

# **MODEL JURY CHARGES**

## **CIVIL**

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INCLUDING SPRING 2010  
SUPPLEMENT**

**NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION®  
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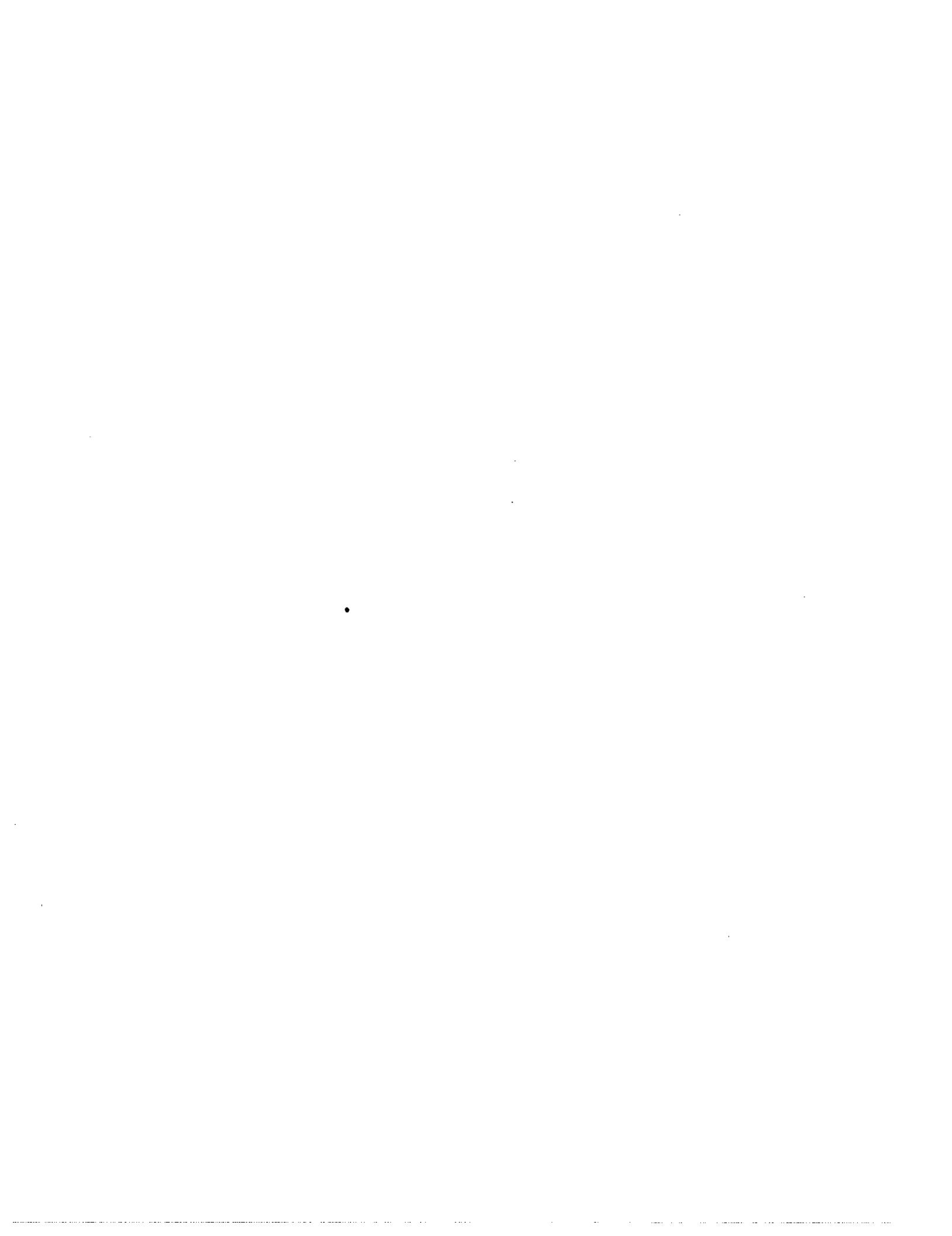
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# NOTICE TO THE BAR

## UPDATES TO MODEL CIVIL JURY CHARGES

The Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges (Committee) has approved the following list of Model Civil Jury Charges for use by the bar and trial courts. One model charge is new and two are revised versions of previously approved charges. All approved Model Civil Jury Charges, including these new and revised charges, are available for downloading from the Judiciary's Internet web site at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/civil/civindx.htm>.

