAL]
14-1614. Organized retail crime; possession.
For you to find (name of defendant) guilty of organized retail crime [as charged in Count] ¹ , the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable
charged in Count] ¹ , the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable
doubt each of the following elements of the crime:
1 (name of defendant) [and another person or persons acted with an organized plan to [receive] ² [purchase] [or] [possess ³] merchandise stolen from [a retailer ⁴] ²
[retailers];
2. (name of defendant) knew or believed the merchandise was stolen; 3. The aggregated retail market value ⁵ of the merchandise stolen was two thousand
3. The aggregated retail market value ⁵ of the merchandise stolen was two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or more;
4. This happened in New Mexico [on or about the day of
12 [within the span of one year between the
day of and the
USE NOTES
1. Insert the count number if more than one count is charged.
2. Use the applicable alternative.
3. Use UJI 14-130 NMRA if "possession" is in issue.
4. If there is an issue as to whether the merchandise was taken from a retailer, UJI 14-
1618 NMRA, the definition of "retailer," should be given.
5. If there is dispute as to the value of the merchandise, UJI 14-1617 NMRA, the
definition of "aggregated retail market value," should be given.
[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No, effective for all cases pending or filed on or
after]
Committee commentary. — See NMSA 1978, § 30-16-20.1. Sections 30-16-20.1 (A)(1)
and $(A)(2)$ of the statute penalize a person for acting "in concert with" others to steal merchandise
or receive, purchase, or possess stolen merchandise. "In concert with" is not defined in New
Mexico law, but Section 30-16-20.1(A)(3) uses the term "an organized plan." For consistency and
clarity, the Committee uses the language set forth in Subsection (A)(3) for the instant instruction.
[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No, effective for all cases pending or filed on or
after 1

[NEW MATERIAL]
14-1615. Organized retail crime; agent.
For you to find (name of defendant) guilty of organized retail crime [a charged in Count] ¹ , the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable
charged in Count] ¹ , the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable
doubt each of the following elements of the crime:
1(name of defendant) and another person or persons had an organized
plan to steal merchandise from [a retailer ²] ³ [retailers];
2(name of defendant) acted under the direction, influence or control
of another person or persons;
3. The aggregated retail market value ⁴ of the merchandise stolen was two thousand
five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or more;
4 This begans die New Merrice feet en about the
, 1 ³ [within the span of one year, between the
4. This happened in New Mexico [on or about the day of,] ³ [within the span of one year, between the day of, and the day of,].
of
USE NOTES
1. Insert the count number if more than one count is charged.
2. If there is an issue as to whether the merchandise was taken from a retailer, UJI 14
1618 NMRA, the definition of "retailer," should be given.
3. Use the applicable alternative.
4. If there is dispute as to the value of the merchandise, UJI 14-1617 NMRA, the
definition of "aggregated retail market value," should be given.
[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No, effective for all cases pending or filed on o
after .]
anti]
Committee commentary. — NMSA 1978, § 30-16-20.1. The statute at issue does no
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provide a definition for "agent." Consequently, the Committee utilized the definition for agen from UJI 14-5160 NMRA.
[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No, effective for all cases pending or filed on o
after]
[NEW MATERIAL]
14-1616. Organized retail crime; leader.
For you to find (name of defendant) guilty of organized retail crime [a charged in Count] ¹ , the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable
charged in Count]', the state must prove to your satisfaction beyond a reasonable
doubt each of the following elements of the crime:
1. (name of defendant) recruited, coordinated, organized, supervised
directed, managed or financed another to commit:
[organized retail crime] ²
[a crime involving the theft of merchandise] ³ ;
2. This happened in New Mexico on or about the day o
USE NOTES
1. Insert the count number if more than one count is charged.

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2. Unless the court has previously instructed on the essential elements for th	ıe
associated offense, the essential elements of the applicable theory of organized retail crime from	m
Section 30-16-20.1(A)(1)-(3) NMSA 1978, as contained in UJI 14-1613 NMRA to UJI 14-161	5
NMRA, should be given immediately after this instruction. To instruct on the elements of a	ın
uncharged offense, UJI 14-140 NMRA must be used.	
3. Unless the court has previously instructed on the essential elements of th	ıe

This instruction applies to offenses contained in UJI 14-1610 NMRA to UJI 14-1	616
NMRA. When there is dispute as to whether a "retailer" was involved, it should be go	
immediately after the applicable UJI.	
[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No. , effective for all cases pending or filed on or a	after
]	



Alyssa Segura <supams@nmcourts.gov>

[rules.supremecourt-grp] Open for Comment Form submitted on Supreme Court

1 message

Supreme Court <noreply@nmcourts.gov> Reply-To: noreply@nmcourts.gov To: rules.supremecourt@nmcourts.gov Fri, Mar 28, 2025 at 2:30 PM

Name	Fred
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Proposal Number	2025-015 / 2025-017
Comment	What is the thinking behind putting the name of the defendant in the elements instead of just "the defendant"? Is this going to be done for all UJIs?

Name Fred Van Soelen

Phone Number 575-742-7510

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Proposal Number 2025-015 / 2025-017

Comment

What is the thinking behind putting the name of the defendant in the elements instead of just "the defendant"? Is this going to be done for all UJIs?