



King County

Department of Executive Services

Inquest Program

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 135
Seattle, WA 98104

206-477-6191

TTY Relay 711

Webpage: kingcounty.gov/inquests

Email: Inquests@kingcounty.gov

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF ALBERT WAYNE FREDERICKS, JR.
17IQ427069**

CLOSING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE INQUEST JURY

WHA *ma*
DATED this 5th day of April 2023

Marcine Anderson
Inquest Administrator
She/Her

No. 1

It is your duty to determine the facts in this matter from the evidence admitted and to report your findings to the Inquest Administrator in writing, by answering the Interrogatories, which will be submitted to you.

The evidence that you are to consider during your deliberations consists of the testimony that you have heard from witnesses, stipulations, and the exhibits that I have admitted, during the inquest. If evidence was not admitted or was stricken from the record, then you are not to consider it in answering the Interrogatories. In addition, you must not consider or draw any inferences from the fact that an inquest is being held in this matter as it is a mandatory process in King County.

One of my duties has been to rule on the admissibility of evidence. Do not be concerned during your deliberations about the reasons for my rulings on the evidence. If I have ruled that any evidence is inadmissible or where I have redacted portions of any exhibits, or if I have asked you to disregard any evidence, then you must not discuss that evidence during your deliberations or consider it in answering the Interrogatories. On the other hand, to answer the Interrogatories, you must consider all the evidence that I have admitted that relates to each Interrogatory.

As jurors, you have been allowed to request that additional questions be asked of the witnesses and to request that other persons testify. Any such request has been reviewed by me and by the parties' lawyers. If a requested question was not asked, or a requested witness was not called you may not speculate about the reasons for that decision or discuss the fact that the question was not asked or that the witness was not called.

No. 2

You are the sole judges of the credibility of each witness. You are also the sole judges of the value or weight to be given to the testimony of each witness. In considering a witness's testimony, you may consider these things: the opportunity of the witness to observe or know the things he or she testifies about; the ability of the witness to observe accurately; the quality of a witness's memory while testifying; the manner of the witness while testifying; any personal interest that the witness might have in the outcome or the issues; any bias or prejudice that the witness may have shown; the reasonableness of the witness's statements in the context of all of the other evidence; and any other factors that affect your evaluation or belief of a witness or your evaluation of his or her testimony.

No. 3

This is not an adversarial proceeding. The lawyers' questions are intended to help you understand the evidence. It is important, however, for you to remember that the lawyers' questions are not evidence. The evidence is the testimony and the exhibits. You must disregard any question or answer thereto which has been stricken.

You may have heard objections made by the lawyers during this inquest. The lawyers have the right to object to questions asked by another lawyer. These objections should not influence you. Do not make any assumptions or draw any conclusions based on a lawyer's objections or my rulings on them.

Because it is your role as jurors to evaluate the evidence, it would be improper for me to express, by words or conduct, my personal opinion about the value of testimony or other evidence. If it appeared to you that I have indicated my personal opinion in any way, either during this inquest or in giving these instructions, you must disregard this entirely.

As jurors, it is your duty to answer each Interrogatory fairly and properly. You must act impartially with an earnest desire to determine and declare the truth. You must answer the Interrogatories based on the evidence, and not on sympathy, prejudice, or personal preference.

No. 4

Evidence may be either direct or circumstantial. Direct evidence is that given by a witness who testifies concerning facts that he or she has directly observed or perceived through the senses. Circumstantial evidence is evidence of facts or circumstances from which the existence or nonexistence of other facts may be reasonably inferred from common experience. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct or circumstantial evidence. One is not necessarily more or less valuable than the other.

No. 5

A witness who has special training, education or experience may be allowed to express an opinion in addition to giving testimony as to facts. You are not, however, required to accept his or her opinion. To determine the credibility and weight to be given such opinion evidence, you may consider, among other things, the education, training, experience and ability of the witness. You may also consider the reasons given for the opinion and the sources of his or her information, as well as considering the factors already given to you for evaluating the testimony of any other witness.

No. 6

When you begin deliberating, you should first select a presiding juror. The presiding juror's duty is to see that you discuss the issues in this inquest in an orderly and reasonable manner, that you fully and fairly discuss each issue submitted for your decision, and that each one of you has a chance to be heard on every question before you. It will be the duty of each of you to discuss this case fully with your fellow jurors, to express your own views, and to fully consider the views of the other jurors.

It is also the duty of each of you to evaluate the evidence with an open mind free of bias or prejudice. If during your deliberations, you become concerned that the discussions are being influenced by preconceived bias or prejudice, you must bring this to the attention of the other jurors so that the issue may be fairly discussed among all members of the jury.

During your deliberations, you may discuss any notes that you have taken during the inquest, if you wish. You have been allowed to take notes to assist you in remembering clearly, not to substitute for your memory or the memories or notes of other jurors. Do not assume, however, that your notes are more or less accurate than your memory.

You would need to rely on your notes, if you took them, and your memory as to the testimony presented in this inquest. Testimony will not be repeated for you during your deliberations.

If, after carefully reviewing the evidence and instructions, you feel a need to ask me a legal or procedural question that you have been unable to answer, write the question out simply and clearly. For this purpose, use the form provided in the jury room. In your question, do not state how the jury has answered any Interrogatory. The presiding juror should sign and date the question and give it to the Ms. Armah or Ms. Reilly. I will consider your question and determine what response, if any, can be given.

