

CAUSE NO. 1684820

THE STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE 230TH DISTRICT COURT
VS. § OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
JOSUE LOPEZ § JULY TERM, A. D., 2022

Members of the Jury:

The defendant, Josue Lopez, stands charged by indictment with the offense of capital murder, alleged to have been committed on or about the 3rd day of August, 2020, in Harris County, Texas. The defendant has pleaded not guilty.

A person commits the offense of murder if he intentionally or knowingly causes the death of an individual.

A person commits the offense of capital murder if he intentionally commits murder, as hereinbefore defined, in the course of committing or attempting to commit the offense of robbery. Robbery is a felony.

A person commits the offense of robbery if, in the course of committing theft, as that term is hereinafter defined, and with intent to obtain or maintain control of property of another, he:

(1) intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to another;

or

(2) intentionally or knowingly threatens or places another in fear of imminent bodily injury or death.

"In the course of committing theft" means conduct that occurs in an attempt to commit, during the commission, or in the immediate flight after the attempt or commission of theft.

"Attempt" to commit an offense occurs if, with specific intent to commit an offense, a person does an act amounting to more than mere preparation that tends, but fails, to effect the commission of the offense intended.

"Theft" is the unlawful appropriation of property with intent to deprive the owner of property.

"Appropriation" and "appropriate", as those terms are used herein, means to acquire or otherwise exercise control over property other than real property. Appropriation of property is unlawful if it is without the owner's effective consent.

"Property" as used herein means tangible or intangible personal property or documents, including money, that represents or embodies anything of value.

"Deprive" means to withhold property from the owner permanently or for so extended a period of time that a major portion of the value or enjoyment of the property is lost to the owner.

"Effective consent" means assent in fact, whether express or apparent, and includes consent by a person legally authorized to act for the owner. Consent is not effective if induced by deception or coercion.

"Owner" means a person who has title to the property, possession of property, or a greater right to possession of the property than the actor.

"Possession" means actual care, custody, control, or management of the property.

"Deadly weapon" means a firearm or anything manifestly designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting death or

serious bodily injury; or anything that in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

"Bodily injury" means physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition.

"Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes death, serious permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

The definition of intentionally relative to the offense of capital murder is as follows:

A person acts intentionally, or with intent, with respect to a result of his conduct when it is his conscious objective or desire to cause the result.

The definitions of intentionally and knowingly relative to the offense of robbery are as follows:

A person acts intentionally, or with intent, with respect to the nature of his conduct or to a result of his conduct when it is his conscious objective or desire to engage in the conduct or cause the result.

A person acts knowingly, or with knowledge, with respect to the nature of his conduct or to circumstances surrounding his conduct when he is aware of the nature of his conduct or that the circumstances exist. A person acts knowingly, or with knowledge, with respect to a result of his conduct when he is aware that his conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result.

Before you would be warranted in finding the defendant guilty of capital murder, you must find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt not only that on the occasion in question the defendant was in the course of committing or attempting to commit the felony offense of robbery of Jason Villalon, as alleged in this charge, but also that the defendant specifically intended to cause the death of Margarita Villalon, by shooting Margarita Villalon with a firearm, and unless you so find, then you cannot convict the defendant of the offense of capital murder.

Now, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 3rd day of August, 2020, in Harris County, Texas, the defendant, Josue Lopez, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing or attempting to commit the robbery of Jason Villalon, intentionally caused the death of Margarita Villalon by shooting Margarita Villalon with a firearm, then you will find the defendant guilty of capital murder, as charged in the indictment.

Unless you so find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will next consider whether the defendant is guilty of the lesser offense of felony murder.

A person commits the offense of felony murder if he intentionally or knowingly commits or attempts to commit a felony, other than manslaughter, and in the course of and in furtherance of the commission or attempt, or in immediate flight from the commission or attempt, he commits or attempts to commit an act

clearly dangerous to human life that causes the death of an individual,

Therefore, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the 3rd day of August, 2020, in Harris County, Texas, the defendant, Josue Lopez, did then and there unlawfully, while in the furtherance of the commission or attempted commission of the felony of robbery of Jason Villalon, or in immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of the felony of robbery of Jason Villalon, commit an act clearly dangerous to human life, to-wit: by shooting Margarita Villalon with a firearm, that caused the death of Margarita Villalon, then you will find the defendant guilty of felony murder.

If you believe from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of either capital murder on the one hand or felony murder on the other hand, but you have a reasonable doubt as to which of said offenses he is guilty, then you must resolve that doubt in the defendant's favor and find him guilty of the lesser offense of felony murder.

