**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**COUNTY OF DU PAGE**

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS )

PLAINTIFF, )

)

) CRIMINAL

VS. ) No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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DEFENDANT. )

**VOIR DIRE QUESTIONS**

Where were you born?

What is your educational background?

Where did you receive your grammar school, high school and any further education?

What subjects did you take in college?

What college was that?

What has been your religious preference?

Do you attend church regularly?

What are the ages, sexes, residences and occupations of your children, if any?

What school do they attend?

Is that a public school?

Why did you select that school for them?

What would you describe as your greatest strengths?

What are your weaknesses?

Would you describe yourself as more of a leader or follower and why?

How do other people describe you?

What are your duties in your employment?

Do you supervise other people?

Are you doing any volunteer work now or have you done any in the past?

Do you have any close friends or relatives who are involved in police work?

Have you ever been in the military?

Have you ever heard of this case before you came here for jury duty?

Do you have an opinion regarding this case?

How do you feel about people of the defendant's race?

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression about law enforcement?

Have you ever been a victim of a crime similar to that charged here?

Is there anything about the nature of the charges contained in the complaint that would prevent your considering this case fairly and impartially?

If the judge instructs you that the crime charged includes several elements, will you vote for acquittal unless you are satisfied that the proof establishes all the elements?

You understand, do you not, that the burden of proof is always on the prosecution and that the defendant need not present any evidence?

You also understand, do you not, that the defendant need not testify on the behalf of himself or herself?

Do you realize that the Indictment in this case is merely a formal legal pleading, a piece of paper filed by the prosecutor in order to start these proceedings, and has no greater legal effect that a complaint or a declaration in a civil case?

Do you recognize that in a criminal case it is necessary for the prosecution to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty?

Do you agree without principle of law that a defendant in a criminal case should not be convicted unless the jury is convinced of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty?

As far as you are concerned, at the present time, the defendant stands innocent of the crime that he or she is charged with, is that right?

If the Court tells you that the defendant is presumed to be innocent, you don't have any fault to find with that, do you?

You would expect the prosecution to be able to give you convincing evidence to prove that the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, would you not?

You understand that it is not our responsibility to prove the defendant innocent?

Would the fact that the defendant has been arrested and charged with this crime create an inference in your mind that there must be some truth or they wouldn't be holding this person for all these months for trial?

You understand that the presumption of innocence and the requirement that the defendant be proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt are fundamental concepts in our American system of criminal justice?

If you heard the evidence and you felt that the defendant was probably guilty, that is you weren't convinced that he was or wasn't, but you thought the evidence showed he probably was guilty, would you be able to return a verdict of not guilty?

If you do have a reasonable doubt about my client's guilt and, after listening to the arguments of your fellow jurors when you retire to consider this case, you still have that reasonable doubt, will you stick to your guns and refuse to change your verdict -even though it is an unpopular one or even though you are the only juror who holds such doubt or even though it might result in a mistrial?

Would the inconvenience of having to spend the night away from your home prevent you from sticking to your guns and refusing to change your verdict, if you still had that reasonable doubt about the guilt of this defendant?

If the defendant should testify, would you give his or her testimony the same serious consideration as any other witness' testimony?