**1.13E      *Expert Testimony — Optional Charge Concerning Experts Relying on Hearsay Statements of Non-Testifying Experts (12/2009)***

This new charge has been added regarding the statements contained within reports of experts that were not called as witnesses at trial in accordance with *Agha v. Feiner*, 198 N.J. 50 (2009) and *New Jersey Rule of Evidence* 703.

**5.60A      *Statutory Owner — Dog Bite Liability (12/2009)***

A footnote reference to *DeVivo v. Anderson*, 410 N.J. Super. 175 (Law Div. 2009) has been added to the dog bite charge making clear that there is no explicit requirement in *N.J.S.A. 4:19-16* that the bite result in broken skin.

**8.21      *Nonuse of Seatbelt Including Ultimate Outcome (12/2009)***

On Interrogatory number 11 of the Jury Verdict Sheet, the word "seat" was deleted and replaced with the word "seatbelt" to correct a typographical error.

Questions regarding any of these new or revised civil jury charges may be directed to Michelle V. Perone, Esq., Chief, Civil Court Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; telephone (609) 984-5431; email [michelle.perone@judiciary.state.nj.us](mailto:michelle.perone@judiciary.state.nj.us).

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

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Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Court

Dated: December 11, 2009



# NOTICE TO THE BAR

## UPDATES TO MODEL CIVIL JURY CHARGES

The Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges (Committee) has approved the following list of Model Civil Jury Charges for use by the bar and trial courts. Two model charges are new and sixteen are revised versions of previously approved charges. All approved Model Civil Jury Charges, including these new and revised charges, are available for downloading from the Judiciary's Internet web site at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/civil/civindx.htm>.

- 2.22A      *Law Against Discrimination (LAD) Individual Liability Claims (Approved 3/10)***  
This new charge has been added regarding individual liability under LAD citing *Cicchetti v. Morris County Sheriff's Office*, 194 N.J. 563 (2008); *Tarr v. Ciasulli*, 181 N.J. 70 (2004); *Hurley v. Atlantic City Police Dep't*, 174 F.3d 95 (3d Cir. 1999), cert. denied, 528 U.S. 1074, 120 S.Ct. 786, 145 L.Ed. 2d 663 (2000).
- 2.32      *New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act (CEPA) (N.J.S.A. 34:19-1 et seq.) (3/10)***  
This charge was revised to add a section to the CEPA charge concerning the fact that the law is unsettled regarding individual liability under CEPA.
- 3.11A      *Public Defamation (3/10)***  
This charge was rewritten to read more fluidly and a reference to *Berkery v. Kinney*, 397 N.J. Super. 222 (App. Div. 2007), certif. denied, 194 N.J. 445 (2008) has been added noting that once a person becomes a public figure, even if he/she subsequently adopts a private lifestyle, he/she remains a public figure thereafter for purposes of later commentary or treatment of that commentary.
- 3.11B      *Private Defamation (3/10)***  
This charge was rewritten to read more fluidly.
- 4.43      *Consumer Fraud Act (3/10)***  
A cite to *Lee v. First Union National Bank*, 199 N.J. 251, 261 (2009) has been added to make clear that neither securities nor the sale of securities "services" are included in the definition of "merchandise" under the Act.
- 5.10H      *Standards of Construction, Custom and Usage in Industry or Trade (3/10)***  
A footnote reference was added to this existing charge citing *Costa v. Gaccione*, 408 N.J. Super. 362 (App. Div. 2009), which holds that an Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) violation is treated similarly to a violation of an industry standard. Thus, compliance with an OSHA regulation does not in and of itself preclude a finding of negligence, and, conversely, non-compliance with an OSHA regulation does not, as such, preclude a finding that there was no negligence.

