



**FROM THE COMMITTEE  
ON MODEL CRIMINAL  
JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

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The Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions has adopted a revision of Chapter 15 (Traffic Offenses) of the Model Criminal Jury Instructions, effective February 1, 2021.

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The Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions has adopted a revision of Chapter 15 (Traffic Offenses) of the Model Criminal Jury Instructions. Repeated statutory amendments over the past four decades left the jury instructions for this chapter a hodgepodge and inconsistent in format with other chapters, especially the driving-while-intoxicated portion of Chapter 15. The Committee re-wrote the instructions according to the current statutory structure for driving offenses in a more consistent and comprehensive format.

Twelve new instructions and forms were also added to Chapter 15: M Crim JI 15.1a (Operating While Intoxicated with High Bodily Alcohol Content Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function), M Crim JI 15.6c (Possible Verdicts for Operating with Any Amount of Controlled Substance), M Crim JI 15.6d (Possible Verdicts for Operating While Intoxicated with High Bodily Alcohol Content, Operating While Intoxicated, or Operating While Visibly Impaired Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function), M Crim JI 15.6e (Possible Verdicts for Operating with Any Amount of Controlled Substance Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function), M Crim JI 15.7b (Verdict Form for Operating While Visibly Impaired), M Crim JI 15.7c (Verdict Form for Operating with Any Amount of Controlled Substance), M Crim JI 15.7d (Verdict Form for Operating While Intoxicated with High Bodily Alcohol Content, Operating While Intoxicated, or Operating while Visibly Impaired Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function), M Crim JI 15.7e (Verdict Form for Operating with Any Amount of Controlled Substance Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function), M Crim JI 15.10 (Owner or Person in Control of Vehicle Permitting Operation by Another Person While Intoxicated or Impaired), M Crim JI 15.11 (Person Under 21 Operating with Any Alcohol in System), M Crim JI 15.12 (Violation with a Person Under the Age of 16 in the Motor Vehicle), and M Crim JI

15.13a (Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Vehicle Damage, Injury, Serious Impairment of a Body Function, or Death).

**M Crim JI 15.1      Operating While Intoxicated; High Bodily Alcohol Content [OWIHBAC]**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a motor vehicle with a high bodily alcohol content. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(4) Third, that the defendant operated the vehicle with a bodily alcohol level of 0.17 grams or more per [per 100 milliliters of blood / 210 liters of breath / 67 milliliters of urine].

*Use Note*

Lesser offenses of other forms of OWI and/or OWVI may be given. Use only the provisions for alcohol intoxication when instructing on the lesser offense(s) for this charge.

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.1a**

**Operating While Intoxicated with High Bodily Alcohol Content Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function [OWIHBAC: Death or Serious Impairment]**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated with a high bodily alcohol content causing [death / serious impairment of a body function to another person].<sup>1</sup> To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>2</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>3</sup>

(4) Third, that the defendant operated the vehicle with a bodily alcohol level of 0.17 grams or more per [per 100 milliliters of blood / 210 liters of breath / 67 milliliters of urine].

(5) Fourth, that the defendant voluntarily decided to drive knowing that [he / she] had consumed alcohol.

(6) Fifth, that the defendant's operation of the vehicle caused<sup>4</sup> [the death of (*name decedent*) / a serious impairment of a body function<sup>5</sup> to (*name injured person*)]. To cause [the death / such injury], the defendant's operation of the vehicle must have been a factual cause of the [death / injury], that is, but for the defendant's operation of the vehicle, the [death / injury] would not have occurred. In addition, [death or serious injury / the injury] must have been a direct and natural result of operating the vehicle.

*Use Notes*

1. Lesser offenses of OWI and/or OWVI may be given. Use only the provisions for alcohol intoxication when instructing on the lesser offense(s).

2. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

3. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

4 If it is claimed that the defendant’s operation of the vehicle was not a proximate cause of serious impairment of a body function because of an intervening, superseding cause, review *People v Schaefer*, 473 Mich 418, 438-439; 703 NW2d 774 (2005) (a “causes death” case under MCL 257.625(4)). *Schaefer* was modified in part on other grounds by *People v Derror*, 475 Mich 316; 715 NW2d 822 (2006), which was overruled in part on other grounds by *People v Feezel*, 486 Mich 184; 783 NW2d 67 (2010).

5. MCL 257.58c provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:

- (a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.
- (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
- (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
- (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
- (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
- (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
- (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
- (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
- (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
- (j) Loss of an organ.

## M Crim JI 15.2      Operating While Intoxicated [OWI]

(1) [The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated / You may also consider a less serious charge of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated]:

[Choose from the following:]

- (a) with an unlawful bodily alcohol level; [and / or]
- (b) while under the influence of alcohol; [or]
- (c) while under the influence of a controlled substance; [or]
- (d) while under the influence of an intoxicating substance; [or]
- (e) while under the influence of a combination of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance].

To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(4) Third, that the defendant was intoxicated. That is, the defendant [choose from the following]:

- (a) operated the vehicle with a bodily alcohol level of 0.08 grams or more per [100 milliliters of blood / 210 liters of breath / 67 milliliters of urine];
- (b) operated the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol;
- (c) operated the vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance;
- (d) operated the vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating substance;
- (e) operated the vehicle while under the influence of a combination of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance].

