

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE. COMMON LAW MISDEMEANOR.¹

The defendant has been charged with common law obstruction of justice.

For you to find the defendant guilty of this offense, the State must prove two things beyond a reasonable doubt.

First, that the defendant obstructed justice by (describe conduct). Obstruction of justice consists of any act that prevents, obstructs, impedes, or hinders public or legal justice.

And Second, that the defendant acted unlawfully and willfully.

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the alleged date the defendant unlawfully and willfully obstructed justice by (describe conduct), it would be your duty to return a verdict of guilty. If you do not so find or if you have a reasonable doubt as to one or both of these things, it would be your duty to return a verdict of not guilty.

¹Generally, this offense is a Class 1 misdemeanor. However, if certain additional elements are met, the offense may constitute a felony. G.S. 14-3(b).