You will be given all the exhibits admitted in evidence, these instructions, and the written Interrogatories to be answered by you. If an exhibit was admitted for illustrative purposes only, the exhibit may not be brought into the jury room.

No. 7

It is the duty of the presiding juror to complete the written Interrogatories. After fully and fairly discussing each issue and exchanging their interpretations of the evidence, on each Interrogatory, the presiding juror must set out in the blanks provided the number of jurors who answer “Yes”, the number of jurors who answer “No”, and the number of jurors who answer “Unknown” to each question.

After every Interrogatory, the presiding juror must allow each juror to have the opportunity to provide a written explanation of the juror’s answer if the juror believes that a written explanation will provide information that will be helpful. No juror is required to provide an explanation to any answer, but the jurors are encouraged to consider doing so. While a simple “yes”, “no” or “unknown” may answer the question, it may not fully explain the reasons for the answer. We are truly interested in those reasons. Any explanations you choose to offer will be helpful to the community to understand what happened during this incident and to understand the reasons for your decisions. You will be provided with forms for you to write any explanation that you wish to provide.

A juror may not need to answer a specific Interrogatory if the juror’s answer to a previous question makes it unnecessary. For example, if a juror concludes that a specific policy did not apply, then that juror need not answer an Interrogatory asking whether a particular officer complied with that policy. But, if another juror concludes that the policy did apply, then that juror must answer the question about whether a particular officer did or did not comply with that policy. The Interrogatories will indicate when a situation such as this is applicable.

No. 8

When answering each Interrogatory, you should respond “yes” when you believe a preponderance of the evidence supports responding to the question in the affirmative. You should respond “no” when you believe a preponderance of the evidence supports responding to the question in the negative. You should respond “unknown” if either (1) the weight of the evidence equally supports responding to the question in the affirmative and the negative or (2) not enough evidence was presented to allow you to answer the question in the affirmative or the negative. The jury does not need to be unanimous in the answers to each Interrogatory.

No. 9

A “preponderance of the evidence” means that you must be persuaded, considering all the evidence bearing on the question, that your answer to a given question is more probably true than not true.

No. 10

Compliance with SPD Policies 8.200 (Section 6), regarding the duty, following a use of force, to request or render medical aid, if needed or is requested by anyone, to closely monitor persons taken into custody, and, absent exigent circumstances, to place prone persons on their side in a recovery position, may be accomplished by any officer and need not be accomplished by the officer or officers who used force. Once these duties have been accomplished by any officer, any further obligations to any other officers regarding these duties are extinguished.

The prohibition in SPD Policies 8.200 (Section 6), against restraining persons in an officer's custody and control in a manner that compromises the person's ability to breathe, is an individual obligation that applies to each officer who participates in the restraint of such person.

No. 11

An exigent circumstance is a situation that demands unusual or immediate action.

No. 12

A person's death that happens during an officer's attempts to detain a person, or while the person is detained by the officer, occurs by criminal means if the officer's act(s) and/or failure(s) to act (1) proximately caused the death, and (2) were not lawful as defined in these instructions. If you find by a preponderance of the evidence that the death was caused by criminal means, you must also specifically identify each officer who so acted or failed to act.

No. 13

Police officers may take a person believed to present a danger to themselves or others due to a behavioral health disorder into custody, to the extent necessary to immediately deliver the person to a medical or behavioral health facility for evaluation and treatment.

No. 14

The death of a person occurs by lawful means if the death occurs:

1. During an officer's attempt to detain the person or while the person is detained by the officer for the purpose of an involuntary mental health evaluation and treatment, and
2. The officer's act(s) and/or failure(s) to act that were a proximate cause of the death were performed in good faith and without gross negligence.

No. 15

The term “proximate cause” means a cause which in a direct sequence unbroken by any superseding cause, causes the death and without which the death would not have occurred.

There may be more than one proximate cause of a death.

No. 16

“Good faith” means that the officer honestly believed that his or her actions were lawful as defined in Instruction No. 14.

No. 17

“Necessary” or “necessarily” means:

- (1) No reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appeared to exist, and
- (2) The amount of force used was reasonable to affect the lawful purpose intended.

No. 18

Negligence is the failure to exercise ordinary care. It is the doing of some act that a reasonably careful person would not do under the same or similar circumstances or the failure to do some act that a reasonably careful person would have done under the same or similar circumstances.

No. 19

Gross negligence is the failure to exercise slight care. It is negligence that is substantially greater than ordinary negligence. Failure to exercise slight care does not mean the total absence of care but care substantially less than ordinary care.

No. 20

After you have answered the Interrogatories, all members of the jury will then sign the form and the presiding juror will notify the program manager. After the program manager has received your answers, the hearing will reconvene, and you will be conducted into the hearing room. Please leave any notes you have taken in the jury room. I will review your answers to confirm that they are in proper order and if so, they shall be made public.

The Inquest Program Coordinators will then collect and destroy your notes. No one will be allowed to read your notes.

You have now heard all the testimony in this proceeding and my instructions. Each juror has a copy of my instructions and of the Interrogatories to take with you to the jury room. You may refer to any notes you have taken. So, at this time, please recess to the jury room. Once the Inquest Program Coordinators have delivered all the admitted exhibits, and each of you is present, you may begin your deliberations.