[Choose from the following alternatives where the charge is “under the influence”:]

*Under the influence* of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance] means that because of [drinking alcohol / using or consuming a controlled substance / consuming or taking into (his / her) body an intoxicating substance], the defendant’s ability to operate a motor vehicle in a normal manner was substantially lessened. To be under the influence, a person does not have to be falling down or hardly able to stand up. On the other hand, just because a person has [drunk alcohol or smells of alcohol / consumed or used a controlled substance / consumed or used an intoxicating substance] does not prove, by itself, that the person is under the influence of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance]. The test is whether, because of [drinking alcohol / using or consuming a controlled substance / consuming or taking into (his / her) body an intoxicating substance], the defendant’s mental or physical condition was significantly affected and the defendant was no longer able to operate a vehicle in a normal manner.

[Where the charge is “under the influence” of a substance other than alcohol choose (i), (ii), or (iii) as appropriate:]

- (i) [Name substance] is a controlled substance.
- (ii) [Name substance] is an intoxicating substance.
- (iii) An *intoxicating substance* is a substance in any form, including but not limited to vapors and fumes, other than food, that was taken into the defendant’s body in any manner, that is used in a manner or for a purpose for which it was not intended, and that may result in a condition of intoxication.

*Use Note*

The lesser offense of OWVI may be given.

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

**M Crim JI 15.2a      Operating While Intoxicated Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function] [OWI: Death or Serious Impairment]**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated causing [death / serious impairment of a body function to another person].<sup>1</sup> To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>2</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>3</sup>

(4) Third, that the defendant was intoxicated. That is, the defendant [*choose from the following*]:

(a) operated the vehicle with a bodily alcohol level of 0.08 grams or more per [100 milliliters of blood / 210 liters of breath / 67 milliliters of urine];

(b) operated the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol;

(c) operated the vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance;

(d) operated the vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating substance;

(e) operated the vehicle while under the influence of a combination of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance].

[*Choose from the following alternatives where the charge is “under the influence”:*]

*Under the influence* of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance] means that because of [drinking alcohol / using or consuming a controlled substance / consuming or taking into (his / her) body an intoxicating substance], the defendant’s ability to operate a

motor vehicle in a normal manner was substantially lessened. To be under the influence, a person does not have to be falling down or hardly able to stand up. On the other hand, just because a person has [drunk alcohol or smells of alcohol / consumed or used a controlled substance / consumed or used an intoxicating substance] does not prove, by itself, that the person is under the influence of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance]. The test is whether, because of [drinking alcohol / using or consuming a controlled substance / consuming or taking into (his / her) body an intoxicating substance], the defendant's mental or physical condition was significantly affected and the defendant was no longer able to operate a vehicle in a normal manner.

[Where the charge is "under the influence" of a substance other than alcohol choose (i), (ii), or (iii) as appropriate:]

(i) [Name substance] is a controlled substance.

(ii) [Name substance] is an intoxicating substance.

(iii) An *intoxicating substance* is a substance in any form, including but not limited to vapors and fumes, other than food, that was taken into the defendant's body in any manner, that is used in a manner or for a purpose for which it was not intended, and that may result in a condition of intoxication.

(5) Fourth, that the defendant voluntarily decided to drive knowing that [he / she] had consumed [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance / a combination of (alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance)]<sup>4</sup> and might be intoxicated.

(6) Fifth, that the defendant's operation of the vehicle caused<sup>5</sup> [the death of (*name decedent*) / a serious impairment of a body function<sup>6</sup> to (*name injured person*)]. To cause [the death / such injury], the defendant's operation of the vehicle must have been a factual cause of the [death / injury], that is, but for the defendant's operation of the vehicle, the [death / injury] would not have occurred. In addition, [death or serious injury / the injury] must have been a direct and natural result of operating the vehicle.

*Use Notes*

1. Lesser offense(s) of OWI and OWVI may be given.
2. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
3. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).
4. Select the appropriate combination of alcohol/substances based on the evidence presented.
5. If it is claimed that the defendant’s operation of the vehicle was not a proximate cause of serious impairment of a body function because of an intervening, superseding cause, review *People v Schaefer*, 473 Mich 418, 438-439; 703 NW2d 774 (2005) (a “causes death” case under MCL 257.625(4)). *Schaefer* was modified in part on other grounds by *People v Derror*, 475 Mich 316; 715 NW2d 822 (2006), which was overruled in part on other grounds by *People v Feezel*, 486 Mich 184; 783 NW2d 67 (2010).
6. MCL 257.58c provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:
  - (a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.
  - (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
  - (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
  - (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
  - (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
  - (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
  - (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
  - (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
  - (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
  - (j) Loss of an organ.

## M Crim JI 15.3      Operating While Visibly Impaired [OWVI]

(1) [The defendant is charged with the crime of / You may also consider the less serious charge of] operating a motor vehicle while visibly impaired. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(4) Third, that, due to the [drinking of alcohol / use or consumption of a controlled substance / use or consumption of an intoxicating substance / use or consumption of a combination of (alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance)]<sup>3</sup>, the defendant drove with less ability than would an ordinary careful driver. The defendant's ability to drive must have been lessened to the point that it would have been noticed by another person. It is the defendant's ability to drive that must have been visibly lessened, not the defendant's manner of driving, though evidence of the defendant's manner of driving may be considered as evidence of the defendant's ability to drive.<sup>4</sup>

### *Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is "generally accessible to motor vehicles" and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).
3. Select the appropriate combination of alcohol/substances based on the evidence presented.
4. See *People v Mikulen*, 324 Mich App 4; 919 NW2d 454 (2018).

