

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
HAMMOND DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JUAN RAMIREZ-FUENTES

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CAUSE NO. 2:10 CR 158 PPS

COURT'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

Dated: September 28, 2011

s/ Philip P. Simon
PHILIP P. SIMON, CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

INSTRUCTION NO. 1

Members of the jury, you have seen and heard all the evidence and the arguments of the attorneys. Now I will instruct you on the law.

You have two duties as a jury. Your first duty is to decide the facts from the evidence in the case. This is your job, and yours alone.

Your second duty is to apply the law that I give you to the facts. You must follow these instructions, even if you disagree with them. Each of the instructions is important, and you must follow all of them.

Perform these duties fairly and impartially. Do not allow sympathy, prejudice, fear, or public opinion to influence you. You should not be influenced by any person's race, color, religion, national ancestry, or sex.

Nothing I say now, and nothing I said or did during the trial, is meant to indicate any opinion on my part about what the facts are or about what your verdict should be.

INSTRUCTION NO. 2

The evidence consists of the testimony of the witnesses, the exhibits admitted in evidence, and stipulations. A stipulation is an agreement between both sides that certain facts are true.

INSTRUCTION NO. 3

You are to decide whether the testimony of each of the witnesses is truthful and accurate, in part, in whole, or not at all, as well as what weight, if any, you give to the testimony of each witness. In evaluating the testimony of any witness, you may consider, among other things:

- the witness's intelligence;
- the ability and opportunity the witness had to see, hear, or know the things that the witness testified about;
- the witness's memory;
- any interest, bias, or prejudice the witness may have;
- the manner of the witness while testifying; and
- the reasonableness of the witness's testimony in light of all the evidence in the case.

INSTRUCTION NO. 4

You should use common sense in weighing the evidence and consider the evidence in light of your own observations in life. In our lives, we often look at one fact and conclude from it that another fact exists. In law we call this “inference.” A jury is allowed to make reasonable inferences. Any inferences you make must be reasonable and must be based on the evidence in the case.

INSTRUCTION NO. 5

Some of you have heard the phrases “circumstantial evidence” and “direct evidence.” Direct evidence is the testimony of someone who claims to have personal knowledge of the commission of the crime which has been charged, such as an eyewitness. Circumstantial evidence is the proof of a series of facts which tend to show whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given either direct or circumstantial evidence. You should decide how much weight to give to any evidence. All the evidence in the case, including the circumstantial evidence, should be considered by you in reaching your verdict.

INSTRUCTION NO. 6

Certain things are not evidence. I will list them for you:

First, testimony and exhibits that I struck from the record, or that I told you to disregard, are not evidence and must not be considered.

Second, anything that you may have seen or heard outside the courtroom is not evidence and must be entirely disregarded. This includes any press, radio, or television reports you may have seen or heard. Such reports are not evidence and your verdict must not be influenced in any way by such publicity.

Third, questions and objections by the lawyers are not evidence. Attorneys have a duty to object when they believe a question is improper. You should not be influenced by any objection or by my ruling on it.

Fourth, the lawyers' statements to you are not evidence. The purpose of these statements is to discuss the issues and the evidence. If the evidence as you remember it differs from what the lawyers said, your memory is what counts.

INSTRUCTION NO. 7

You may find the testimony of one witness or a few witnesses more persuasive than the testimony of a larger number. You need not accept the testimony of the larger number of witnesses.

INSTRUCTION NO. 8

The indictment in this case is the formal method of accusing the defendant of offenses and placing the defendant on trial. It is not evidence against the defendant and does not create any inference of guilt.

The defendant, Juan Ramirez-Fuentes, is charged in Count One of the indictment with the offense of knowingly and intentionally possessing with intent to distribute five hundred (500) grams or more of methamphetamine. The defendant, Juan Ramirez-Fuentes, is charged in Count Two of the indictment with the offense of knowingly and intentionally possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

The defendant, Juan Ramirez-Fuentes, has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

INSTRUCTION NO. 9

The defendant is presumed to be innocent of each of the charges. This presumption continues during every stage of the trial and your deliberations on the verdict. It is not overcome unless from all the evidence in the case you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty as charged. The government has the burden of proving the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.

This burden of proof stays with the government throughout the case. The defendant is never required to prove his innocence or to produce any evidence at all.

INSTRUCTION NO. 10

A defendant has an absolute right not to testify. The fact that the defendant did not testify should not be considered by you in any way in arriving at your verdict.

INSTRUCTION NO. 11

You have received evidence of statements said to be made by the defendant, Juan Ramirez-Fuentes. You must decide whether the defendant did in fact make the statements. If you find that the defendant did make a statement, then you must decide what weight, if any, you feel the statement deserves. In making this decision, you should consider all matters in evidence having to do with the statement, including those concerning the defendant himself and the circumstances under which the statement was made.

