

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

IN RE: STANDARD JURY

INSTRUCTIONS IN CRIMINAL CASES
REPORT 2017-03

CASE NO.: SC17-1652

NOTICE OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR

The Standard Jury Instruction Committee in Criminal Cases Committee ("Committee"), by and through its Chair, hereby informs the Court there is a scrivener's error in Instruction 25.7 within the Court's opinion issued on March 8, 2018.

Specifically, the prior element #2 should have been completely stricken through. Instead of:

2.——(Defendant) ~~exercised control or ownership over that substance.~~

The opinion should read:

2.——(Defendant) ~~exercised control or ownership over that substance.~~

The Committee apologizes and requests the Court to correct the error. A corrected instruction 25.7 follows this notice.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of
March, 2018.

s/ Judge F. Rand Wallis

The Honorable F. Rand Wallis
Chair, Supreme Court Committee on
Standard Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases
Fifth District Court of Appeal
300 South Beach Street
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
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RECEIVED, 03/08/2018 02:53:34 PM, Clerk, Supreme Court

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND FONT COMPLIANCE

I hereby certify that this notice has been prepared using Times New Roman 14 point font in compliance with the font requirements of Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.210(a)(2) and that a copy has been sent to Attorney Richard Sanders, at rsanders@pd10.org; this 8th day of March, 2018.

s/ Judge F. Rand Wallis
The Honorable F. Rand Wallis
Chair, Supreme Court Committee on
Standard Jury Instructions in Criminal
Cases
Fifth District Court of Appeal
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Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
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25.7 POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

§ 893.13(6), Fla. Stat.

Certain drugs and chemical substances are by law known as “controlled substances.” (Specific substance alleged) is a controlled substance.

To prove the crime of Possession of a Controlled Substance, the State must prove the following [two] ~~[three]~~ ~~[four]~~ elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

- 1. (Defendant) ~~knew of the presence of~~possessed a substance.**
- 2. ~~—(Defendant) exercised control or ownership over that substance.~~**
- 32. The substance was (specific substance alleged).**

§ 893.13(6)(b), Fla. Stat. Give if applicable.

The jury must make a finding as to weight if the defendant is charged with possessing more than 20 grams of cannabis.

- 43. The cannabis weighed more than 20 grams.**

~~§ 893.13(6)(c), Fla. Stat. Give if applicable.~~

The jury must make a finding as to weight if the defendant is charged with violating § 893.13(6)(c), Fla. Stat.

4. — ~~The [(insert name of substance listed in 893.03(1)(a) or 893.03(1)(b))] [combination of (insert names of substances listed in 893.03(1)(a) or 893.03(1)(b))] [mixture containing (insert name of substance listed in 893.03(1)(a) or 893.03(1)(b))] weighed more than 10 grams.~~

To prove (defendant) “possessed a substance,” the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that [he] [she] a) knew of the existence of the substance and b) intentionally exercised control over that substance.

Give if applicable.

Control can be exercised over a substance whether the substance is carried on a person, near a person, or in a completely separate location. Mere proximity to a substance does not establish that the person intentionally exercised control over the substance in the absence of additional evidence. Control can be established by proof that (defendant) had direct personal power to control the substance or the present ability to direct its control by another.

Joint possession. Give if applicable.

Possession of a substance may be sole or joint, that is, two or more persons may possess a substance.

Definitions.

Give if applicable. Cannabis. §§ 893.02(3), 893.13(6)(b), Fla. Stat.

See Comment section for medical marijuana.

Cannabis means all parts of any plant of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not, and the seeds thereof [but does not include any resin extracted from the plant].

Give if applicable. Mixture. § 893.02(16), Fla. Stat.

“Mixture” means any physical combination of two or more substances, including, but not limited to, a blend, an aggregation, a suspension, an emulsion, a solution, or a dosage unit, whether or not such combination can be separated into its components by physical means, whether mechanical or thermal.

Possession.