- 5.33A**      ***Verbal Threshold (Type 6, 7, 8 or 9 Injuries) (3/10)***  
A reference to *Bolz v. Bolz, et al.*, 400 N.J. Super. 154 (App. Div. 2008) has been added to make clear that in cases with two or more defendants, some of whom have available the limitation on lawsuit option defense and others who do not, the judge needs to charge two specific interrogatories as to each defendant and the jury must answer these before determining whether or not plaintiff satisfied the applicable threshold.
- 5.33B**      ***Limitation on Lawsuit Option (3/10)***  
A reference to *Bolz v. Bolz, et al.*, 400 N.J. Super. 154 (App. Div. 2008) has been added. See discussion under charge 5.33A above.
- 5.40A**      ***Products Liability – Introduction: Caveats to Judges (3/10)***  
A footnote reference to *Boyle v. Ford Motor Company*, 399 N.J. Super. 18, 24 (App. Div. 2008), *certif. denied*, 196 N.J. 597 (2008) has been added to the existing charge making clear that the duty to make/sell a product that is reasonably safe may apply to a defendant independent contractor such as the manufacturer of a component part of a product or even a re-builder where the part or product was built accordingly to plans and specifications of the general manufacturer.
- 5.40D-2**      ***Design Defect — Introductory Statement to Jury (All Cases) (3/10)***  
A footnote reference to *Boyle v. Ford Motor Company*, 399 N.J. Super. 18 (App. Div.), *certif. denied*, 196 N.J. 597 (2008) has been added to the existing charge. See discussion under charge 5.40A above.
- 5.71**      ***Tavern Keepers Serving Minors and Intoxicated Persons (3/10)***  
A typographical error in the cite *Rappaport v. Nichols*, 31 N.J. 188 (1959) has been corrected and a reference added to *Mazzacano v. Estate of Kinnerman*, 197 N.J. 307 (2009) in which the Court held that self-service constitutes the service of alcohol under the *Licensed Alcoholic Beverage Service Fair Liability Act* (the “*Dram Shop Act*”), N.J.S.A. 2A:22A-1 to -7.
- 8.41**      ***Conversion (3/10)***  
A footnote reference to *Chicago Title Ins. Co. v. Ellis*, 409 N.J. Super. 444 (App. Div.), *certif. denied*, 200 N.J. 506 (2009) has been added to the existing charge making clear that the tort of conversion can be applied to money rather than chattels.
- 8.43**      ***Wrongful Death (3/10)***  
This charge was rewritten to provide additional clarity and to update case law, including citing *Johnson v. Dobrosky*, 187 N.J. 594, 606 (2006) (quoting Stewart M. Speiser, *Recovery for Wrongful Death & Injury*, §6:26 (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2005)) and holding that the decedent’s welfare fraud conviction should not have been admissible in a wrongful death case.

- 8.46      *Defamation Damages (Private or Public) (3/10)***  
This defamation damages charge was rewritten to read more fluidly.
- 8.60      *Punitive Damages Actions — Filed On OR After 10/27/95 (Other Than Products Liability Actions) (3/10)***  
Footnotes have been rewritten to provide additional clarity to the charge, citing *Tarr v. Ciasulli*, 390 N.J. Super. 557 (App. Div. 2007), *aff'd*, 194 N.J. 212, 224 (2008), which found that the *New Jersey Punitive Damages Act*, N.J.S.A. 2A:15-15-5.9, *et al.* does not permit counsel to urge the jury to increase a punitive damage award in order to enhance the general “deterrence of others.” Accordingly, the language in the original charge which allowed punitive damages to be awarded as a “deterrence to others” was deleted.
- 8.61      *Punitive Damages — Law Against Discrimination (LAD) Claims (3/10)***  
To provide additional clarity to the charge, footnotes have been rewritten citing *Tarr v. Ciasulli*, 390 N.J. Super. 557 (App. Div. 2007), *aff'd*, 194 N.J. 212, 224 (2008). See discussion under charge 8.60 above.
- 8.63      *Punitive Damages — New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act (CEPA) Claims (Approved 3/10)***  
This new CEPA punitive damages charge has been added.
- 8.70      *Tort Claims Act Threshold for Recovery of Damages for Pain and Suffering (3/10)***  
A reference to *Bolz v. Bolz, et al.*, 400 N.J. Super. 154 (App. Div. 2008) has been added to make clear that when both private and public entity defendants are sued, the jury should answer two specific interrogatories as to each defendant. Once those interrogatories are answered, the jury should determine whether the plaintiff has established a substantial permanent injury caused by a public defendant.

