

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CR No. 09-69-ML

DAVID CHIARADIO

JURY INSTRUCTIONS

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PART I: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

Members of the jury, we have now come to the end of this trial. This case, like all criminal cases, is a serious one. I say this because the defendant and the United States have a deep concern for your mature consideration of the evidence as presented and the law which I am about to give you.

Although you as the jury are the sole judges of the facts, you are duty bound to follow the law as I instruct you, and to apply that law to the facts as you find them to be from the evidence which has been presented during this trial. You are not to single out any one instruction as stating the law. Rather, you must consider these instructions in their entirety. You are not to be concerned with the wisdom of any rule of law, regardless of any opinion which you might have as to what the law ought to be. It would be a violation of your sworn duty to base your verdict upon any version of the law other than that which I am about to give to you.

You have been chosen and sworn as jurors in this case to try the issues of fact presented by the allegations of the indictment and the denial made by the “not guilty” plea of the defendant. You are to perform this duty without bias or prejudice as to any party. The law does not permit jurors to be governed by sympathy, prejudice, or public opinion. The accused and the government are entitled to an impartial consideration of all the evidence. Moreover, the parties and the public expect that you will carefully and impartially consider all the evidence in the case, follow the law as stated by the Court, and reach a just verdict, regardless of the consequences.

The fact that the prosecution is brought in the name of the United States of America entitles the government to no greater consideration than that accorded to any other party to a

litigation. By the same token, it is entitled to no less consideration. All parties, whether government or individuals, stand as equals at the bar of justice.

2. FUNCTION OF A JURY

Ladies and gentlemen, you are the trier of facts; you alone must determine what the facts are in this particular case. My function and duty is to instruct you on the law that applies to this case. It is your duty to accept the law as I give it to you—whether or not you agree with it—and to apply that law to the facts as you find them.

3. EVIDENCE RECEIVED IN THIS CASE

For the purpose of determining whether or not the government has sustained its burden of proof, you must evaluate all of the evidence. The evidence in this case consists of the sworn testimony of the witnesses, all exhibits received in evidence, and any facts to which the parties have stipulated.

The evidence in this case includes facts to which the lawyers have agreed or stipulated. A stipulation means simply that the government and the defendant accept the truth of a particular proposition or fact. Since there is no disagreement, there is no need for evidence apart from the stipulation. You may accept the stipulation as fact and give it whatever weight you choose.

Any proposed testimony or proposed exhibit to which an objection was sustained by the Court, as well as any testimony ordered stricken by the Court, must be entirely disregarded.

Anything you may have seen or heard outside the courtroom is not proper evidence and must be entirely disregarded.

4. INFERENCES—DEFINED

In determining whether the government has sustained its burden of proof, you are to consider only the evidence. But in your consideration of the evidence, you are not limited to the statements of witnesses, or solely to what you see and hear as the witnesses testify. You are permitted to draw, from the facts which you find have been proven, such reasonable inferences as seem justified in light of your experiences.

Inferences are deductions or conclusions which reason and common sense lead you to draw from facts which have been established by the evidence in the case.

5. EVIDENCE—DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL

There are, generally speaking, two types of evidence. One is direct evidence, such as the testimony of an eyewitness. The other is indirect or circumstantial evidence, which is a chain of circumstances pointing to certain facts.

The law makes no distinction at all between the weight to be given to either direct or circumstantial evidence. Nor is a greater degree of certainty required of circumstantial evidence than of direct evidence. In determining whether the government has sustained its burden of proof you can and should weigh all the evidence, both direct and circumstantial.

6. OBJECTIONS AND WEIGHT OF THE EVIDENCE

The fact that the Court may have admitted evidence over objection should not influence you in determining the weight that you will give such evidence. Nor should statements made by counsel, either for or against the admission of offered evidence, influence your determination of

the weight that you will give the evidence if admitted. In other words, you should determine the weight that you will give such evidence on the basis of your own consideration of it and without regard to the statements of counsel concerning the admissibility of such evidence.

7. JURY'S RECOLLECTION CONTROLS

If any reference by the Court or by counsel to matters of evidence does not coincide with your own recollection, it is your recollection which should control during your deliberations.

8. PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE

In all criminal cases, there is a presumption of innocence. Every defendant under our system of law is presumed to be innocent of the accusation which is filed against him or her, and this presumption of innocence must remain with the defendant from the moment the charge is brought, throughout the trial, through the arguments of counsel, throughout the instructions of the Court, and throughout your deliberations when you retire to consider your verdict in the secrecy of the jury room.

The presumption of innocence remains unless and until you find that the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of the charge as stated in the indictment. If you find, however, that the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of each and every element of the crime with which he is charged, the presumption of innocence disappears and is of no further avail to him.

9. BURDEN OF PROOF

In criminal cases, the law places the burden of proof upon the government. The government has the burden of proving each and every element of the offense as charged beyond a reasonable doubt.

What is meant by the term “beyond a reasonable doubt?” Obviously, the obligation resting upon the government to prove a defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean that it must do so beyond all conceivable doubts. Nor does it require the government to prove a defendant’s guilt to a mathematical or scientific certainty. Reasonable doubt means that the government must adduce evidence which, on examination, is found to be so convincing and compelling as to leave in your minds no reasonable doubt about a defendant’s guilt. We know from experience what a doubt is, just as we know when something is reasonable or unreasonable. Reasonable doubt by definition means a doubt founded upon reason and not speculation, that is, a doubt for which you can give some reason.

If, therefore, after reviewing all the evidence, there remains in your mind a doubt about the defendant’s guilt, and this doubt appears in the light of the evidence to be reasonable, your duty is to find the defendant not guilty. If, however, at the end of your deliberations, you are convinced by the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty, your duty would be to return a verdict against him.

PART II: THE OFFENSE CHARGED

10. UNDERSTANDING AN INDICTMENT

This is a criminal trial upon an indictment returned by a federal grand jury against the defendant, David Chiaradio. Ladies and gentlemen, an indictment is nothing more than an accusation. It is a piece of paper filed with the Court to bring a criminal charge against a defendant. Here, the defendant has pleaded not guilty and has put in issue the charges alleged in the indictment. The government therefore has the burden of proving the allegations made against him.

The fact that an indictment has been filed in this case does not give rise to a presumption of guilt. It does not even lead to an inference of guilt. The indictment simply brings this matter before you for determination. Beyond that, it has no significance whatsoever.

11. “ON OR ABOUT”

You will note that the indictment charges that the offenses were committed “on or about” or “on or before” a certain date. The proof need not establish with certainty the exact date of the alleged offense. It is sufficient that the evidence in the case establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense was committed on a date reasonably near the date alleged in the indictment.

12. CHARGES CONTAINED IN THE INDICTMENT

The indictment in this case contains 3 counts or “charges.”

Count 1 of the indictment charges the defendant, David Chiaradio, with the distribution

of child pornography. Specifically, Count 1 charges that “on or about February 28, 2006, in the Districts of Rhode Island and the Northern District of Oklahoma, the defendant . . . did knowingly distribute a visual depiction that had been mailed and shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce, and which contained materials which had been so mailed and shipped and transported by any means, including by computer, the production of which involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and which visual depiction was of such conduct” in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2).

Counts 2 and 3 of the indictment charge the defendant, David Chiaradio, with the possession of child pornography. Specifically, Counts 2 and 3 charge that “on or before February 28, 2006 to on or about August 22, 2006 . . . in the District of Rhode Island, the defendant did knowingly possess one or more matters which contained a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct, the production of which involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, that had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce and which was produced using materials which had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce” in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4).

The “computer storage medium or matter” related to each Count is as follows:

Count 2: HP Pavilion Laptop

Count 3: IBM NetVista desktop computer.

I remind you that a separate crime is alleged against the defendant in each count of the indictment and you must consider each alleged offense, and any evidence pertaining to it, separately. The fact that you find the defendant guilty or not guilty as to one of the offenses charged should not control your verdict as to the other offenses charged against the defendant.

To assist you in understanding these instructions, I will begin with an explanation of the offense of possession of child pornography as charged in Counts two and three and then discuss the distribution charge in Count one.

13. 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4) – POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Counts 2 and 3 charge the defendant with possession of child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4). Section 2252(a)(4) provides, in part, that it is unlawful for any person to “knowingly . . . possess[] [one] or more books, magazines, periodicals, films, video tapes, or other matter which contain any visual depiction that has been mailed, or has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, or which was produced using materials which have been mailed or so shipped or transported, by any means including by computer” if the production of “such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct” and “such visual depiction is of such conduct.”

