### June 2017 Supplement to Pattern Jury Instructions for Motor Vehicle Cases

This supplement contains a new table of contents for the motor vehicle instructions, replacement instructions for motor vehicle cases, and a new motor vehicle index. Place the instructions in the book in the proper numerical sequence. Old instructions with the same number should be discarded.

**Interim Instructions**. As the Pattern Jury Instructions Committee considers new or updated instructions, it posts Interim Instructions that are too important to wait until June to distribute as part of the annual hard copy supplements to the School of Government Website at <a href="http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/ncpji">http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/ncpji</a>. You may check the site periodically for these instructions or join the Pattern Jury Interim Instructions Listserv to receive notification when instructions are posted to the website. Go to the following link to join the Listserv: <a href="http://lists.unc.edu/read/all\_forums/subscribe?name=ncpjii">http://lists.unc.edu/read/all\_forums/subscribe?name=ncpjii</a>.

This supplement contains the following replacements for existing instructions:

| 106.60 | Property | Damages—Issue | and | Burden of Proof |
|--------|----------|---------------|-----|-----------------|
|--------|----------|---------------|-----|-----------------|

106.67 Damages for Loss of Use of Vehicle—Measure of Damages

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| th Carolina PATTERN JURY INSTRUCTIONS for Motor Vehicle     |
| Negligence  |
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| 215.83  | BrakesTowed Vehicles. (10/88)  |
|         | Chapter 14. Stop at Scene of Accident.   |
| 217.10  | Duty to Stop and Render Aid at Scene of Accident. (5/09)                             |
|         | Chapter 15. School Buses.  |
| 218.10  | Stopping for School and Other Buses Transporting Children (or Senior                 |
|         | Citizens). (5/06)  |
| 218.11  | Stopping for School and Other Buses Transporting Children (or Senior                 |
|         | Citizens). (5/06)  |
| 218.50  | Receiving or Discharging School Bus Passengers. (6/89)                               |
| Z10.30  | Receiving of Discharging School bus Passengers. (0/03)                               |

|        | Chapter 16. Operating Vehicle Without License.   |
|--------|--|
| 220.10 | Operation of Vehicle Without a LicenseUnder Age. (6/89)  |
| 220.20 | Knowingly Permitting One to Operate a Vehicle Without a License. (6/89)                            |
| 220.21 | Permitting Unlicensed Minor (Over Sixteen and Under Eighteen) to Drive. (6/89)                     |
|        | Chapter 17. Interstate Highway Violations.   |
| 221.10 | Interstate HighwayCrossing Central Dividing Line. (4/89)   |
| 221.15 | Interstate HighwayTurns. (4/89)  |
| 221.20 | Interstate HighwayDriving in Improper Lane, Way. (4/89)  |
| 221.25 | Interstate HighwayEntering and Exiting. (4/89)   |
| 221.30 | Interstate HighwayStopping on Right-of-Way. (4/89)   |
| 221.35 | Interstate HighwayFailure to Yield Right-of-Way. (4/89)  |
|        | Chapter 18. Miscellaneous Acts of Negligence.  |
| 225.10 | Location of Video Monitors and Screens in Motor Vehicles. (6/10)                                   |
| 225.11 | Driving While Texting. (6/13)  |
| 225.13 | Commercial Motor Vehicle—Driving While Using A Mobile Telephone Or Other Electronic Device. (6/13) |
| 225.20 | Coasting Prohibited. (10/88)   |
| 225.22 | Driving Through Safety Zone. (4/89)  |
| 225.23 | Driving on Sidewalks. (4/89)   |
| 225.35 | Persons Riding Animals and Drivers of Animal-Drawn Vehicles. (6/89)                                |
| 225.37 | Special Acts of NegligenceMoped Operator (Under Age). (6/10)                                       |

#### APPENDICES.

- A. DEFINITIONS FROM THE MOTOR VEHICLE CODE. (2/89)
- B. TABLE OF SECTIONS OF GENERAL STATUTES INVOLVED IN CIVIL INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH 225.35. (6/85)
- C. DESCRIPTIVE WORD INDEX. (6/15)

N.C.P.I.—MV 106.60 PROPERTY DAMAGES—ISSUE AND BURDEN OF PROOF. MOTOR VEHICLE VOLUME APRIL 2017

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106.60 PROPERTY DAMAGES—ISSUE AND BURDEN OF PROOF.1

The (*state number*) issue reads:

"What amount is the plaintiff entitled to recover for property damages?"

If you have answered the (*state number*) issue "Yes" (and the (*state number*) issue "No") in favor of the plaintiff, the plaintiff is entitled to recover nominal damages even without proof of actual damages. Nominal damages consist of some trivial amount such as one dollar in recognition of the technical damages incurred by the plaintiff.

The plaintiff may also be entitled to recover actual damages. On this issue the burden of proof is on the plaintiff. This means that the plaintiff must prove, by the greater weight of the evidence, the amount of actual property damages proximately caused by the negligence of the defendant.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This issue covers only actual damage to the property and not damages for loss of use. Where the evidence could justify recovery for loss of use, that should be submitted as a separate and additional issue. *See*, for example, N.C.P.I.-MV 106.67.