**M Crim JI 15.3a      Operating While Visibly Impaired Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function [OWVI: Death or Serious Impairment]**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a motor vehicle while visibly impaired causing [death / serious impairment of a body function to another person]. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(4) Third, that, due to the [drinking of alcohol / use or consumption of a controlled substance / use or consumption of an intoxicating substance / use or consumption of a combination of (alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance)]<sup>3</sup>, the defendant drove with less ability than would an ordinary careful driver. The defendant's ability to drive must have been lessened to the point that it would have been noticed by another person. It is the defendant's ability to drive that must have been visibly lessened, not the defendant's manner of driving, though evidence of the defendant's manner of driving may be considered as evidence of the defendant's ability to drive.<sup>3</sup>

(5) Fourth, that the defendant voluntarily decided to drive knowing that [he / she] had consumed [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance / a combination of (alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance)]<sup>4</sup> and might be visibly impaired.

(6) Fifth, that the defendant's operation of the vehicle caused<sup>5</sup> [the death of (*name decedent*) / a serious impairment of a body function<sup>6</sup> to (*name injured person*)]. To cause [the death / such injury], the defendant's operation of the vehicle must have been a factual cause of the [death / injury], that is, but for the defendant's operation of the vehicle, the [death / injury] would not have occurred. In addition, [death or serious injury / the injury] must have been a direct and natural result of operating the vehicle.

*Use Notes*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).
3. See *People v Mikulen*, 324 Mich App 14; 919 NW2d 454 (2018).
4. Select the appropriate combination of alcohol/substances based on the evidence presented.
5. If it is claimed that the defendant’s operation of the vehicle was not a proximate cause of serious impairment of a body function because of an intervening, superseding cause, review *People v Schaefer*, 473 Mich 418, 438-439; 703 NW2d 774 (2005) (a “causes death” case under MCL 257.625(4)). *Schaefer* was modified in part on other grounds by *People v Derror*, 475 Mich 316; 715 NW2d 822 (2006), which was overruled in part on other grounds by *People v Feezel*, 486 Mich 184; 783 NW2d 67 (2010).
6. MCL 257.58c provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:
  - (a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.
  - (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
  - (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
  - (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
  - (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
  - (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
  - (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
  - (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
  - (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
  - (j) Loss of an organ.

**M Crim JI 15.4      Operating with Any Amount of Schedule 1 Controlled Substance or Cocaine [OWACS]**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a motor vehicle with any amount of a controlled substance in [his / her] body. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(4) Third, that while operating the vehicle, the defendant had any amount of [*state specific schedule 1 controlled substance or controlled substance in MCL 333.7214(a)(iv) alleged by the prosecutor*] in [his / her] body.

*Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

**M Crim JI 15.4a      Operating with Any Amount of Schedule 1 Controlled Substance or Cocaine Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function [OWACS: Death or Serious Impairment]**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a motor vehicle with a controlled substance in [his / her] body causing [death / serious impairment of a body function to another person]. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(4) Third, that while operating the vehicle, the defendant had any amount of [*state specific schedule 1 controlled substance or controlled substance in MCL 333.7214(a)(iv) alleged by the prosecutor*] in [his / her] body.

(5) Fourth, that the defendant voluntarily decided to drive knowing that [he / she] had consumed or used a controlled substance.

(6) Fifth, that the defendant's operation of the vehicle caused<sup>3</sup> [the death of (*name decedent*) / a serious impairment of a body function<sup>4</sup> to (*name injured person*)]. To cause [the death / such injury], the defendant's operation of the vehicle must have been a factual cause of the [death / injury], that is, but for the defendant's operation of the vehicle, the [death / injury] would not have occurred. In addition, [death or serious injury / the injury] must have been a direct and natural result of operating the vehicle.

*Use Notes*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

3. If it is claimed that the defendant’s operation of the vehicle was not a proximate cause of serious impairment of a body function because of an intervening, superseding cause, review *People v Schaefer*, 473 Mich 418, 438-439; 703 NW2d 774 (2005) (a “causes death” case under MCL 257.625(4)). *Schaefer* was modified in part on other grounds by *People v Derror*, 475 Mich 316; 715 NW2d 822 (2006), which was overruled in part on other grounds by *People v Feezel*, 486 Mich 184; 783 NW2d 67 (2010).

4. The statute, MCL 257.58c, provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:

- (a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.
- (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
- (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
- (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
- (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
- (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
- (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
- (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
- (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
- (j) Loss of an organ.

**M Crim JI 15.5      Factors in Considering Operating While Intoxicated  
[OWI] and Operating While Visibly Impaired [OWVI]**

As you consider the possible verdicts, you should think about the following:

*[Choose appropriate paragraphs:]*

(1) What was the mental and physical condition of the defendant at the time that [he / she] operated the motor vehicle? Were the defendant's reflexes, ability to see, way of walking and talking, manner of driving, and judgment normal? If there was evidence that any of these things seemed abnormal, was this caused by [drinking alcohol / using or consuming a controlled substance / using or consuming an intoxicating substance / using or consuming a combination of (alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance)<sup>1</sup>]?

(2) You may also consider bodily alcohol content in reaching your verdict. In that regard, [was / were] the test(s) technically accurate? Was the equipment properly assembled and maintained and in good working order when the test(s) [was / were] given?

(3) Were the test results reliable? Was the test given correctly? Was the person who gave it properly trained? Did the circumstances under which the test was given affect the accuracy of the results?

(4) One way to determine whether a person is intoxicated is to measure how much alcohol is in [his / her] [blood / breath / urine]. There was evidence in this trial that a test was given to the defendant. The purpose of this test is to measure the amount of alcohol in a person's [blood / breath / urine].

*[Choose (5)(a) and/or (5)(b):]*<sup>2</sup>

(5) If you find

(a) that there were 0.17 grams or more of alcohol [per 100 milliliters of blood / per 210 liters of breath / per 67 milliliters of urine] when [he / she] operated the vehicle, you may find the defendant operated a motor vehicle while intoxicated with a high bodily alcohol content, whether or not it affected [his / her] ability to operate a motor vehicle.

