

197 INSTRUCTION AFTER VERDICT IS RECEIVED

Your service in this case is completed. Many jurors ask if they are allowed to discuss the case with others after receipt of the verdict. Because your role in the case is over, you are not prohibited from discussing the case with anyone except that you may not disclose the identity of the child(ren) or the family. However, you should know that you do not have to discuss the case with anyone or answer any questions about it from anyone other than the court. This includes the parties, lawyers, or anyone else.

If you do decide to discuss the case with anyone, I would suggest you treat any discussion with a degree of solemnity such that whatever you do say, you would be willing to say in the presence of your fellow jurors or under oath here in open court in the presence of the parties. It is in the public interest that there be the utmost freedom of debate in the jury room and that jurors be permitted to express their views without fear of incurring the anger of any litigants or criticism of any person. Please respect the privacy of the views of your fellow jurors.

I want to remind you that because this case involves (a child) (children) and is being heard by the Children=s court, these proceedings are confidential. The child(ren) and the family involved in these proceedings have a statutory right to the protection of their identities. I caution you that any person, including a juror, who discloses the identity of the child(ren) or the family is subject to sanctions for contempt of court.

Finally, should any of you have questions for the court before leaving today, please let the bailiff know before you leave the jury room. You may confer with me at any time before answering any questions asked by anyone.

COMMENT

This instruction was approved in 2017. It was adapted from Wis JI-Civil 197.