<sup>2</sup> Care should be exercised in choosing the appropriate standard. Negligence cases require proximate cause. Intentional torts generally do not.

N.C.P.I.—MV 106.67 DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF USE OF VEHICLE—MEASURE OF DAMAGES. MOTOR VEHICLE VOLUME MAY 2017

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106.67 DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF USE OF VEHICLE—MEASURE OF DAMAGES.<sup>1</sup>

The (state number) issue reads:

"What amount is the plaintiff entitled to recover for loss of use of *his* (*describe vehicle*)?"

The plaintiff's actual property damages may also include compensation for the loss of use of *his* vehicle. (*Here give the applicable alternative statement (give only one):*)

[Repairs possible at reasonable cost in reasonable time. When a vehicle, damaged by the negligence of another, can be repaired at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable time, the owner may recover for the loss of its use. The measure of such damages is the cost of renting a similar vehicle during a reasonable period for repairs (whether or not the owner actually rented such a similar vehicle).<sup>2</sup>]

[Repairs possible at reasonable cost in reasonable time. (Use if plaintiff is a lease holder.)<sup>3</sup> When a vehicle, damaged by the negligence of another, can be repaired at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable time, the lease holder may recover for the loss of its use. The measure of such damages is the cost of renting a similar vehicle during a reasonable period for repairs (whether or not the lease holder actually rented such a similar vehicle).]

[Total destruction or repairs improvident. When a vehicle, by the negligence of another, is totally destroyed as a conveyance (or if for some reason repairs would be so long delayed as to be improvident), the owner may recover for loss of use only if a substitute vehicle is not immediately obtainable. If a substitute is not immediately obtainable, the owner may recover for loss of use during the period reasonably necessary to acquire a

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substitute. The measure of such damages is the cost of renting a similar vehicle during such period (whether or not the owner actually rented such a similar vehicle).<sup>4</sup>]

[Owner elects to replace repairable vehicle. When a vehicle, damaged by the negligence of another, can be repaired at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable time, but the owner elects to replace it by acquiring a substitute vehicle, the owner may recover for loss of use during the time reasonably required to make repairs or to acquire the substitute, whichever is shorter. The measure of such damages is the cost of renting a similar vehicle during such period].<sup>5</sup>

NOTE WELL: When the evidence satisfies the conditions described in Amerson v. Willis, 109 N.C. App. 297, 299, 426 S.E.2d 428, 429 (1993) (citing Roberts v. Pilot Freight Carriers, Inc., 273 N.C. 600, 607, 160 S.E.2d 712, 718 (1968)), the appropriate measure of the plaintiff's actual property damage may include damages for lost profits rather than for loss of use.

If so justified by the evidence, one of the applicable alternative statements should be given first and the following paragraph should be read second.

(In such a situation, if the owner proves that *he* made a reasonable effort to obtain a substitute vehicle but was unable to do so within the area reasonably related to *his* business, and further proves with reasonable certainty the profits *he* lost through inability to use the vehicle, then *he* may recover, in place of the cost of rental, such profits lost during a reasonable period within which to [make repairs] [obtain a substitute not immediately obtainable].)

<sup>1</sup> This instruction is based upon *Roberts v. Pilot Freight Carriers, Inc.*, 273 N.C. 600, 160 S.E.2d 712 (1968), which should be studied before determining which parts of the

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instruction should be given. *See also Amerson v. Willis*, 109 N.C. App. 297, 298-299, 426 S.E.2d 428, 429 (1993).

If there is a question as to whether any period mentioned in this instruction is reasonable, it is, of course, for the jury to determine what is reasonable, and a special addition to this instruction may be required. See Ling v. Bell, 23 N.C. App. 10, 13, 207 S.E.2d 789, 791 (1974). The phrasing of such an addition will depend upon the facts in evidence- particularly since (1) a period which appears initially to be reasonable may become unreasonably extended; (2) a decision to purchase a substitute may depend upon a number of diverse and changing factors. In any event, the two cases cited should be carefully reviewed in preparation for giving that part of the instruction which relates the law to the evidence.

- 2 See Roberts, 273 N.C. at 607, 160 S.E.2d at 718 (holding that the cost of similar rental, whether or not incurred, is the measure of damages for loss of use of business vehicles); *Martin v. Hare*, 78 N.C. App. 358, 364-65, 337 S.E.2d 632, 636 (1985) (same, in the context of pleasure vehicles).
- 3 See Mauney v. Carroll, \_\_ N.C. App. \_\_, \_\_, 795 S.E.2d 239, 242 (2016) (holding that when loss of use occurs during the period of a lease, it is the lease holder, not the lessor, who may recover for loss of use).
- 4 See Roberts, 273 N.C. at 606, 160 S.E.2d at 717 (holding that the cost of similar rental, whether or not incurred, is the measure of damages for the interval reasonably necessary to acquire the substitute vehicle).

5 *Id*.