~~There are two types of possession: actual possession and constructive possession.~~

~~Actual possession.~~

~~Actual possession means the person is aware of the presence of the substance and:~~

- ~~a. — The substance is in the hand of or on the person, or~~
- ~~b. — The substance is in a container in the hand of or on the person, or~~
- ~~c. — The substance is so close as to be within ready reach and is under the control of the person.~~

~~Constructive possession.~~

~~Constructive possession means the person is aware of the presence of the substance, the substance is in a place over which the person has control, and the person has the ability to control the substance.~~

~~Give if applicable.~~

~~Mere proximity to a substance is not sufficient to establish the power and intention to control that substance when the substance is in a place that the person does not control.~~

~~Give if applicable.~~

~~In order to establish (defendant's) constructive possession of a substance that was in a place [he] [she] did not control, the State must prove (defendant) (1) knew that the substance was within [his] [her] presence and (2) exercised control or ownership over the substance itself.~~

~~Joint possession.~~

~~Possession of a substance may be sole or joint, that is, two or more persons may be aware of the presence of a substance and may jointly exercise control over it. In that case, each of those persons is considered to be in possession of the substance.~~

~~Give if applicable. § 893.02(19), Fla. Stat.~~

~~“Possession” includes temporary possession for the purpose of verification or testing, irrespective of dominion or control.~~

Inference.

~~Exclusive control. Henderson v. State, 88 So. 3d 1060 (Fla. 1st DCA 2012);
Meme v. State, 72 So. 3d 254 (Fla. 4th DCA 2011).~~

~~If you find that (defendant):~~

- ~~a. — had direct physical custody of the substance, [or]~~
- ~~b. — was within ready reach of the substance and the substance was under [his] [her] control, [or]~~
- ~~c. — had exclusive control of the place where the substance was located,~~

~~you may infer that [he] [she] was aware of the presence of the substance and had the power and intention to control it.~~

~~If (defendant) did not have exclusive control over the place where a substance was located, you may not infer [he] [she] had knowledge of the presence of the substance or the power and intention to control it, in the absence of other incriminating evidence.~~

~~Give if applicable. See Duncan v. State, 986 So. 2d 653 (Fla. 4th DCA 2008).~~

~~However, you may infer that (defendant) knew of the presence of the substance and had the power and intention to control it if [he] [she] had joint control over the place where the substance was located, and the substance was located in a common area in plain view and in the presence of the defendant.~~

~~Affirmative defense: Lack of knowledge of illicit nature. Give if applicable.
§ 893.101(2) and (3), Fla. Stat.~~

~~Lack of knowledge of the illicit nature of a controlled substance is a defense to (crime charged). You are permitted may but are not required to infer that (defendant) was aware of the illicit nature of the controlled substance if you find that [he] [she] knew of the presence of the substance and exercised control or ownership over the possessed the controlled substance.~~

~~If you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that (defendant) knew of the illicit nature of the controlled substance, and all of the elements of the charge have been proved, you should find [him] [her] guilty of Possession of a Controlled Substance.~~

If you have a reasonable doubt on the question of whether (defendant) knew of the illicit nature of the controlled substance, you should find [him] [her] not guilty of Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Lesser Included Offenses

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE — 893.13(6)			
CATEGORY ONE	CATEGORY TWO	FLA. STAT.	INS. NO.
Possession of Less than 20 Grams of Cannabis if the felony level of <u>cannabis</u> is charged		893.13(6)(b)	25.7
	Attempt	777.04(1)	5.1

POSSESSION OF MORE THAN TEN GRAMS OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE LISTED IN 893.13(1)(a) OR (1)(b) — 893.13(6)(c)			
CATEGORY ONE	CATEGORY TWO	FLA. STAT.	INS. NO.
Possession of a controlled substance (listed in 893.13(1)(a) or (1)(b))		893.13(6)(a)	25.7
	Attempt	777.04(1)	5.1

Comments

§ 893.21, Fla. Stat.

A person acting in good faith who seeks medical assistance for an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose may not be prosecuted for Possession of a Controlled Substance if the evidence of the possession was obtained as a result of the person seeking medical assistance.

A special instruction is necessary when the defense is a mere involuntary or superficial possession. See cases such as *Hamilton v. State*, 732 So. 2d 493 (Fla. 2d DCA 1999) and *Sanders v. State*, 563 So. 2d 781 (Fla. 1st DCA 1990).

Starting in 2014, the Legislature passed laws pertaining to “medical cannabis” or “low-THC cannabis,” which is excluded from the definition of “cannabis” in § 893.02(3), Fla. Stat.; is defined in § 381.986(1), Fla. Stat.; and must be manufactured, possessed, sold, purchased, delivered, distributed, or dispensed in conformance with § 381.986, Fla. Stat. A special instruction will be necessary in cases where a defendant relies on a cannabis-related prescription defense.

This instruction was adopted in 1981 and amended in 1989 [543 So. 2d 1205], 1997 [697 So. 2d 84], 2007 [969 So. 2d 245], 2014 [153 So. 3d 192], 2016 [191 So. 3d 291], and 2017 [216 So. 3d 497], and 2018.