

Final Matters Before Releasing the Jury to Deliberate Checklist¹

- Review the verdict form with jurors; inquire if they have any questions regarding the form or the instructions they received. [MCR 2.513\(N\)\(2\)](#).
- Inquire if the parties and counsel are satisfied with the jury instructions. *People v Kowalski*, 489 Mich 488, 504-505 (2011).
- Unless it is otherwise agreed to, allow the alternate(s) to deliberate, have the clerk draw to select the alternate(s); thank the alternate(s) and instruct that they may not discuss the case until the jury is discharged. [MCR 2.511\(B\)](#).
- Swear in the bailiff/clerk to safekeep the jurors during deliberations.
- Release the jury to deliberate with a written copy of the final instructions. [MCR 2.513\(N\)\(3\)](#).

¹ For more detailed information on this topic, see the Michigan Judicial Institute's *Civil Proceedings Benchbook*, Chapter 7.

