FILED

JAN 31 2000

LARRY W. PROPES, CLERK
CHARLESTON, SC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

2:00-mc-14-8

In Re: Preparation of JURY INSTRUCTIONS)
for cases assigned to Judge Blatt) AMENDED ORDER

a) **This court requires the parties to submit substantive proposed jury instructions only on the unusual legal issues relevant to your particular case; it does not desire proposed jury instructions on general legal principles applicable to all cases (examples: definitions of circumstantial evidence, negligence, and proximate cause; jury determines the credibility of witnesses).**

b) **The parties are required to jointly file one set of proposed jury instructions, in duplicate, seven days prior to trial.** To this end, the parties are required to serve their proposed instructions upon each other two weeks prior to trial. The parties should then meet, confer and submit to the court one set of agreed upon joint instructions, as well as any disputed supplemental instructions, signed by counsel for each party.

c) If the parties cannot agree upon one entire set of joint instructions, they are required to submit those joint instructions that have been agreed upon (and labeled as Joint Instruction No. ___), and submit those disputed supplemental instructions which are not agreed upon (and labeled as Supplemental Instruction No. ___). Legal authority should be cited in all instructions. Each supplemental instruction should list any party requesting the instruction as well as any party objecting to the instruction, and it should cite to legal authority in support of the requested instruction. The objection should specifically set forth the objectionable material, and it shall cite to legal authority explaining why the instruction is improper. The numbering of supplemental instructions should begin where the agreed upon joint instructions end.

d) If legal authority is cited that is not reported in the South Eastern Reports or Federal Reports, copies of the cited authority should be attached.

e) All instructions should be concise, understandable and neutral statements of law. Argumentative or formula instructions are improper, will not be given, and should not be submitted.

f) Failure to comply with any of the above instructions may subject the non-complying party and/or its attorneys to sanctions.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Sol Blatt, Jr.
Senior United States District Judge

January 12, 2000
Charleston, South Carolina