

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
CENTRAL DIVISION

<p>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, vs. JOSEPH ELSEY, Defendant.</p>	<p>3:21-CR-30102-RAL-1 FINAL JURY INSTRUCTIONS</p>
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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 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 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 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 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 superseding indictment in this case charges the defendant with two different crimes. Count I charges the defendant with assaulting, opposing, resisting, or impeding a federal officer with a deadly or dangerous weapon. Count II charges the defendant with assaulting, resisting, opposing or impeding a federal officer involving physical contact with the victim. The defendant has pleaded not guilty to each of those charges.

The superseding indictment is simply the document that formally charges the defendant with the crimes for which he is on trial. The superseding indictment is not evidence of anything. At the beginning of the trial, I instructed you that you must presume the defendant to be innocent. Thus, the defendant began the trial with a clean slate, with no evidence against him. The presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to find the defendant not guilty. This presumption can be overcome only if the government proved during the trial, beyond a reasonable doubt, each element of a crime charged.

Keep in mind that each count charges a separate crime. You must consider each count separately, and return a separate verdict for each count.

There is no burden upon a defendant to prove that he is innocent. Instead, the burden of proof remains on the government throughout the trial. Accordingly, the fact that a defendant 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 assaulting, opposing, resisting, or impeding a federal officer with a deadly or dangerous weapon, as charged in Count I of the superseding indictment, has four elements, which are:

***One*, that on or about the 26th day of October, 2020, in Ziebach County, in the District of South Dakota, the defendant, Joseph Elsey, forcibly assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, intimidated, or interfered with Ty’Leigha Takes The Knife;**

***Two*, that in doing such act or acts, the defendant used a deadly or dangerous weapon, that is, shod feet;**

“Dangerous weapon,” for purposes of assaulting a federal officer crimes, means an object used in a manner likely to endanger life or inflict serious bodily harm. “Shod feet” can qualify as a dangerous weapon if a shod foot is used against another in a manner likely to endanger life or inflict serious bodily harm.

***Three*, that the defendant’s act or acts were done voluntarily and intentionally; and**

***Four*, that at the time of the defendant’s act or acts, Ty’Leigha Takes The Knife was employed as a law enforcement officer with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe under a contract with the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, and was engaged in the performance of her official duties at the time.**

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

INSTRUCTION NO. 7

The crime of assaulting, opposing, resisting, or impeding a federal officer involving physical contact with the victim, as charged in Count II of the superseding indictment, has three elements, which are:

***One*, that on or about the 26th day of October, 2020, in Ziebach County, in the District of South Dakota, the defendant, Joseph Elsey, forcibly assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, intimidated, or interfered with Ty'Leigha Takes The Knife;**

***Two*, that the defendant's wrongful act or acts, involved physical contact with Ty-Leigha Takes The Knife;**

Three, that the defendant's act or acts were done voluntarily and intentionally; and

Four, that at the time of the defendant's act or acts, Ty'Leigha Takes The Knife was employed as a law enforcement officer with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe under a contract with the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, and was engaged in the performance of her official duties at the time.

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

INSTRUCTION NO. 8

If you should unanimously find the defendant “Not Guilty” of the crimes of assaulting, opposing, resisting, or impeding a federal officer with a deadly or dangerous weapon as alleged in Count I and by physical contact as alleged in Count II of the superseding indictment, or if, after all reasonable efforts, you are unable to reach a verdict as to the crimes charged in the superseding indictment, then you must proceed to determine whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of the crime of simple assault of a federal officer under this instruction.

The crime of simple assault of a federal officer, a lesser included offense of the crimes charged in the superseding indictment, has three essential elements, which are:

One, that on or about the 26th day of October, 2020, in Ziebach County, in the District of South Dakota, the defendant, Joseph Elsey, forcibly assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, intimidated, or interfered with Ty’Leigha Takes The Knife; and

To convict on this lesser-included offense you do not need to find that the Defendant wrongfully engaged in physical contact with the officer.

Two, that the defendant’s act or acts were done voluntarily and intentionally; and

Three, that at the time of the defendant’s act or acts, Ty’Leigha Takes The Knife was employed as a law enforcement officer by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe under a contract with the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, and was engaged in the performance of her official duties.