Questions regarding any of these new or revised civil jury charges may be directed to Michelle V. Perone, Esq., Chief, Civil Court Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; telephone (609) 984-5431; email michelle.perone@judiciary.state.nj.us.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

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Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Court

Dated: April 14, 2010



# **NOTICE TO THE BAR**

## **UPDATES TO MODEL CIVIL JURY CHARGES**

The Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges (Committee) has approved the following list of Model Civil Jury Charges for use by the bar and trial courts. All of these model charges are revised versions of previously approved charges. All approved Model Civil Jury Charges, including these revised charges, are available for downloading from the Judiciary's web site at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/civil/civindx.htm>.

**1.11C.      *Preliminary Charge (5/10)***

This charge was revised to add a reference to the use of the Internet and other electronic media to the prohibition on jurors researching the case on which they sit.

**5.50E      *Pre-Existing Condition – Increased Risk/Loss of Chance – Proximate Cause (5/10)***

A footnote reference was added to this existing charge citing *Gonzalez v. Silver, et al.*, 407 N.J. Super. 576, 588 (App. Div. 2009), in which the court noted: "...where a physician defendant's negligence combines with a patient-plaintiff's preexistent condition to cause harm, it is reversible error to instruct the jury on the "but for" proximate cause standard either alone or in conjunction with the substantial factor test."

**5.40D-1      *Design Defect – Generally (5/10)***

A reference to *Mercer Mutual Ins. Co. v. Proudman, et al.*, 396 N.J. Super. 309, certif. denied, 194 N.J. 270 (2007) was added. That case held that generally, where a defendant in a products liability action raises the absolute defense that the danger posed by a product cannot be feasibly eliminated, thus establishing the lack of a defect, the plaintiff has the burden to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant could have eliminated the danger without impairing the usefulness of the product; when a plaintiff meets that burden, a jury question is presented whether the product is defectively designed even though the defendant has established the defense, citing N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-3.

Questions regarding any of these revised civil jury charges may be directed to Michelle V. Perone, Esq., Chief, Civil Court Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; telephone (609) 984-5431; email [michelle.perone@judiciary.state.nj.us](mailto:michelle.perone@judiciary.state.nj.us).

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

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Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Court

Dated: May 26, 2010



# NOTICE TO THE BAR

## UPDATES TO MODEL CIVIL JURY CHARGES

The Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges (Committee) has approved the following list of Model Civil Jury Charges for use by the bar and trial courts. Two model charges are new and two are revised versions of previously approved charges. All approved Model Civil Jury Charges, including these new and revised charges are available for downloading from the Judiciary's web site at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/civil/civindx.htm>.

