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NH CRIMINAL JURY INSTRUCTIONS - 1985

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PREFACE TO THE 1985 EDITION

The 1985 edition of the New Hampshire Criminal Jury Instructions contains two new instructions, Prior Illegal Acts and Jury Nullification. The revised instructions on culpable mental states (purposely, knowingly, recklessly and negligently) represent an effort to explain those concepts in an understandable way to jurors, rather than simply reading the statutory definitions. Other instructions have been revised to reflect changes in the law.

The committee recommends that users do not discard the old instructions, but rather insert the new and revised instructions in the appropriate places.

As with the original instructions, these instructions are not designed as “pattern” instructions. The committee intends these instructions to be used as a starting point for drafting instructions tailored to the facts of each individual case.

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