(b) that there were 0.08 grams or more of alcohol [per 100 milliliters of the defendant's blood / per 210 liters of the defendant's breath / per 67 milliliters of the defendant's urine] when [he / she] operated the vehicle, you may find the defendant operated a motor vehicle with an unlawful bodily alcohol content, whether or not this alcohol content affected [his / her] ability to operate a motor vehicle.

(6) You may infer that the defendant's bodily alcohol content at the time of the test was the same as [his / her] bodily alcohol content at the time [he / she] operated the motor vehicle.<sup>3</sup>

(7) In considering the evidence and arriving at your verdict, you may give the test whatever weight you believe that it deserves. The results of a test are just one factor you may consider, along with all other evidence about the condition of the defendant at the time [he / she] operated the motor vehicle.

*Use Notes*

1. Where a combination of alcohol and other controlled or intoxicating substances is shown, select the appropriate combination of alcohol/substances based on the evidence presented.

2. Read both (5)(a) and (5)(b) if operating with a high bodily alcohol content is charged, and operating while intoxicated is being considered by the trier of fact as a lesser offense. Otherwise, read (5)(a) or (5)(b) according to the charge and the evidence.

3. If the evidence warrants, the following can be added to this paragraph (6): [However, you have heard evidence that the defendant consumed alcohol after driving but before the [blood / breath / urine] test was administered. You may consider this evidence in determining whether to infer that the defendant's bodily alcohol content at the time of the test was the same as [his / her] bodily alcohol content at the time that [he / she] operated the motor vehicle.]

## **M Crim JI 15.6 Possible Verdicts [OWIHBAC]**

There are four possible verdicts:

- (1) not guilty, or
- (2) guilty of operating a motor vehicle with a high bodily alcohol content, or
- (3) guilty of operating a motor vehicle while

*[Select appropriate possibilities:]*

- (a) under the influence of alcohol;
- (b) under the influence of a controlled substance;
- (c) under the influence of an intoxicating substance;
- (d) under the influence of a combination of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance];
- (e) with an unlawful bodily alcohol level.

If you all agree that the defendant either operated a motor vehicle with an unlawful bodily alcohol level or while under the influence of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance / a combination of (alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance)], it is not necessary that you agree on which of these violations occurred. However, in order to return a verdict of guilty, you must all agree that one of those violations did occur.

or

- (4) guilty of operating a motor vehicle while visibly impaired.

## **M Crim JI 15.6a Possible Verdicts [OWI]**

There are three possible verdicts:

- (1) not guilty, or
- (2) guilty of operating a motor vehicle while

*[Select appropriate possibilities:]*

- (a) under the influence of alcohol;
- (b) under the influence of a controlled substance;
- (c) under the influence of an intoxicating substance;
- (d) under the influence of a combination of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance];
- (e) with an unlawful bodily alcohol level.

If you all agree that the defendant either operated a motor vehicle with an unlawful bodily alcohol level or while under the influence of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance / a combination of (alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance)], it is not necessary that you agree on which of these violations occurred. However, in order to return a verdict of guilty, you must all agree that one of those violations did occur.

or

- (3) guilty of operating a motor vehicle while visibly impaired.

## **M Crim JI 15.6b Possible Verdicts [OWVI]**

There are two possible verdicts:

- (1) not guilty, or
- (2) guilty of operating a motor vehicle while visibly impaired.

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.6c Possible Verdicts [OWACS]**

There are two possible verdicts:

- (1) not guilty, or
- (2) guilty of operating a motor vehicle with any amount of [*state specific schedule 1 or 2 controlled substance alleged*].

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.6d Possible Verdicts [OWIHBAC/OWI/OWVI  
Causing Death or Serious Impairment]**

There are five possible verdicts:

- (1) not guilty, or
- (2) guilty of causing [death / serious impairment of a body function] while operating a motor vehicle with a high bodily alcohol content, while

*[Select any appropriate possibilities:]*

- (a) under the influence of alcohol;
  - (b) under the influence of a controlled substance;
  - (c) under the influence of an intoxicating substance;
  - (d) under the influence of a combination of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance];
  - (e) with an unlawful bodily alcohol content;
  - (f) while [his / her] ability to drive was visibly impaired by alcohol or a controlled or intoxicating substance, or
- (3) guilty of operating a motor vehicle with a high bodily alcohol content not causing [death / serious impairment of a body function], or

- (4) guilty of operating a motor vehicle while

*[Select appropriate possibilities:]*

- (a) under the influence of alcohol;
  - (b) under the influence of a controlled substance;
  - (c) under the influence of an intoxicating substance;
  - (d) under the influence of a combination of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance];
  - (e) with an unlawful bodily alcohol level;
- but not causing [death / serious impairment of a body function],

If you all agree that the defendant either operated a motor vehicle with an unlawful bodily alcohol level or while under the

influence of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance / a combination of (alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance)], it is not necessary that you agree on which of these violations occurred. However, in order to return a verdict of guilty, you must all agree that one of those violations did occur.

or,

(5) guilty of operating a motor vehicle while visibly impaired, but not causing [death / serious impairment of a body function].

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.6e Possible Verdicts [OWACS Causing Death or Serious Impairment]**

There are three possible verdicts:

- (1) not guilty, or
- (2) guilty of causing [death / serious impairment of a body function] while operating a motor vehicle with any amount of [*state specific schedule 1 or 2 controlled substance alleged*], or
- (3) guilty of operating a motor vehicle with any amount of [*state specific schedule 1 or 2 controlled substance alleged*] not causing [death / serious impairment of a body function].