INSTRUCTION NO. 12

You have heard evidence of acts of the defendant other than those charged in the indictment.

First, you heard evidence concerning items seized from the defendant's house. You may consider this evidence only on the question of intent.

Second, if you find that the defendant made a statement concerning a prior incident between the defendant and a man named "Luis," you may consider this evidence only on the question of knowledge.

You should consider this evidence only for these limited purposes.

INSTRUCTION NO. 13

You have heard evidence that before the trial a witness made a statement that may be inconsistent with the witness's testimony here in court. If you find that it is inconsistent, you may consider the earlier statement in deciding the truthfulness and accuracy of that witness's testimony in this trial.

INSTRUCTION NO. 14

You have heard witnesses give opinions about matters requiring special knowledge or skill. You should judge this testimony in the same way that you judge the testimony of any other witness. The fact that such a person has given an opinion does not mean that you are required to accept it. Give the testimony whatever weight you think it deserves, considering the reasons given for the opinion, the witness' qualifications, and all of the other evidence in the case.

INSTRUCTION NO. 15

To sustain the charge of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, as charged in Count 1 of the indictment, the government must prove the following propositions:

First, the defendant knowingly or intentionally possessed methamphetamine;

Second, the defendant possessed methamphetamine with the intent to deliver it to another person.

It does not matter whether the defendant knew the substance was methamphetamine. It is sufficient that the defendant knew that it was some kind of prohibited drug.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that each of these propositions has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, then you should find the defendant guilty.

If, on the other hand, you find from your consideration of all the evidence that any of these propositions has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, then you should find the defendant not guilty.

INSTRUCTION NO. 16

When the word “knowingly” is used in these instructions, it means that the defendant realized what he was doing and was aware of the nature of his conduct, and did not act through ignorance, mistake or accident. Knowledge may be proved by the defendant’s conduct, and by all the facts and circumstances surrounding the case.

INSTRUCTION NO. 17

Possession of an object is the ability to control it. Possession may exist even when a person is not in physical contact with the object, but knowingly has the power and intention to exercise direction and control over it, either directly or through others.

INSTRUCTION NO. 18

You are instructed that methamphetamine is a controlled substance.

INSTRUCTION NO. 19

To sustain the charge of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime, the government must prove the following propositions:

First, that the defendant committed the following crime: possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, as charged in Count 1 of the indictment;

Second, that the defendant knowingly possessed a firearm in furtherance of that crime.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that each of these propositions has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, then you should find the defendant guilty.

If, on the other hand, you find from your consideration of all the evidence that any one of these propositions has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, then you should find the defendant not guilty.

You are instructed that the only firearms you may consider as to this count are the firearms allegedly found in the home of Jaime Ramirez-Fuentes.

INSTRUCTION NO. 20

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

INSTRUCTION NO. 21

The indictment charges that the offenses were committed “on or about” August 23, 2010. The government must prove that the offense happened reasonably close to that date but is not required to prove that the alleged offense happened on that exact date.

INSTRUCTION NO. 22

An offense may be committed by more than one person. A defendant's guilt may be established without proof that the defendant personally performed every act constituting the crime charged.

INSTRUCTION NO. 23

Any person who knowingly aids, counsels, commands, induces or procures the commission of an offense may be found guilty of that offense. That person must knowingly associate with the criminal activity, participate in the activity, and try to make it succeed.

If a defendant knowingly caused the acts of another, the defendant is responsible for those acts as though he personally committed them.

INSTRUCTION NO. 24

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

Forms of verdict have been prepared for you.

Take these forms to the jury room, and when you have reached unanimous agreement on the verdict, your foreperson will fill in and date the appropriate form, and each of you will sign it.

INSTRUCTION NO. 25

Each count of the indictment charges the defendant with having committed a separate offense.

Each count and the evidence relating to it should be considered separately, and a separate verdict should be returned as to each count. Your verdict of guilty or not guilty of an offense charged in one count should not control your decision as to any other count.

INSTRUCTION NO. 26

I do not anticipate that you will need to communicate with me. If you do, however, the only proper way is in writing, signed by the foreperson, or if he or she is unwilling to do so, by some other juror, and given to the marshal.

INSTRUCTION NO. 27

The verdict must represent the considered judgment of each juror. Your verdict, whether it be guilty or not guilty, must be unanimous.

You should make every reasonable effort to reach a verdict. In doing so, you should consult with one another, express your own views, and listen to the opinions of your fellow jurors. Discuss your differences with an open mind. Do not hesitate to re-examine your own views and change your opinion if you come to believe it is wrong. But you should not surrender your honest beliefs about the weight or effect of evidence solely because of the opinions of your fellow jurors or for the purpose of returning a unanimous verdict.

The twelve of you should give fair and equal consideration to all the evidence and deliberate with the goal of reaching an agreement which is consistent with the individual judgment of each juror.

You are impartial judges of the facts. Your sole interest is to determine whether the government has proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt.