

NOTICE TO THE BAR

MODEL CIVIL JURY CHARGES UPDATE

The Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges has approved the revision of the following Model Civil Jury Charge for use by the bar and trial courts. All approved Model Civil Jury Charges, including the following charge, are available for downloading from the Judiciary's website at <http://www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/civilcharges.html>.

1.12 General Provisions for Standard Charge

C. Role of the Attorneys (Approved 10/2009; Revised 06/2019)

A Note to Judge is added to reference *State v. Brown*, 457 N.J. Super. 345 (App. Div. 2019). In *Brown*, the Appellate Division held that trial courts have the discretion, in appropriate circumstances, to grant requests by deliberating jurors to have the closing arguments of all counsel played back or read back to them, in full or in part. In recognizing this discretionary authority, the panel followed other jurisdictions that have acknowledged the discretion of judges to allow playbacks. Although *Brown* involved a criminal case, the Committee felt the holding was relevant and applicable to playbacks in civil cases.

Questions regarding this and other model civil jury charges may be directed to Kristi Jasberg Robinson, Esq., Chief, Civil Practice Liaison, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; phone (609) 815-2900 ext. 54900; e-mail Kristi.Robinson@njcourts.gov.



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