**M Crim JI 15.7 Verdict Form [OWIHBAC]**

Check only one of the following verdicts:

- (1)  Not Guilty
- (2)  Guilty of Operating with a High Bodily Alcohol Content
- (3)  Guilty of the less serious offense of Operating While Intoxicated
- (4)  Guilty of the less serious offense of Operating While Visibly Impaired

**M Crim JI 15.7a Verdict Form [OWI]**

Choose only one of the following verdicts:

- (1)  Not Guilty
- (2)  Guilty of Operating While Intoxicated
- (3)  Guilty of the less serious offense of Operating While Visibly Impaired

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.7b Verdict Form [OWVI]**

Choose only one of the following verdicts:

- (1)  Not Guilty
- (2)  Guilty of Operating While Visibly Impaired

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.7c Verdict Form [OWACS]**

Check only one of the following verdicts:

- (1)  Not Guilty
- (2)  Guilty of Operating with Any Amount of a Controlled Substance

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.7d Verdict Form [OWIHBAC/OWI/OWVI Causing Death or Serious Impairment]**

Check only one of the following verdicts:

- (1)  Not Guilty
- (2)  Guilty of Operating with a High Bodily Alcohol Content, Operating While Intoxicated, or Operating While Visibly Impaired causing [death / serious impairment of a body function]
- (2)  Guilty of the less serious offense of Operating with a High Bodily Alcohol Content, but not causing [death / serious impairment of a body function]
- (3)  Guilty of the less serious offense of Operating While Intoxicated, but not causing [death / serious impairment of a body function]
- (4)  Guilty of the less serious offense of Operating While Visibly Impaired, but not causing [death / serious impairment of a body function]

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.7e Verdict Form [OWACS Causing Death or Serious Impairment]**

Check only one of the following verdicts:

- (1)  Not Guilty
- (2)  Guilty of Operating with Any Amount of a Controlled Substance causing [death / serious impairment of a body function]
- (3)  Guilty of the less serious offense of Operating with Any Amount of a Controlled Substance, but not causing [death / serious impairment of a body function]

Evidence has been admitted in this case that the defendant refused to take a chemical test. If you find that the defendant did refuse, that evidence was admitted solely for the purpose of showing that a test was offered to the defendant. That evidence is not evidence of guilt.

*Use Note*

MCL 257.625a(9) provides: A person's refusal to submit to a chemical test as provided in subsection (6) is admissible in a criminal prosecution for a crime described in section 625c(1) only to show that a test was offered to the defendant, but not as evidence in determining the defendant's innocence or guilt. The jury must be instructed accordingly.

**M Crim JI 15.9 Operating a Commercial Vehicle with an Unlawful Bodily Alcohol Content [UBAL]**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a commercial motor vehicle with an unlawful bodily alcohol level. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a commercial motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant had a bodily alcohol content of 0.04 grams or more but less than 0.08 grams per 100 milliliters of blood [per 210 liters of breath or 67 milliliters of urine] when [he / she] operated the commercial motor vehicle.

*Use Note*

1. *Commercial motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.7a.

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.10      Owner or Person in Control of Vehicle  
Permitting Operation by Another Person  
While Intoxicated or Impaired**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of knowingly authorizing or permitting a motor vehicle to be operated by another while that person was intoxicated or impaired. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant was the owner of a motor vehicle,<sup>1</sup> or was in charge of or in control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant authorized or permitted the motor vehicle to be operated by [*identify driver*], knowing:

- (a) that [he / she] was under the influence of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or intoxicating substance, or
- (b) that [he / she] had an unlawful bodily alcohol content, or
- (c) that [his / her] ability to operate was visibly impaired by the consumption of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or other intoxicating substance.

To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(4) Third, that [*identify driver*] operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(5) Fourth, that [*identify driver*]:

[*Choose from the following alternatives:*]

- (a) operated the vehicle with a bodily alcohol level of 0.08 grams or more [per 100 milliliters of blood / 210 liters of breath / 67 milliliters of urine];
- (b) operated the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol;
- (c) operated the vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance;

(d) operated the vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating substance;

(e) operated the vehicle while under the influence of a combination of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance]

[Choose from the following alternatives where the charge is “under the influence”:]

*Under the influence* of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance] means that because of [drinking alcohol / using or consuming a controlled substance / consuming or taking into (his / her) body an intoxicating substance], the defendant’s ability to operate a motor vehicle in a normal manner was substantially lessened. To be under the influence, a person does not have to be falling down or hardly able to stand up. On the other hand, just because a person has [drunk alcohol or smells of alcohol / consumed or used a controlled substance / consumed or used an intoxicating substance] does not prove, by itself, that the person is under the influence of [alcohol / a controlled substance / an intoxicating substance]. The test is whether, because of [drinking alcohol / using or consuming a controlled substance / consuming or taking into (his / her) body an intoxicating substance], the defendant’s mental or physical condition was significantly affected and the defendant was no longer able to operate a vehicle in a normal manner.

[Where the charge is “under the influence” of a substance other than alcohol choose (i), (ii), or (iii) as appropriate:]

(i) [Name substance] is a controlled substance.

(ii) [Name substance] is an intoxicating substance.

(iii) An *intoxicating substance* is a substance in any form, including but not limited to vapors and fumes, other than food, that was taken into the defendant’s body in any manner, that is used in a manner or for a purpose for which it was not intended, and that may result in a condition of intoxication.

(f) operated the vehicle while visibly impaired by the consumption of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or other intoxicating substance.<sup>3</sup>

*Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).
3. In *People v Mikulen*, 324 Mich App 14; 919 NW2d 454 (2018), the Court of Appeals provided the elements that must be proven to establish that a person was operating a motor vehicle while visibly impaired.

