

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. 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, the media, 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.

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

The instruction and comment were originally approved in 1972. The instruction was revised in 1995 and 2010.

The instruction is strongly recommended, but its use is not mandatory. It may be appropriate in cases where the jury might find it helpful to be advised by the court that it is solely their decision whether to discuss their jury service with others.