- 2.21 (B)(5)** *New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD) – Prima Facie Elements (6/2010)*  
This section of this charge was revised to move the reference to *Zive v. Stanley Roberts, Inc.*, 182 N.J. 436, 454 (2005), noting that the plaintiff in an NJLAD action based upon discriminatory discharge or demotion must merely prove that he or she “was actually performing the job prior to the termination”, to read more fluidly.
- 4.43** *Consumer Fraud Act (6/2010)*  
A reference to *539 Absecon Blvd., L.L.C. v. Shan Enterprises Ltd. Partnership*, 406 N.J. Super. 242, certif. denied, 199 N.J. 541 (2009) was added regarding limitations on the application of the *Consumer Fraud Act* to the sale of a business.
- 5.32C** *Duty Of Drivers And Pedestrians Crossing At Marked Or Unmarked Crosswalk (Approved 6/2010)*  
This new charge has been added to incorporate the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:4-36 relating to the duty of drivers and pedestrians crossing at marked or unmarked crosswalks.
- 5.50** *Apparent Authority Charge (Approved 6/2010)*  
This new section has been added to the medical malpractice charge setting forth the theory of “apparent authority” which arises where a hospital through its actions, holds out a particular physician as its agent and/or employee in a manner that leads a patient to reasonably believe that the doctor is rendering treatment on behalf of the hospital. Thus, under this theory, liability is determined based upon the actions of the hospital rather than merely upon the existence of a contractual relationship, citing *Basil v. Wolf*, 193 N.J. 38, 67 (2007) (quoting and approving *Arthur v. St. Peters Hosp.*, 169 N.J. Super. 575, 581 (Law Div. 1970)) and *Estate of Cordero v. Christ Hospital*, 403 N.J. Super. 306, 310-11 (App. Div. 2008).

Questions regarding any of these revised or new civil jury charges may be directed to Michelle V. Perone, Esq., Chief, Civil Court Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; telephone (609) 984-5431; email michelle.perone@judiciary.state.nj.us.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

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Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Court

Dated: June 29, 2010

## **MODEL JURY CHARGES, CIVIL**

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**Note:** The date in parentheses after the title of a charge indicates when the Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges approved the revision or adoption of a charge.

10/2007



## *Model Civil Jury Charges*

### ***General Comments***

The Model Civil Jury Charge Committee is a standing committee of the New Jersey Supreme Court. The New Jersey Supreme Court does not sanction or approve the Model Civil Jury Charges before publication by the Model Civil Jury Charge Committee, although the Supreme Court may, and frequently does, comment on the sufficiency of a charge in the context of a particular case.

The Model Civil Jury Charge Committee prepares and updates model civil jury charges to be useful to trial judges and litigants to accomplish the important function of adequately and understandably instructing civil juries. The Model Civil Jury Charges provide model instructions and related clarifying judges' notes. The Model Civil Jury Charges endeavor to enhance comprehension by jurors, while retaining a balanced and accurate statement of the law.

The Model Civil Jury Charges are a framework for building a set of jury instructions. Each case turns on unique facts and trial courts and litigants must tailor the Model Civil Jury Charges to conform to the facts and circumstances of the case being tried. The Committee attempts to keep the Model Civil Jury Charges current with the state of the law. Where applicable, trial judges and litigants must tailor the Model Civil Jury Charges to reflect changes in the law since the Committee published any particular model jury charge. Accordingly, the Model Civil Jury Charge Committee reminds trial judges and litigants that the Model Civil Jury Charges are merely the starting point of the process of constructing an appropriate charge that adequately explains the law to the jury in the context of the material facts of the case being tried.

### ***Charge Dating***

The date in parentheses after the title of a charge states when the Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges approved the adoption or a substantive revision of a charge. [*For example:* 2.11 Wrongful Discharge (3/91) means that the Committee approved the adoption or substantive revision of this charge in March 1991.]

However, when the Committee has made minor stylistic changes, modernized the charge's language, updated footnotes, or added a new subsection heading, but has left the body of the charge substantively unchanged, the date of these minor revisions is inserted in the parentheses after the date the Committee approved the charge's adoption or substantive revision. [*For example:* 6.11C Duty to Mitigate Damages by Medical and Surgical Treatment (Adopted 12/96; revised 10/00) means that the Committee originally approved the adoption of the charge in December 1996 and subsequently made minor revisions to the charge in October 2000.]

New or substantively revised subsections will have their date of adoption or substantive revision in parentheses after the individual subsection heading. When a charge was approved prior to the 1984 edition of the Charge book, but the exact date of approval is unknown, the date in the parentheses after the charge's title is: (pre-1984).



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