If you have a reasonable doubt as to whether the defendant is guilty of any offense defined in this charge you will acquit the defendant and say by your verdict "Not Guilty."

Our law provides that a defendant may testify in his own behalf if he elects to do so. This, however, is a right accorded a defendant, and in the event he elects not to testify, that fact cannot be taken as a circumstance against him.

In this case, the defendant has elected not to testify and you are instructed that you cannot and must not refer to or allude to that fact throughout your deliberations or take it into consideration for any purpose whatsoever as a circumstance against him.

You are further instructed that the State is not bound by the specific date which the offense, if any, is alleged in the indictment to have been committed, but that a conviction may be had upon proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense, if any, was committed at any time prior to the filing of the indictment which is within the period of limitations. There is no limitation period applicable to the offense of capital murder.

You are instructed that a statement of an accused may be used in evidence against him if it appears that the same was freely and voluntarily made without compulsion or persuasion.

Therefore, unless you believe from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the alleged statement introduced into evidence was freely and voluntarily made by the defendant without compulsion or persuasion, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you shall not consider such alleged statement for any purpose nor any evidence obtained as a result thereof.

Voluntary intoxication does not constitute a defense to the commission of a crime. "Intoxication" means disturbance of mental or physical capacity resulting from the introduction of any substance into the body.

A Grand Jury indictment is the means whereby a defendant is brought to trial in a felony prosecution. It is not evidence of guilt nor can it be considered by you in passing upon the question of guilt of the defendant. The burden of proof in all criminal cases rests upon the State throughout the trial and never shifts to the defendant.

All persons are presumed to be innocent and no person may be convicted of an offense unless each element of the offense is proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The fact that he has been arrested, confined, or indicted for, or otherwise charged with the offense gives rise to no inference of guilt at his trial. The law does not require a defendant to prove his innocence or produce any evidence at all. The presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to acquit the defendant, unless the jurors are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in the case.

The prosecution has the burden of proving the defendant guilty and it must do so by proving each and every element of the offense charged beyond a reasonable doubt and if it fails to do so, you must acquit the defendant.

It is not required that the prosecution prove guilt beyond all possible doubt; it is required that the prosecution's proof excludes all reasonable doubt concerning the defendant's guilt.

In the event you have a reasonable doubt as to the defendant's guilt after considering all the evidence before you, and these instructions, you will acquit him and say by your verdict "Not Guilty."

You are the exclusive judges of the facts proved, of the credibility of the witnesses and the weight to be given their testimony, but the law you shall receive in these written instructions, and you must be governed thereby.

After you retire to the jury room, you should select one of your members as your Foreperson. It is his or her duty to preside at your deliberations, vote with you, and when you have unanimously agreed upon a verdict, to certify to your verdict by using the appropriate form attached hereto and signing the same as Foreperson.

During your deliberations in this case, you must not consider, discuss, nor relate any matters not in evidence before you. You should not consider nor mention any personal knowledge or information you may have about any fact or person connected with this case which is not shown by the evidence.

No one has any authority to communicate with you except the officer who has you in charge. After you have retired, you may communicate with this Court in writing through this officer. Any communication relative to the cause must be written, prepared and signed by the Foreperson and shall be submitted to the court through this officer. Do not attempt to talk to the officer who has you in charge, or the attorneys, or the Court, or anyone else concerning any questions you may have.

Your sole duty at this time is to determine the guilt or innocence of the defendant under the indictment in this cause and restrict your deliberations solely to the issue of guilt or innocence of the defendant.

Your verdict must be by a unanimous vote of all members of the jury.

Following the arguments of counsel, you will retire to consider your verdict.

Denise Bradley

Denise Bradley, Judge Presiding
230th District Court
Harris County, TEXAS

FILED
Marilyn Burgess
District Clerk
NOV 04 2022

Time: _____
By: *N.M.*
Harris County Texas
Clerk

CAUSE NO. 1684820

FILED
Marilyn Burgess
District Clerk
Time: NOV 04 2022
By Harris County, Texas
Deputy

THE STATE OF TEXAS
VS.
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§ IN THE 230TH DISTRICT COURT
§ OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
§ JULY TERM, A. D., 2022

CHOOSE ONE

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Josue Lopez, not guilty."

Foreman of the Jury

(Please Print) Foreman

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Josue Lopez, guilty of capital murder, as charged in the indictment."

Rachael Sanford
Foreman of the Jury

Rachael Sanford
(Please Print) Foreman

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Josue Lopez, guilty of felony murder."

Foreman of the Jury

(Please Print) Foreman