

COLORADO RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE RELATING TO JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Rule 51. Instructions to Jury (District Court)

The parties shall tender jury instructions pursuant to C.R.C.P. 16(g). All instructions shall be submitted to the parties, who shall make all objections thereto before they are given to the jury. Only the grounds so specified shall be considered on motion for a new trial or on appeal or certiorari. Before argument, the court shall read its instructions to the jury but shall not comment upon the evidence. Such instructions shall be taken by the jury when it retires. All instructions offered by the parties, or given by the court, shall be filed with the clerk and, with the endorsement thereon indicating the action of the court, shall be taken as part of the record of the cause.

Rule 16(g). Jury Instructions and Verdict Forms (District Court)

Counsel for the parties shall confer to develop jointly proposed jury instructions and verdict forms to which the parties agree. No later than 7 days prior to the date scheduled for commencement of the trial or such other time as the court shall direct, a set of the proposed jury instructions and verdict forms shall be filed with the courtroom clerk. The first party represented by counsel to demand a jury trial pursuant to C.R.C.P. 38 and who has not withdrawn such demand shall be responsible for filing the proposed jury instructions and verdict forms. If any jury instruction or verdict form is disputed, the party propounding the instruction or verdict form shall separately file with the courtroom clerk a set of the disputed jury instructions and verdict forms. Each instruction or verdict form shall have attached a brief statement of the legal authority on which the proposed instruction or verdict form is based. Compliance with this Rule shall not deprive parties of the right to tender additional instructions or verdict forms or withdraw proposed instructions or verdict forms at trial. All jury instructions and verdict forms submitted by the parties shall be in final form and reasonably complete. The court shall permit the use of photocopied instructions and verdict forms, without citations, in its submission to the jury.

Rule 351. Instructions to Jury (County Court)

(a) Any party may submit proposed jury instructions by filing with the court two sets of proposed jury instructions and verdict forms. Both sets may be photocopies, but one copy of each instruction shall contain a brief statement of the legal authority on which the proposed instruction is based. The party submitting such instructions and forms shall, simultaneously with the filing of the jury instructions and forms, serve copies on all other appearing parties or their counsel of record.

(b) The parties shall make all objections to the instructions before they are given to the jury. Only the objections specified shall be considered on motion for post-trial relief or on appeal or certiorari. Before closing argument, the court shall read its instructions to the jury but shall not comment upon the evidence. The court's instructions may be taken by the jury when it retires. All instructions offered or given shall be filed with the clerk and, with the indorsement thereon indicating the action of the court, shall be taken as a part of the record of the cause.

Rules 51.1 and 351.1. Colorado Jury Instructions

(1) In instructing the jury in a civil case, the court shall use such instructions as are contained in Colorado Jury Instruction (CJI) as are applicable to the evidence and the prevailing law.

(2) In cases in which there are no CJI instructions on the subject, or in which the factual situation or changes in the law warrant a departure from the CJI instructions, the court shall instruct the jury as to the prevailing law applicable to the evidence in a manner which is clear, unambiguous, impartial and free from argument, using CJI instructions as models as to the form so far as possible.