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## VIRGINIA MODEL JURY INSTRUCTIONS-CRIMINAL NOW AVAILABLE IN AN UNANNOTATED FORMAT ON VIRGINIA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM WEBSITE

The Supreme Court of Virginia is pleased to announce that the Virginia Model Jury Instructions-Criminal are now available in an unannotated format on Virginia's Judicial System Website, [www.vacourts.gov](http://www.vacourts.gov), as a service to the bench, bar, and the public. Virginia Model Jury Instructions (Unannotated) - Criminal can be found at the following URL: [www.vacourts.gov/courts/circuit/resources/model\\_jury\\_instructions\\_criminal.pdf](http://www.vacourts.gov/courts/circuit/resources/model_jury_instructions_criminal.pdf). The unannotated model jury instructions are being made available with the permission of the publisher, Matthew Bender & Company, Inc. The full annotated version of these model jury instructions, including case citations and practice commentary, is available for purchase from the publisher and online subscription services.

The Virginia Model Jury Instructions are created by The Virginia Model Jury Instructions Committee, whose members are appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Committee is comprised of six judges and six lawyers and is tasked with developing and updating jury instructions for use in Virginia's courts. The Virginia Model Jury Instructions - Civil will be made available in an unannotated format on Virginia's Judicial System Website at a future date.

About the Supreme Court of Virginia: The Supreme Court of Virginia possesses both original and appellate jurisdiction. The Court reviews decisions of lower courts, including the Court of Appeals, from which appeals have been allowed. Virginia does not allow an appeal to the Supreme Court as a matter of right except in cases involving the State Corporation Commission, certain disciplinary actions against an attorney, and review of the death penalty. The Court's original jurisdiction is limited to cases of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, and actual innocence. The Supreme Court also has original jurisdiction in matters filed by the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission relating to judicial censure and retirement, and removal of judges. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court serves as the administrative head of Virginia's Judicial System. The Chief Justice is charged with overseeing the efficient and effective operation of the Judicial Branch.

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