

1 **HOW TO USE**

2 It is intended that in preparing instructions for a particular case, they be personalized. In
3 other words, reference should be made without hesitation throughout the instructions to the
4 particular names of the individuals involved in the lawsuit and the time and place in question. In
5 addition, these instructions use gender neutral pronouns or language when referring to the
6 individuals involved in the lawsuit. Users may change gender neutral pronouns and language to
7 any of the following personal pronouns throughout the instructions: he/him/his, she/her/hers, or
8 they/them/theirs.

9 Frequently, the user will find blanks that must be completed and at other places are words
10 in brackets or parentheses which need to be adapted in accordance with the acts in each particular
11 case.

12 Illustrative sets of instructions are also incorporated herein. It is suggested that the user
13 thoughtfully review the examples given.

14 In these instructions, the words [~~"shall", "will" and "is to be"~~] "shall," "will," and "is to be"
15 are intended as mandatory; [~~"should" and "may"~~] "should" and "may" are permissive or directory.

16 Instructions to the jury should commence with a statement of the issues which the jury is
17 to determine. (The trial judge is not to read the pleadings.) The jury should know at the outset of
18 deliberation specifically the questions for its determination, and all other instructions serve only
19 as a guide to such conclusion.

20 [As amended, effective November 1, 1991; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-
21 2025-00126, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after December 31, 2025.]