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CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES - INFORMANT'S TESTIMONY

The testimony of some witnesses must be considered with more caution than the testimony of other witnesses.

In this case, you have heard the testimony of an informant. An informant is someone who provides information or evidence against someone else in return for some consideration, usually either the payment of money or an agreement by the State to reduce or drop charges against the informant or otherwise provide the informant with a more favorable disposition of the informant's own difficulties with the law than would otherwise be the case. Under the law, the State has the right to use informants as witnesses.

The testimony of such a person may be received in evidence, considered by you, and given such weight as the jurors feel it deserves. The testimony of an informant may be enough in itself for conviction, if you find that it establishes the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

However, it also is true that the testimony of an informant must be scrutinized by you with great care and caution in deciding what, if any, weight it should be given. In particular, you must consider whether the testimony of an informant has been affected by the agreement the informant has struck with the State, or by the informant's own self-interest in the outcome of this case or by prejudice against the defendant