

Verdict Sheet Explained ¹

[For each defendant,] I will give you a form known as a verdict sheet. The verdict sheet lists (the/each) count submitted for your consideration, [the manner in which you are to consider the counts,] and the possible verdicts. Please use the form to record your verdict with an X or a check mark in the appropriate place [for each count you consider in accordance with my instructions]. ²

[Add if verdict sheet will contain additional information:

In addition to listing the counts, I have added the following information on the verdict sheet in order to distinguish (between/among) the counts:

Select as appropriate:

dates [and]
names of complainants (names of the deceased) [and]
language by which the counts may be distinguished.³

The sole purpose of doing so is to distinguish (between/among) those counts. It is not a substitute for my full instructions on the meaning and elements of each charge, and it should not discourage you from asking me to define a crime again if a question about it arises.]

1. It is expected that this Verdict Sheet Explained charge will be used in conjunction with the Verdict Sheet and the charge entitled Deliberations.
2. See CPL 300.10(4)
3. CPL 310.20(2) (“Whenever the court submits two or more counts charging offenses set forth in the same article of the law, the court may set forth the dates, names of complainants or specific statutory language, without defining the terms, by which the counts may be distinguished; provided, however, that the court shall instruct the jury in its charge that the sole purpose of the notations is to distinguish between the counts.”)