**[NEW] M Crim JI 15.11 Person Under 21 Operating with Any Alcohol in System**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of operating a motor vehicle while less than 21 years of age with any bodily alcohol content. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(3) Third, that at the time the defendant operated the motor vehicle [he / she] was under the age of 21.

(4) Fourth, that at the time the defendant operated the motor vehicle, [he / she]

*[Choose from the following:]*

(a) had a bodily alcohol content of 0.02 grams or more [per 100 milliliters of blood / per 210 liters of breath / per 67 milliliters of urine].

(b) had any presence of alcohol within their body resulting from the consumption of alcoholic liquor.

*Where the alternative chosen is (b), where appropriate under the evidence:*

[(5) Fifth, that the presence of alcohol in the defendant's body was not the result of the consumption of alcoholic liquor as a part of a generally recognized religious service or ceremony.]

*Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles” and within the purview of the statute. *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

**[NEW] M CRIM JI 15.12      Violation with a Person Under the Age of 16  
in the Motor Vehicle**

*[MCL 257.625(7)(a) and (b) prohibit operating a motor vehicle in violation of paragraphs (1), (3), (4), (5), (6), or (8) when the vehicle is occupied by someone who is under the age of 16, with different penalties than the underlying violation. In this circumstance, instruct on the underlying violation, and add a final element:*

[Number of element], that at the time that the defendant operated the motor vehicle, a child under the age of 16 was present in the vehicle.

## **M Crim JI 15.13      Leaving the Scene of an Accident**

The defendant is charged with the crime of failing to stop after an accident. To prove this charge the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

- (1) First, the defendant was the driver of a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) Second, the motor vehicle driven by the defendant was involved in an accident with another vehicle operated or attended by another person.
- (3) Third, the defendant knew or had reason to know that [he / she] had been involved in an accident.
- (4) Fourth, that the defendant failed to immediately stop [his / her] motor vehicle at the scene of the accident in order to render assistance and give information required by law, or to immediately report the accident to the nearest or most convenient police agency or officer if there was a reasonable and honest belief that remaining at the scene would result in further harm.<sup>2</sup> The requirement that the driver immediately stop means that the driver must stop and park the car as soon as practicable and reasonable under the circumstances and without obstructing traffic more than is necessary.

### *Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
2. MCL 257.619 describes the information that must be provided and the assistance that must be rendered.

**M Crim JI 15.13a Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Vehicle Damage, Injury, Serious Impairment of a Body Function, or Death**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of failing to stop after an accident that resulted in [vehicle damage / injury / serious impairment of a body function / death]. To prove this charge the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant was the driver of a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup>

(3) Second, that the motor vehicle driven by the defendant was involved in an accident on public or private property that is open to travel by the public.

(4) Third, that the defendant knew or had reason to know that [he / she] had been involved in an accident.

(5) Fourth, that the accident resulted in [damage to a vehicle driven or attended by another / personal injury to any individual / serious impairment of a body function<sup>2</sup> / death].

(6) Fifth, that the defendant failed to immediately stop [ his / her ] motor vehicle at the scene of the accident in order to render assistance and give information required by law, or to immediately report the accident to the nearest or most convenient police agency or officer if there was a reasonable and honest belief that remaining at the scene would result in further harm.<sup>3</sup> The requirement that the driver immediately stop means that the driver must stop and park the car as soon as practicable and reasonable under the circumstances and without obstructing traffic more than is necessary.

*Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. The statute, MCL 257.58c, provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:

(a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.

- (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
- (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
- (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
- (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
- (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
- (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
- (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
- (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
- (j) Loss of an organ.

3. MCL 257.619 describes the information that must be provided and the assistance that must be rendered.

**M Crim JI 15.13b Leaving the Scene of an Accident Caused by Defendant Resulting in Death**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of failing to stop after causing an accident that resulted in death. To prove this charge the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant was the driver of a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup>

(3) Second, that the motor vehicle driven by the defendant was involved in an accident on public or private property that is open to travel by the public.

(4) Third, that the defendant knew or had reason to know that [he / she] had been involved in an accident.

(5) Fourth, that the defendant caused the accident.

(6) Fifth, that the accident resulted in the death of [*identify decedent*].

(7) Sixth, that the defendant failed to immediately stop [ his / her ] motor vehicle at the scene of the accident in order to render assistance and give information required by law, or to immediately report the accident to the nearest or most convenient police agency or officer if there was a reasonable and honest belief that remaining at the scene would result in further harm.<sup>2</sup> The requirement that the driver immediately stop means that the driver must stop and park the car as soon as practicable and reasonable under the circumstances and without obstructing traffic more than is necessary.

*Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. MCL 257.619 describes the information that must be provided and the assistance that must be rendered.

## M Crim JI 15.14 Reckless Driving

(1) [The defendant is charged with the crime of / You may also consider the lesser charge of<sup>1</sup>] reckless driving. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant drove a motor vehicle<sup>2</sup> on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>3</sup>

(3) Second, that the defendant drove the motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. Willful or wanton disregard means more than simple carelessness but does not require proof of an intent to cause harm. It means knowingly disregarding the possible risks to the safety of people or property.

### *Use Notes*

1. Use when instructing on this crime as a lesser included offense.
2. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
3. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles.” *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

## M Crim JI 15.14a Reckless Driving Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function

(1) [The defendant is charged with the crime of / You may also consider the lesser charge of<sup>1</sup>] reckless driving causing [death / serious impairment of body function to another person]. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant drove a motor vehicle<sup>2</sup> on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>3</sup>

(3) Second, that the defendant drove the motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. Willful or wanton disregard means more than simple carelessness but does not require proof of an intent to cause harm. It means knowingly disregarding the possible risks to the safety of people or property.

