

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JUSTIN JAMES SCHNEIDER,

Defendant.

1:23-CR-10002-MAM

FINAL JURY INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTION NO. 1

Members of the jury, the instructions I gave you at the beginning of the trial and during the trial remain in effect. I now give you some additional instructions. The instructions I am about to give you now are in writing and will be available to you in the jury room.

You must, of course, continue to follow the instructions I gave you earlier, as well as those I give you now. You must not single out some instructions and ignore others, because all are important.

All instructions, whenever given and whether in writing or not, must be followed.

INSTRUCTION NO. 2

It is your duty to find from the evidence what the facts are. You will then apply the law, as I give it to you, to those facts. You must follow my instructions on the law, even if you thought the law was different or should be different.

Do not allow sympathy or prejudice to influence you. The law demands of you a just verdict, unaffected by anything except the evidence, your common sense, and the law as I give it to you.

INSTRUCTION NO. 3

I have mentioned the word “evidence.” The “evidence” in this case consists of the testimony of witnesses, the documents and other things received as exhibits, and the facts that have been stipulated – that is, formally agreed to by the parties.

You may use reason and common sense to draw deductions or conclusions from facts which have been established by the evidence in the case.

Certain things are not evidence. I will list those things again for you now:

1. Statements, arguments, questions and comments by lawyers representing the parties in the case are not evidence.
2. Objections are not evidence. The lawyers have a right to object when they believe something is improper. You should not be influenced by the objection. If I sustained an objection to a question, then you must ignore the question and must not try to guess what the answer might have been.
3. Testimony that I struck from the record, or told you to disregard, is not evidence and must not be considered.
4. Anything you saw or heard about this case outside the courtroom is not evidence.

When you were instructed that evidence was received for a limited purpose, you must follow that instruction.

INSTRUCTION NO. 4

In determining what the facts are, you may have to decide what testimony you believe and what testimony you do not believe. You may believe all of what a witness said, only part of it, or none of it.

In deciding what testimony of any witness to believe, consider the witness's intelligence, the opportunity the witness had to have seen or heard the things testified about, the witness's memory, any motives that witness may have for testifying a certain way, the manner of the witness while testifying, whether that witness said something different at an earlier time, the general reasonableness of the testimony, and the extent to which the testimony is consistent with any evidence that you believe.

In deciding whether or not to believe a witness, keep in mind that people sometimes hear or see things differently and sometimes forget things. You need to consider therefore whether a contradiction is an innocent misrecollection or lapse of memory or an intentional falsehood, and that may depend on whether it has to do with an important fact or only a small detail.

INSTRUCTION NO. 5

The Indictment in this case charges Justin James Schneider with assault by striking, beating, and wounding. He has pleaded not guilty to this charge.

The Indictment is simply the document that formally charges Schneider with the crime for which he is on trial. The Indictment is not evidence of anything. At the beginning of the trial, I instructed you that you must presume Schneider to be innocent. Thus, Schneider began the trial with a clean slate, with no evidence against him.

The presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to find Schneider not guilty. This presumption can be overcome only if the United States proved during the trial, beyond a reasonable doubt, each element of a crime charged.

There is no burden upon Schneider to prove he is innocent. Instead, the burden of proof remains on the United States throughout the trial. And the fact that Schneider did not testify must not be considered by you in any way, or even discussed, in arriving at your verdict.

INSTRUCTION NO. 6

The crime of assault by striking, beating, or wounding, as charged in the Indictment, has four essential elements, which are:

One, on or about the 26th day of October, 2022, at McIntosh, in Corson County, in the District of South Dakota, Justin James Schneider assaulted Rayce Paul Hoisington by means of striking, beating, or wounding him;

Two, the assault occurred in Indian country;

Three, Hoisington is an Indian; and

Four, Schneider did not act in self-defense.

“Assault” means any intentional and voluntary harmful and offensive touching of another person without justification or excuse.

If all of these elements have been proved beyond a reasonable doubt as to Schneider, then you must find him guilty of the crime charged; otherwise, you must find him not guilty of the crime.

INSTRUCTION NO. 7

If a person reasonably believes that force is necessary to protect himself from what he reasonably believes to be unlawful physical harm about to be inflicted by another and uses such force, then he acted in self-defense.

INSTRUCTION NO. 8

The Indictment charges the offense was committed “on or about” October 26, 2022. The United States must prove that the offense alleged happened reasonably close to that date, but is not required to prove the alleged offense happened on that exact date.

INSTRUCTION NO. 9

Intent or knowledge may be proved like anything else. You may consider any statements made and acts done by Justin James Schneider and all the facts and circumstances in evidence which may aid in the determination of his intent.

You may, but are not required to, infer that a person intends the natural and probable consequences of acts knowingly done or knowingly omitted.

An act is done knowingly if one is aware of the act and does not act through ignorance, mistake, or accident. The United States is not required to prove that Schneider knew his actions were unlawful. You may consider evidence of Schneider's words, acts, or omissions, along with all the other evidence, in deciding whether he acted knowingly.

INSTRUCTION NO. 10

Reasonable doubt is doubt based upon reason and common sense, and not doubt based on speculation. A reasonable doubt may arise from careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence or from a lack of evidence. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof of such a convincing character that a reasonable person, after careful consideration, would not hesitate to rely and act upon that proof in life's most important decisions. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced of Justin James Schneider's guilt. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt.

