

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, vs. DARRELL TWO HEARTS, Defendant.	CR 20-10022-CBK JURY INSTRUCTIONS
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INSTRUCTION NO. 1

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, it is my duty now to explain the rules of law you must apply to this case.

You as jurors are the sole judges of the facts. But it is your duty to follow the law stated in these instructions, and to apply that law to the facts as you find them from the evidence before you. It would be a violation of your sworn duty to base your verdict upon any rules of law other than the ones given you in these instructions, regardless of your personal feelings as to what the law ought to be.

You are not to single out one instruction alone as stating the law, but must consider the instructions as a whole.

INSTRUCTION NO. 2

You have been chosen and sworn as jurors to try the issues of fact presented by the allegations of the indictment and the denial made by the defendant in his plea of “not guilty.” You are to perform this duty without bias or prejudice, because the law does not permit jurors to be governed by sympathy or public opinion. The accused and the public expect that you will carefully and impartially consider all of the evidence and will follow the law as stated by the Court, in order to reach a just verdict, regardless of the consequences to any party.

INSTRUCTION NO. 3

The indictment in this case charges the defendant with the crime of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. The defendant has pleaded not guilty to this charge.

As I told you at the beginning of the trial, an indictment is simply an accusation. It is not evidence of anything. To the contrary, the defendant is presumed to be innocent. Therefore, the defendant, even though charged, begins the trial with no evidence against him. This presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to find the defendant not guilty and can be overcome only if the government proves, beyond a reasonable doubt, each essential element of the crime charged.

There is no burden upon the defendant to prove that he is innocent. Accordingly, the fact that the defendant did not testify must not be considered by you in any way, or even discussed, in arriving at your verdict.

INSTRUCTION NO. 4

A reasonable doubt is a doubt based upon reason and common sense, and not the mere possibility of innocence. A reasonable doubt is the kind of doubt that would make a reasonable person hesitate to act. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt, therefore, must be proof of such a convincing character that a reasonable person would not hesitate to rely and act upon it. However, proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt.

INSTRUCTION NO. 5

I have mentioned the word “evidence.” The evidence in this case consists of the testimony of witnesses, and the documents and other things received as exhibits.

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 shall 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. 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, you must ignore the question and must not try to guess what the answer might have been.
3. Testimony and questions that I struck from the record, or told you to disregard, are not evidence and must not be considered.
4. Anything you saw or heard about this case outside the courtroom is not evidence.

INSTRUCTION NO. 6

There are two types of evidence from which you may find the truth as to the facts of a case--direct and circumstantial evidence. Direct evidence is the testimony of one who asserts actual knowledge of a fact, such as an eyewitness; circumstantial evidence is proof of a chain of facts and circumstances indicating the guilt or innocence of the defendant. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct or circumstantial evidence. Nor is a greater degree of certainty required of circumstantial evidence than of direct evidence. You should weigh all the evidence in the case. After weighing all the evidence, if you are not convinced of the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt, you must find the defendant not guilty.

INSTRUCTION NO. 7

In deciding 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, or only part of it, or none of it.

In deciding what testimony 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. 8

The weight of the evidence is not necessarily determined by the number of witnesses testifying. You should consider all the facts and circumstances in evidence to determine which of the witnesses are worthy of a greater credence. You may find that the testimony of a smaller number of witnesses on one side is more credible than the testimony of a greater number of witnesses on the other side.

INSTRUCTION NO. 9

You have heard testimony from a person described as an expert. A person who, by knowledge, skill, training, education or experience, has become an expert in some field may state opinions on matters in that field and may also state the reasons for those opinions.

Expert testimony should be considered just like any other testimony. You may accept or reject it, and give it as much weight as you think it deserves, considering the witness's education and experience, the soundness of the reasons given for the opinion, the acceptability of the methods used, and all the other evidence in the case.

INSTRUCTION NO. 10

The crime of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person as charged in the indictment has four essential elements, which are:

1. Prior to April 25, 2020, the defendant was a prohibited person as defined in Instruction No. 11.
2. The defendant knew on or about April 25, 2020, that he was a prohibited person.
3. On or about April 25, 2020, in the District of South Dakota, defendant knowingly and intentionally possessed a firearm or ammunition or both, as defined in Instruction No. 12.
4. The firearm or ammunition or both in question was transported across a state line at some time during or before the defendant's possession of it.

For you to find the defendant guilty of this crime charged in the indictment, the government must prove all of these essential elements beyond a reasonable doubt. Otherwise, you must find the defendant not guilty of this crime.

INSTRUCTION NO. 11

The term “prohibited person” means:

1. A person who has previously been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, that is, a felony, or
2. A person who was an unlawful user of a controlled substance.

The government and the defendant have stipulated or agreed that the defendant has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, that is, a felony, prior to the date charged in the indictment. The defendant has not, by entering this agreement or stipulation, admitted his guilt of the offense charged, and you may not draw any inference of guilt from the stipulation. The only effect of this stipulation is to establish the fact that the defendant had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year prior to the date charged in the indictment.

The phrase “unlawful user of a controlled substance” means a person who uses a controlled substance in a manner other than as prescribed by a licensed physician. The defendant must have been actively engaged in use of a controlled substance during the time he possessed the firearm, but the law does not require that he used the controlled substance at the precise time he possessed the firearm or ammunition. Such use is not limited to the use of drugs on a particular day, or within a matter of days or weeks before, but rather that the unlawful use has occurred recently enough to indicate that the individual is actively engaged in such conduct. An inference that a person was or is a user of a controlled substance may be drawn from evidence of a pattern of use or possession of a controlled substance that reasonably covers the time the firearm or ammunition was allegedly possessed.

