

**OPTIONAL CHARGE CONCERNING COMPENSATION OF EXPERTS**

The expert witnesses who testified, of course, are paid for their work. [**CHARGE WHERE APPROPRIATE.**<sup>1</sup> Experts are paid for their special knowledge, skill, experience, or training. Some may be full-time employees who receive a regular salary for their work, and some may be outside experts consulted for this particular case who receive a fixed or hourly fee.]

You may consider the compensation received by the expert witness(es) as bearing on (his/her/their) credibility. You should understand, however, that there is nothing improper in any expert receiving reasonable compensation for (his/her) work or for (his/her) appearing in court.

**[CHARGE WHERE APPROPRIATE IF RAISED BY THE EVIDENCE]**

If you find from the evidence that the amount of compensation received is unreasonable, or if you find from the evidence that the expert was paid simply to reach a particular result, you may consider whether that affects the credibility, interest or bias of the witness.

**[CHARGE IN ALL CASES]**

As always, you may give the opinion such weight as you determine it deserves, consistent with the general rules of determining credibility.

---

<sup>1</sup> See State v. Smith, 167 N.J. 158, 189 (2001).