

**145 SPECIAL VERDICT QUESTIONS: INTERRELATIONSHIP**

Some questions in the verdict are to be answered only if you have answered a preceding question in a certain manner. It is important for you to read the introductory portion of each question carefully before you answer it. Do not answer questions you are not required to answer.

**COMMENT**

This instruction was originally approved by the Committee in 1972 and was revised in 1985, 2004, and 2010. The comment was updated in 1982 and 2016.

Prefatory instructions to a special verdict question which instruct the jury not to answer the question unless it has answered a previous question in a certain manner do not violate the rule against informing the jury of the effect of its answers. Papenfus v. Shell Oil Co., 254 Wis. 233, 238, 35 N.W.2d 920, 923 (1949); John A. Decker and John R. Decker, "Special Verdict Formulation in Wisconsin," 60 Marq. L. Rev. 201 (1977). For medical negligence verdict questions, see Wis JI-Civil 1023 (Comment).

The form of a special verdict is discretionary with the trial court. A reviewing court will not interfere as long as material issues of fact are encompassed within the questions and appropriate instructions are given. Meurer v. ITT General Controls, 90 Wis.2d 438, 280 N.W.2d 156 (1979); Murray v. Holiday Rambler, Inc., 83 Wis.2d 406 265 N.W.2d 513 (1978).