You are instructed that methamphetamine is a controlled substance.

To find the defendant guilty, you must unanimously agree that the defendant was a prohibited person either because he was (1) previously convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year or (2) a person who was an unlawful user of a controlled substance, or both.

INSTRUCTION NO. 12

The term “firearm” means any weapon which will, or is designed to, or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

The term “ammunition” means ammunition or cartridge cases, primers, bullets, or propellant powder designed for use in any firearm.

INSTRUCTION NO. 13

The law recognizes several kinds of possession. A person may have actual possession or constructive possession. A person may have sole or joint possession.

A person who knowingly has direct physical control over a thing, at a given time, is then in actual possession of it.

A person who, although not in actual possession, has both the power and the intention at a given time to exercise dominion or control over a thing, either directly or through another person or persons, is then in constructive possession of it.

If one person alone has actual or constructive possession of a thing, possession is sole. If two or more persons share actual or constructive possession of a thing, possession is joint.

Whenever the word “possession” has been used in these instructions it includes actual as well as constructive possession and also sole as well as joint possession.

INSTRUCTION NO. 14

The government does not have to prove who “owned” the firearm or ammunition.

INSTRUCTION NO. 15

If you have found beyond a reasonable doubt that the firearm in question, the ammunition in question, or both, were manufactured in a state or country other than the State of South Dakota and that the defendant possessed that firearm, ammunition, or both, in the State of South Dakota, then you may, but are not required to, find that the firearm, ammunition, or both, were transported across a state line.

The government is not required to prove that the defendant knew the firearm or ammunition had crossed a state line.

INSTRUCTION NO. 16

The government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that defendant knew he was a prohibited person. In this case, the government must prove that the defendant knew he previously had been convicted of a crime punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one year or that he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance, or both.

The government must also prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant knew he possessed a firearm or ammunition, or both.

A person is knowingly in possession of a thing if his possession occurred voluntarily and intentionally and not because of mistake or accident or other innocent reason. The purpose of the word “knowingly” is to ensure that no one can be convicted of possession of a firearm he did not intend to possess.

You may consider evidence of the defendant’s acts and words, along with all the evidence, in deciding whether the defendant acted knowingly.

The government is not required to prove the defendant knew it was illegal for a person who has a prior felony conviction or who is an unlawful user of a controlled substance to possess a firearm.

INSTRUCTION NO. 17

Intent may be proved like anything else. You may consider any statements and acts done by the defendant, and all the facts and circumstances in evidence which may aid in a determination of the defendant's 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.

INSTRUCTION NO. 18

The indictment charges that the offense was committed “on or about” a certain date. The proof need not establish with certainty the exact date of the alleged offense. It is sufficient if the evidence in the case establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense was committed on a date reasonably near the date alleged.

INSTRUCTION NO. 19

Upon retiring to the jury room, you will select one of your number to act as your foreperson. The foreperson will preside over your deliberations, and will be your spokesperson here in Court.

A verdict form has been prepared for your convenience.

You will take this form to the jury room and, when you have reached unanimous agreement as to your verdict, you will have your foreperson fill in, date and sign the form to state the verdict upon which you unanimously agree, and then notify the marshal that you have a verdict.

INSTRUCTION NO. 20

The verdict must represent the considered judgment of each juror. In order to return any verdict, it is necessary that each juror agree thereto. Your verdict must be unanimous.

It is your duty, as jurors, to consult with one another, and to deliberate with a view to reaching an agreement, if you can do so without violence to individual judgment. Each of you must decide the case for himself or herself, but do so only after an impartial consideration of the evidence in the case with the other jurors. In the course of your deliberations, do not hesitate to re-examine your own views, and change your opinion, if convinced it is erroneous. But do not surrender your honest conviction as to the weight or effect of the evidence, solely because of the opinion of the other jurors, or for the mere purpose of returning a verdict.

Remember at all times, you are not partisans. You are judges - judges of the facts. Your sole interest is to seek the truth from the evidence in the case.

INSTRUCTION NO. 21

If you have questions, you may send a note by a marshal, signed by your foreperson, or by one or more members of the jury.

You will note from the oath about to be taken by the marshal that he, as well as all other persons, are forbidden to communicate in any way or manner with any member of the jury on any subject touching the merits of the case.

Bear in mind also that you are never to reveal to any person--not even to the Court--how the jury stands, numerically or otherwise, on the question of the guilt or innocence of the accused, until after you have reached a unanimous verdict.

INSTRUCTION NO. 22

It is proper to add a final caution.

Nothing that I have said in these instructions, and nothing that I have said or done during the trial, has been said or done to suggest to you what I think your verdict should be.

What the verdict shall be is your exclusive duty and responsibility.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, vs. DARRELL TWO HEARTS, Defendant.	CR 20-10022-CBK VERDICT
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Please return a verdict by placing an "X" in the space provided.

We, the jury in the above entitled action, as to the crime of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person as charged in the indictment, find Darrell Two Hearts:

_____ NOT GUILTY _____ GUILTY

If you have found Darrell Two Hearts guilty, do you unanimously agree that he was a prohibited person because he was previously convicted of a felony?

_____ NO _____ YES

If you have found Darrell Two Hearts guilty, do you unanimously agree that he was a prohibited person because he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance?

_____ NO _____ YES

Dated this _____ day of October, 2020.

Foreperson