(4) Third, that the defendant's operation of the vehicle caused [the death of / a serious impairment of a body function<sup>4</sup> to] [*identify decedent or injured person*]. To [cause the death / such injury], the defendant's operation of the vehicle must have been a factual cause of the [death / injury], that is, but for the defendant's operation of the vehicle the [death / injury] would not have occurred. In addition, [death or serious injury / the injury] must have been a direct and natural result of operating the vehicle.<sup>5</sup>

### *Use Note*

1. Use when instructing on this crime as a lesser included offense.
2. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
3. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles.” *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

4. The statute, MCL 257.58c, provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:

- (a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.
- (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
- (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
- (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
- (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
- (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
- (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
- (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
- (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
- (j) Loss of an organ.

5. If it is claimed that the defendant's operation of the vehicle was not a proximate cause of serious impairment of a body function because of an intervening, superseding cause, the court may wish to review *People v Schaefer*, 473 Mich 418, 438-439; 703 NW2d 774 (2005) (a "causes death" case under MCL 257.625(4)). *Schaefer* was modified in part on other grounds by *People v Derror*, 475 Mich 316; 715 NW2d 822 (2006), which was overruled in part on other grounds by *People v Feezel*, 486 Mich 184; 783 NW2d 67 (2010).

## **M Crim JI 15.15      Moving Violation Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function**

(1) [The defendant is charged with the crime / You may consider the lesser charge<sup>1</sup>] of committing a moving traffic violation that caused [death / serious impairment of a body function]. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>2</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated the vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>3</sup>

(4) Third, that, while operating the motor vehicle, the defendant committed a moving violation by: [*describe the moving violation*].

(5) Fourth, that by committing the moving violation, the defendant caused [the death of (*name deceased*) / (*name injured person*) to suffer a serious impairment of a body function<sup>4</sup>]. To cause [the death of (*name deceased*) / such injury to (*name injured person*)], the defendant's moving violation must have been a factual cause of the [death / injury], that is, but for committing the moving violation, the [death / injury] would not have occurred. In addition, the [death / injury] must have been a direct and natural result of committing the moving violation.<sup>5</sup>

### *Use Note*

1. Use when instructing on this crime as a lesser offense.
2. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
3. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles.” *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).
4. MCL 257.58c provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:

- (a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.
- (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
- (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
- (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
- (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
- (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
- (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
- (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
- (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
- (j) Loss of an organ.

5. If it is claimed that the defendant's operation of the vehicle was not a proximate cause of serious impairment of a body function because of an intervening, superseding cause, the court may wish to review *People v Schaefer*, 473 Mich 418, 438-439; 703 NW2d 774 (2005) (a "causes death" case under MCL 257.625(4)). *Schaefer* was modified in part on other grounds by *People v Derror*, 475 Mich 316; 715 NW2d 822 (2006), which was overruled in part on other grounds by *People v Feezel*, 486 Mich 184; 783 NW2d 67 (2010).

## M Crim JI 15.16

## Driving While License Suspended or Revoked

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of driving while [his / her] operator's license is suspended or revoked. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated that vehicle on a highway or other place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(4) Third, that at the time the defendant's operator's license was suspended or revoked.

*[Use the following element only where the charge involves a commercial carrier with a vehicle group designation:]*

(5) Fourth, that the Secretary of State gave notice of the [suspension / revocation] to the defendant at least five days before the alleged offense.<sup>3</sup>

### *Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is "generally accessible to motor vehicles." *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

3. See MCL 257.904(16) and 257.212.

**M Crim JI 15.16a Driving While License Suspended or Revoked  
Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body  
Function**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of driving while [his / her] operator's license is suspended or revoked causing [the death of another person / serious impairment of body function to another person]. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that the defendant operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.

(3) Second, that the defendant operated that vehicle on a highway or other place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>2</sup>

(4) Third, that at the time the defendant's operator's license was suspended or revoked.<sup>3</sup>

(5) Fourth, that the defendant's operation<sup>4</sup> of the vehicle caused [the death of / a serious impairment of a body function<sup>5</sup> to] [*identify decedent or injured person*]. To cause [the death / such injury], the defendant's operation of the vehicle must have been a factual cause of the [death / injury], that is, but for the defendant's operation of the vehicle, the [death / injury] would not have occurred. In addition, [death or serious injury / the injury] must have been a direct and natural result of operating the vehicle.<sup>6</sup>

[*Use the following element only where the charge involves a commercial carrier with a vehicle group designation:*]

(6) Fifth, that the Secretary of State gave notice of the [suspension / revocation] to the defendant at least five days before the alleged offense.<sup>7</sup>

*Use Notes*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is “generally accessible to motor vehicles.” *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

3. The court should alter this element where one of the alternatives found in MCL 257.904(1) applies: where the defendant had a suspended or revoked “chauffer’s license,” where the defendant’s application for a license was denied, or where the defendant never applied for a license.

4. *Operating* is defined by statute as being in actual physical control of a vehicle. MCL 257.35a. *See also People v Wood*, 450 Mich 399; 538 NW2d 351 (1995); *People v Lechleitner*, 291 Mich App 56; 804 NW2d 345 (2010).

5. The statute, MCL 257.58c, provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:

- (a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.
- (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
- (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
- (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
- (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
- (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
- (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
- (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
- (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
- (j) Loss of an organ.