INSTRUCTION NO. 11

You heard testimony that on or about July 19, 2022, Justin James Schneider was shot in the genitalia (the leg & penis) and injured. You may consider this evidence only if you find it is more likely true than not that Rayce Paul Hoisington was the one who shot Schneider and then only on the issue of self-defense. This is a lower standard than proof beyond a reasonable doubt. You determine that by considering all of the evidence relating to the alleged act and, then deciding what evidence is more believable.

If you find that the evidence has not been proved, then you must disregard it. If you find the evidence has been proved, then you may consider it only for the limited purpose of whether Schneider acted in self-defense. In that event, you should give the evidence the weight and value you believe it is entitled to receive.

INSTRUCTION NO. 12

You heard testimony that on or about July 26, 2022, and while Rayce Paul Hoisington was at his father's trailer, Justin James Schneider shot at the trailer. You may consider this evidence only if you find it is more likely true than not that Schneider committed the act. This is a lower standard than proof beyond a reasonable doubt. You determine that by considering all of the evidence relating to the alleged act and, then deciding what evidence is more believable.

If you find that this evidence has not been proved, then you must disregard it. If you find the evidence has been proved, then you may consider it only for the limited purpose of deciding whether Schneider had the state of mind or intent necessary to commit the crime charged in the Indictment; had a motive to commit the acts described in the Indictment; acted according to a plan or in preparation for the commission of a crime; or committed the acts he is on trial for by accident or mistake. In that event, you should give the evidence the weight and value you believe it is entitled to receive.

Remember, even if you find that Schneider may have committed a similar act at an earlier point in time, this is not evidence that he committed the acts he is accused of. You may not convict a person simply because you believe he may have committed similar acts in the past. Schneider is on trial only for the crime charged, and you may consider the evidence of prior acts only for the purposes stated above.

INSTRUCTION NO. 13

The indictment in this case alleges that Rayce Paul Hoisington is an Indian and that the alleged offense occurred in Indian country. The existence of those two factors is necessary in order for this Court to have jurisdiction over the crime alleged in the indictment.

The United States must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Hoisington is an Indian, in order for Justin James Schneider to be proven guilty of the offense charged. The United States must prove:

One, that the Rayce Paul Hoisington has some degree of Indian blood; and

Two, that Rayce Paul Hoisington is recognized as an Indian person by a tribe or the federal government, or both.

In determining whether Hoisington is recognized as an Indian person by a tribe or the federal government, you may consider the following factors among others. No one factor is dispositive.

1. Whether Hoisington is an enrolled member of a tribe or band.
2. Whether a government recognizes Hoisington as an Indian by providing assistance reserved only to Indians.
3. Whether Hoisington enjoys benefits of tribal affiliation.
4. Whether Hoisington lives on a reservation or participates in Indian social life.

It is not necessary that all of these factors be present. Rather, the jury is to consider all of the evidence in determining whether the government has proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Hoisington is an Indian.

McIntosh and Corson County, South Dakota are Indian country.

INSTRUCTION NO. 14

In conducting your deliberations and returning your verdict, there are certain rules you must follow. I will list those rules for you now.

First, when you go to the jury room, you must select one of your members as your foreperson. That person will preside over your discussions and speak for you here in court.

Second, it is your duty, as jurors, to discuss this case with one another in the jury room. You should try to reach agreement if you can do so without violence to individual judgment, because a verdict—whether guilty or not guilty—must be unanimous. Each of you must make your own conscientious decision, but only after you have considered all the evidence, discussed it fully with your fellow jurors, and listened to their views. Do not be afraid to change your opinions if the discussion persuades you that you should. But do not come to a decision simply because other jurors think it is right, or simply to reach a verdict.

Third, if Justin James Schneider is found guilty, the sentence to be imposed is my responsibility. You may not consider punishment in any way in deciding whether the United States has proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Fourth, if you need to communicate with me during your deliberations, you may send a note to me through the marshal or bailiff, signed by one or more jurors. I will respond as soon as possible either in writing or orally in open court. Remember that you should not tell anyone—including me—how your votes stand numerically.

Fifth, during your deliberations, you must not communicate with or provide any information to anyone other than by note to me by any means about the case. You may not use any electronic device or media, such as a telephone, cellphone, smartphone, PDA, computer or like devices and equipment; the internet, any internet service, or any text or instant messaging service; or any internet chat room, blog, or website such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, or X (formerly known as Twitter), TikTok, or other social media site, to communicate to anyone information about the case or to conduct any research about the case until I accept your verdict.

Sixth, your verdict must be based solely on the evidence and on the law which I have given to you in my instructions. The verdict must be unanimous. Nothing I have said or done is intended to suggest what your verdict should be—that is entirely for you to decide.

Finally, the verdict form is simply the written notice of the decision that you reach in the case. You will take this form to the jury room, and when each of you has agreed on the verdict, your foreperson will fill in the form, sign, and date it, and advise the marshal or bailiff that you are ready to return to the courtroom.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
NORTHERN DIVISION**

<p style="text-align: center;">UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">vs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUSTIN JAMES SCHNEIDER,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1:23-CR-10002-MAM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VERDICT FORM</p>
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Please return a verdict by placing an X in the space provided.

We, the jury, duly empaneled and sworn to try the issues in this case, as to the crime of assault by striking, beating, and wounding as charged in the Indictment, find Justin James Schneider:

NOT GUILTY GUILTY

Dated this ___ day of May, 2024.

Foreman