

THE STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE 209TH DISTRICT COURT
VS. § OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
SEAN THOMAS SAUNDERS § MAY TERM, A. D., 2008

Members of the Jury:

The defendant, Sean Thomas Saunders, stands charged by indictment with the offense of capital murder, alleged to have been committed on or about the 25th day of August, 2006, 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 or knowingly relative to the offense of murder are as follow:

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.

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

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 Dorothy Saunders, as alleged in this charge, but also that the defendant specifically intended to cause the death of Dorothy Saunders, by shooting Dorothy Saunders, with a deadly weapon, namely, 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 25th day of August, 2006, in Harris County, Texas, the defendant, Sean Thomas Saunders, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing or attempting to commit the robbery of Dorothy Saunders, intentionally cause the death of Dorothy Saunders by shooting Dorothy Saunders with a deadly weapon, namely, 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 acquit the defendant and say by your verdict "Not Guilty."

You are instructed that no evidence obtained by an officer or other person in violation of any provisions of the Constitution or laws of the State of Texas, or of the Constitution or laws of the United States of America, shall be admitted in evidence against the accused on the trial of any criminal case.

Therefore, if you believe or have a reasonable doubt thereof that the evidence in question was obtained in violation of any provision of the Constitution or laws of the State of Texas, or of the Constitution or laws of the United States of America, then in such event you will wholly disregard such evidence and not consider it as any evidence whatsoever.

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.

No oral statement of an accused made as a result of custodial interrogation shall be admissible against the accused in a criminal proceeding unless:

(1) An electronic recording, which may include audio, motion picture, videotape, or other visual recording, is made of the statement;

(2) Prior to the statement but during the recording the accused is given the following warning:

(a) he has the right to remain silent and not make any statement at all and that any statement he makes may be used against him at his trial;

(b) any statement he makes may be used as evidence against him in court;

(c) he has the right to have a lawyer present to advise him prior to and during any questioning;

(d) if he is unable to employ a lawyer, he has the right to have a lawyer appointed to advise him prior to and during any questioning;

(e) he has the right to terminate the interview at any time; and

(f) the accused knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives any rights set out in the warning;

(3) the recording device was capable of making an accurate recording, the operator was competent, and the recording is accurate, has not been altered; and

(4) all voices on the recording are identified.

So in this case, if you find from the evidence, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, that prior to the time the defendant gave the alleged oral statement or oral confession to C. E. Elliott, if he did give it, the said C. E. Elliott did not warn the defendant in the respects outlined above, or as to any one of such requirements, then you will wholly disregard the alleged oral confession and not consider it for any purpose nor

any evidence obtained as a result thereof; if, however, you find beyond a reasonable doubt that the aforementioned warning was given the defendant prior to his having made such oral statement, if he did make it, still, before you may consider such oral statement as evidence in this case, you must find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that prior to and during such oral statement, if any, the defendant knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waived the rights hereinabove set out in the said warning, and unless you so find, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will not consider the oral statement or oral confession for any purpose whatsoever or any evidence obtained as a result of same.

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.

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 foreman or forelady. 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

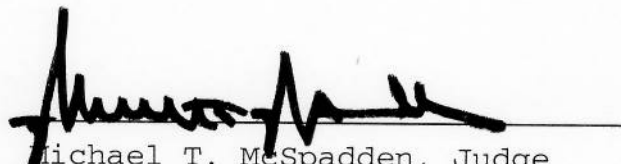
verdict by using the appropriate form attached hereto and signing the same as Foreman or Forelady.

No one has any authority to communicate with you except the officer who has you in charge. 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.

After you have retired, you may communicate with this Court in writing through the officer who has you in charge. 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.

After you have reached a unanimous verdict, the foreman or forelady will certify thereto by filling in the appropriate form attached to this charge and signing his or her name as Foreman or Forelady. Following the arguments of counsel, you will retire to consider your verdict.



Michael T. McSpadden, Judge
209th District Court
Harris County, TEXAS

FILED
Theresa Chang
District Clerk
Time: JUN 13 2008
11:18 AM
By: [Signature]
Harris County, Texas
Deputy



CAUSE NO. 1082419

THE STATE OF TEXAS § IN THE 209TH DISTRICT COURT
VS. § OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
SEAN THOMAS SAUNDERS § MAY TERM, A. D., 2008

V E R D I C T

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Sean Thomas Saunders, not guilty."

Foreman or Forelady of the Jury

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Sean Thomas Saunders, guilty of capital murder, as charged in the indictment."

Steven J. West

Foreman or Forelady of the Jury

FILED
Theresa Chang
District Clerk
JUN 13 2008
Time: _____
By: _____
Deputy

