

MEANING OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT. G.S. 15A-2002.

NOTE WELL: *Where a jury makes an inquiry about the meaning of Life Imprisonment, in those cases that the offense occurred on or after 10/1/94, the jury should be instructed as follows:*

A sentence of life imprisonment means a sentence of life without parole.¹

NOTE WELL: *Where a jury makes an inquiry about the meaning of Life Imprisonment, in those cases that the offense occurred before 10/1/94 the jury should be instructed as follows:*

A sentence of life imprisonment means that the defendant shall be imprisoned for life in the state's prison.

¹See *State v. Boggess*, 358 N.C. 676, 600 S.E.2d 453 (2004), where the Court held that it was error to add the extraneous language "you should decide the question of punishment according to the issues submitted to you by the Court, wholly uninfluenced by consideration of what another arm of the government might or might not do in the future."

