

FILED
AT 9:27 O'CLOCK A.M.
JUN 08 2026
IN THE 389TH
JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
CLERK
Laura Hinojosa
District Courts Hidalgo County
By DFS Deputy #38

THE STATE OF TEXAS
V.
MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR.

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CHARGE OF THE COURT

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury:

The Defendant, MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR., stands charged by indictment with the offense of CAPITAL MURDER alleged to have been committed on or about June 20th, 2025, in Hidalgo County, Texas. To this charge, the Defendant has pleaded not guilty.

1.

Our law provides that 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 when such person commits the Murder, if any, of an individual under ten years of age.

2.

“Individual” means a human being who is alive, including an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth.

“Child” means a person 14 years of age or younger.

3.

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.

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.

4.

Now, if you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about June 20th, 2025, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR., did then and there intentionally or knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Miguel Aciel Ortiz, an individual younger than 10 years of age, by striking him with Defendant's hand; or

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about June 20th, 2025, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR., did then and there intentionally or knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Miguel Aciel Ortiz, a child younger than 10 years of age, by striking him with an object unknown or unknowable to the grand jurors; or

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about June 20th, 2025, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR., did then and there intentionally or knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Miguel Aciel Ortiz, a child younger than 10 years of age, by striking him against an object unknown or unknowable to the grand jurors; or

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about June 20th, 2025, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR., did then and there intentionally or knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Miguel Aciel Ortiz, a child younger than 10 years of age, by manner and means unknown or unknowable to the grand jurors, 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 acquit the Defendant of the offense of Capital Murder and say by your verdict "Not Guilty".

5.

You are instructed that in considering your verdict you may consider all relevant facts and

circumstances surrounding the killing, if any, and the previous relationship existing between the accused and the deceased, if any, together with all relevant facts and circumstances going to show the condition of the mind of the accused at the time of the alleged killing, if any.

6.

Our law provides that a Defendant may testify in his own behalf if he elects to do so. This, however, is a privilege 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 or allude to that fact throughout your deliberations or take it into consideration for any purpose whatsoever as a circumstance against the Defendant.

7.

You are instructed that if there is any testimony before you in this case regarding the Defendant's having committed offenses other than the offense alleged against him in the indictment in this case, you cannot consider said testimony for any purpose unless you find and believe beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant committed such other offenses, if any were committed, and even then you may only consider the same in determining the state of mind of the Defendant, if any, in connection with the offense, if any, alleged against him in the indictment in this case, and for no other purpose.

8.

You are instructed that the allegation that the offense was committed on or about June 20th, 2025, does not bind the State to any one particular date but may include any day prior to September 04th, 2025, the day the indictment was filed. There is no statute of limitations for Capital Murder.

9.

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 issue 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 a person 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. You will be governed by the law you shall receive in these written instructions.

When you retire to the jury room, you should first select one of your members as Presiding Juror. It is the Presiding Juror's 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 thereto, and signing the same as Presiding Juror.

In order to return a verdict, each juror must agree thereto, but jurors have a duty to consult with each other and to deliberate with a view of reaching an agreement, if it can be done without violence to individual judgment.

Each juror must decide the case for himself or herself, but only after an impartial consideration of the evidence with his or her fellow jurors.

In the course of deliberations, a juror should not hesitate to re-examine his or her own views and change his or her opinion if convinced it is erroneous. However, no juror should surrender his or her honest conviction as to the weight or effect of the evidence solely because of the opinion of his or her fellow jurors, or for the mere purpose of returning a verdict.

Do not discuss the case with anyone else, either in person or by any other means. Do not do any independent investigation about the case or conduct any research. Do not look up any words in dictionaries or on the Internet. Do not post information about the case on the Internet. Do not share any special knowledge or experiences with the other jurors. You may not use any electronic device or media, such as a telephone, 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, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Twitter, or X, to communicate with anyone any information about this case or to conduct any research about this case until I accept your verdict.

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.

You should not discuss or consider punishment for the offense charged for any purpose. You must concern yourselves solely with the question of guilt or innocence of the Defendant under these written

instructions without regard to any possible punishment imposed by law for the offense charged.

During your deliberations, you are instructed that you should not consider the remarks, rulings or actions of the Presiding Judge during this trial as any indication of the Court's opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the Defendant. The remarks, rulings and actions of the Presiding Judge were upon matters of the law only and were not upon the facts which you and you alone must determine.

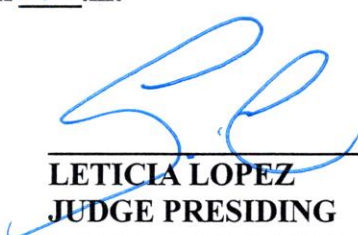
While you are deliberating, no one has authority to communicate with you except the officer who has you in charge being the Bailiff. However, after you have retired, you may communicate with the Court as to any questions you may have, but that communication must be in writing through the officer of the Court.

When you have reached a verdict you will notify the Bailiff in writing, as to reaching a verdict, but not what the verdict is.

Do not let bias, prejudice, or sympathy play any part in your deliberations.

Your verdict must be unanimous, and after you have reached a unanimous verdict, the Presiding Juror will certify thereto by signing the appropriate form attached to this charge.

Filed on June 8, 20 26, at 9:27 o'clock A.m.



LETICIA LOPEZ
JUDGE PRESIDING
389TH DISTRICT COURT
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

CAUSE NO. CR-6532-25-H (COUNT ONE)

THE STATE OF TEXAS

V.

MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR.

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IN THE 389TH

JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

JURY VERDICT

We, the Jury, find the Defendant, MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR., GUILTY of the offense of CAPITAL MURDER as charged in the indictment.

PRESIDING JUROR

OR

We, the Jury, find the Defendant, MIGUEL ANGEL ORTIZ, JR., NOT GUILTY.

PRESIDING JUROR