6. If it is claimed that the defendant’s operation of the vehicle was not a proximate cause of serious impairment of a body function because of an intervening, superseding cause, the court may wish to review *People v Schaefer*, 473 Mich 418, 438-439; 703 NW2d 774 (2005) (a “causes death” case under MCL 257.625(4)). *Schaefer* was modified in part on other grounds by *People v Derror*, 475 Mich 316; 715 NW2d 822 (2006), which was overruled in part on other grounds by *People v Feezel*, 486 Mich 184; 783 NW2d 67 (2010).

7. *See* MCL 257.904(16) and 257.212.

**M Crim JI 15.17      Permitting Another Person to Drive Motor Vehicle While License Suspended or Revoked**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of permitting another person to drive [his / her] motor vehicle knowing the other person had [a (suspended / revoked) operator's license / (his / her) application for an operator's license denied / never applied for an operator's license]. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that [*name of other person*] operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To *operate* means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.<sup>2</sup>

(3) Second, that the defendant was the owner of the motor vehicle that [*name of other person*] operated.<sup>3</sup>

(4) Third, that [*name of other person*] operated that vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>4</sup>

(5) Fourth, that, at the time, [*name of other person*] [had a (suspended / revoked) operator's license / (his / her) application for an operator's license had been denied / never applied for an operator's license].

(6) Fifth, that the defendant permitted [*name of other person*] to operate the vehicle.

(7) Sixth, that, at the time, the defendant knew that [*name of other person*] [had a (suspended / revoked) operator's license / (his / her) application for operator's license had been denied / never applied for an operator's license].

*Use Notes*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.

2. *Operating* is defined by statute as being in actual physical control of a vehicle. MCL 257.35a. *See also People v Wood*, 450 Mich 399, 538 NW2d 351 (1995); *People v Lechleitner*, 291 Mich App 56, 804 NW2d 345 (2010).

3. *Owner* is defined in MCL 257.37. This element may be worded differently to accommodate the defendant's possessory interest under appropriate circumstances.

4. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is "generally accessible to motor vehicles." *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).

**M Crim JI 15.17a    Permitting Another Person to Drive Motor Vehicle While License Suspended or Revoked Causing Death or Serious Impairment of a Body Function**

(1) The defendant is charged with the crime of permitting another person to drive [his / her] motor vehicle knowing the other person [had a (suspended / revoked) operator's license / (his / her) application for an operator's license denied / never applied for an operator's license] causing [the death of another person / serious impairment of a body function to another person]. To prove this charge, the prosecutor must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

(2) First, that [*name of other person*] operated a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup> To operate means to drive or have actual physical control of the vehicle.<sup>2</sup>

(3) Second, that the defendant owned the motor vehicle that [*name of other person*] operated.<sup>3</sup>

(4) Third, that [*name of other person*] operated that vehicle on a highway or other place open to the public or generally accessible to motor vehicles [including any designated parking area].<sup>4</sup>

(5) Fourth, that, at the time, [*name of other person*] [had a (suspended / revoked) operator's license / (his / her) application for an operator's license had been denied / never applied for an operator's license].

(6) Fifth, that the defendant permitted [*name of other person*] to operate the vehicle.

(7) Sixth, that, at the time, the defendant knew that [*name of other person*] [had a (suspended / revoked) operator's license / (his / her) application for operator's license had been denied / never applied for an operator's license].

(8) Seventh, that [*name of other person*]'s operation of the vehicle caused [the death of / a serious impairment of a body function<sup>5</sup> to] [*identify decedent or injured person*]. To cause [the death / such injury], [*name of other person*]'s operation of the vehicle must have been a factual cause of the [death / injury], that is, but for [*name of other person*]'s operation of the vehicle the [death / injury] would not have

occurred. In addition, [death or serious injury / the injury] must have been a direct and natural result of operating the vehicle.<sup>6</sup>

*Use Note*

1. The term *motor vehicle* is defined in MCL 257.33.
2. *Operating* is defined by statute as being in actual physical control of a vehicle. MCL 257.35a. *See also People v Wood*, 450 Mich 399; 538 NW2d 351 (1995); *People v Lechleitner*, 291 Mich App 56; 804 NW2d 345 (2010).
3. *Owner* is defined in MCL 257.37. This element may be worded differently to accommodate the defendant's possessory interest under appropriate circumstances.
4. A *highway* is the entire area between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained roadway, any part of which is open for automobile travel. *People v Bartel*, 213 Mich App 726, 728-729; 540 NW2d 491 (1995). A private driveway is "generally accessible to motor vehicles." *People v Rea*, 500 Mich 422; 902 NW2d 362 (2017).
5. The statute, MCL 257.58c, provides that serious impairment of a body function includes but is not limited to one or more of the following:
  - (a) Loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb.
  - (b) Loss of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb or loss of use of a foot, hand, finger, or thumb.
  - (c) Loss of an eye or ear or loss of use of an eye or ear.
  - (d) Loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function.
  - (e) Serious visible disfigurement.
  - (f) A comatose state that lasts for more than 3 days.
  - (g) Measurable brain or mental impairment.
  - (h) A skull fracture or other serious bone fracture.
  - (i) Subdural hemorrhage or subdural hematoma.
  - (j) Loss of an organ.
6. If it is claimed that the driver's operation of the vehicle was not a proximate cause of serious impairment of a body function because of an intervening, superseding cause, the court may wish to review *People v Schaefer*, 473 Mich 418, 438-439; 703 NW2d 774 (2005) (a "causes death" case under MCL 257.625(4)). *Schaefer* was modified in part on

other grounds by *People v Derror*, 475 Mich 316; 715 NW2d 822 (2006), which was overruled in part on other grounds by *People v Feezel*, 486 Mich 184; 783 NW2d 67 (2010).