

RECESSES.¹

***NOTE WELL:** Prior to the first recess, use N.C.P.I.—Crim. 100.31. These instructions may be used for all subsequent recesses.*

Members of the jury, we will now take a (*state length*) recess. I remind you to observe during this recess the rules that I gave you earlier. Do not talk or communicate with each other or with anyone else about any matter connected with this place or allow anyone to talk about it in your presence. Do not talk to or have any contact with any of the parties, attorneys, or witnesses. Do not conduct any investigation, or receive or attempt to receive any reports or information related to this case from any source, including the media, the Internet, social networking or any other means. Do not form or express an opinion about the case. [Do not go to any location mentioned in the evidence. If your routine course of travel to or from the courthouse takes you past any such location, remember that you must not conduct any independent investigation about any matter connected with this trial.²]

1. N.C.G.S. § 15A-1236 spells out the admonitions that must be given to the jury in a criminal case. These instructions should be given at the first recess after the jury is selected and at appropriate times thereafter. The instructions need not be given in full on each occasion.

2. This instruction should be included at recesses when jurors will be likely to leave the courthouse.