If all of these elements have been proved beyond a reasonable doubt as to the defendant, then you must find him guilty of the crime of simple assault of a federal officer; otherwise you must find the defendant not guilty of this crime.

INSTRUCTION NO. 9

“Forcibly” means by use of force. Physical force is sufficient, but actual physical contact is not required. You may also find that a person who, in fact, has the present ability to inflict bodily harm upon another and who threatens or attempts to inflict bodily harm upon such a person acts forcibly. In such a case, the threat must be a present one.

An “assault” is any intentional and voluntary attempt or threat to do injury to the person of another, when coupled with the apparent present ability to do so sufficient to put the person against whom the attempt is made in fear of immediate bodily harm. An “assault” also includes any intentional or knowing harmful or offensive bodily touching or contact, however slight, without justification or excuse.

To “resist” means to exert force in opposition; to exert oneself so as to counteract or defeat; to withstand the force or effect of.

To “oppose” means to offer resistance to.

To “impede” means to interfere with or slow the progress of.

To “interfere” means to interpose in a way that hinders or impedes.

To “intimidate” means to make timid or fearful; to compel or deter by or as if by threats.

INSTRUCTION NO. 10

The Court has determined, as a matter of law, that tribal law enforcement officers hired under a contract with the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs are federal officers for purposes of the offenses charged in the superseding indictment. It is for you to determine if Ty'Leigha Takes The Knife is such an officer, and if she was engaged in the performance of her official duties at the time in question.

“Engaged in the performance of her official duties” simply means acting within the scope of what the person is employed to do. It is not defined by whether the officer is abiding by laws and regulations in effect at the time of the incident. The test is whether the person is acting within that area of responsibility, that is, whether the officer’s actions fall within the agency’s overall mission, in contrast to engaging in a personal frolic of her own.

The defendant need not know that the victim was a federal officer at the time of the offenses charged in the superseding indictment.

INSTRUCTION NO. 11

Intent or knowledge may be proved like anything else. You may consider any statements made and acts done by the defendant, and all the facts and circumstances in evidence which may aid in the determination of the defendant's knowledge or 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 the defendant is aware of the act and does not act through ignorance, mistake, or accident. The government is not required to prove that the defendant knew that his actions were unlawful. You may consider evidence of the defendant's words, acts, or omissions, along with all the other evidence, in deciding whether the defendant acted knowingly.

INSTRUCTION NO. 12

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. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced of the defendant's guilt. However, proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt.

INSTRUCTION NO. 13

In conducting your deliberations and returning your verdict, there are certain rules you must follow. I shall 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 the views of your fellow jurors. 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 the defendant is found guilty, the sentence to be imposed is my responsibility. You may not consider punishment in any way in deciding whether the government 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 court security officer, 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 this case. You may not use any electronic device or media, such as a cell phone, smart phone, iPhone, or computer; the internet, any internet service, or any text or instant messaging service; or any internet chat room, blog, or website such as Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, or Twitter, to communicate to anyone information about this case or to conduct any research about this 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. 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 this 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 court security officer that you are ready to return to the courtroom.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
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<p>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, vs. JOSEPH ELSEY, Defendant.</p>	<p>3:21-CR-30102-RAL-1 VERDICT FORM</p>
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We, the jury, duly empaneled and sworn to try the issues in this case, find as follows:

1. We find the defendant Joseph Elsey, _____ (fill in either “not guilty” or “guilty”) of assaulting, opposing, resisting, impeding, intimidating, or interfering a federal officer with a deadly or dangerous weapon as charged in Count I of the superseding indictment.
2. We find the defendant Joseph Elsey, _____ (fill in either “not guilty” or “guilty”) of assaulting, opposing, resisting, impeding, intimidating, or interfering a federal officer involving physical contact with the victim as charged in Count II of the superseding indictment.
3. ***Answer if, and only if, you found the defendant “not guilty” or you are not able to reach a verdict after all reasonable efforts as to both Count I and Count II, otherwise leave this blank.***
We find Defendant Joseph Elsey, _____ (fill in either “not guilty” or “guilty”) of the lesser included offense of simple assault of a federal officer.

Dated March ____, 2022

Foreperson