14. 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)—ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

In order to prove the defendant guilty of possessing child pornography, the government must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

First, that the defendant knowingly possessed any computer, computer storage medium or matter which defendant knew contained a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct;

Second, that the defendant knew the visual depiction contained in the computer, computer storage medium or matter was of or showed a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct;

Third, that the defendant knew that the production of such visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct; and

Fourth, that the visual depiction had been either:

(a) mailed, shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer; or

(b) produced using materials that had been mailed, shipped, or transported in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

The “computer storage medium or matter” related to each Count is as follows:

Count 2: HP Pavilion Laptop

Count 3: IBM NetVista desktop computer

15. “POSSESSION”

The term “possess” means to exercise authority, dominion or control over something.

It is not necessarily the same as legal ownership. The law recognizes different kinds of possession. Possession includes both “actual” and “constructive” possession. A person who has direct physical control of something on or around his person is then in “actual” possession of it. A person who is not in actual possession, but who has both the power and the intention to exercise control over something is in “constructive” possession of it. Whenever I use the term “possession” in these instructions, I mean actual possession as well as constructive possession.

The term “possession” also includes “sole possession” and “joint possession.” If one person alone has actual or constructive possession, possession is “sole.” If two or more persons share actual or constructive possession, possession is “joint.” Whenever I have used the word

“possession” in these instructions, I mean joint possession as well as sole possession.

16. “KNOWINGLY”

The term “knowingly” means that the act was done voluntarily and intentionally and not because of mistake or accident. You may consider evidence of the defendant’s words, acts, or omissions, along with all other evidence in deciding whether the defendant acted knowingly.

17. “MINOR”

The term “minor” means any person under the age of 18. In this case the parties have stipulated that the images in Exhibits 1 through 4 are of real children, all of whom were minors.

18. “INTERSTATE COMMERCE”

The term “interstate or foreign commerce” means the movement of property between different states or between the United States and anyplace outside the United States.

In this case, the parties have stipulated that the images in Exhibit 1 through 4 had been transported in interstate commerce, or were produced using materials which had been transported in interstate commerce.

19. “COMPUTER”

The term “computer” means any high speed data processing device that can perform logical, arithmetic, or storage functions, including any data-storage facility or communications facility that is directly related to or operates in conjunction with the device.

20. VISUAL DEPICTION

The term “visual depiction” includes undeveloped film and videotape, and data that has been stored on computer disk or data that has been stored by electronic means and that is capable of conversion into a visual image.

In this case, the parties have stipulated that the images contained in Exhibits 1 through 4 are visual depictions.

21. “SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT”

The term “sexually explicit conduct” means any actual or simulated:

- sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex;
- bestiality;
- masturbation;
- sadistic or masochistic abuse, or
- lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person.

In this case, the parties have stipulated that the images in Exhibits 1 through 4 are visual depictions of sexually explicit conduct.

22. 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) – DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

I now turn to the offense charged in Count I of the indictment. Count I of the indictment charges the defendant with distributing child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2).

Section 2252(a)(2) provides, in part, that it is unlawful for any person to “knowingly . . . distribute[], any visual depiction that has been mailed, or has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, or which contains materials which have been mailed or so shipped or transported, by any means including by computer, or knowingly reproduces any visual depiction for distribution in interstate or foreign commerce or through the mails, if” the production of “such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct” and “such visual depiction is of such conduct.”

23. 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2)—ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

In order to prove the defendant guilty of distributing child pornography, the government must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

First, that the defendant knowingly distributed a visual depiction in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including a computer;

Second, that the production of such visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;

Third, that such visual depiction was of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct;

Fourth, that the defendant knew that such visual depiction was of sexually explicit conduct; and

Fifth, the defendant knew that at least one of the persons engaged in sexually explicit conduct in such visual depiction was a minor.

24. “DISTRIBUTE”

The term “distribute” means to deliver or transfer possession to someone else, with or without any financial interest in the transaction.

As to Count I, you must find that at least one of the images contained in Exhibit 1 was distributed.

25. DEFINITIONS

I have already defined for you the terms “visual depiction,” “minor,” “sexually explicit conduct,” “interstate commerce,” “knowingly,” and “computer.” These terms all have the same meaning as to Count 1 as they do for Counts 2 and 3.

As a reminder, the parties have agreed by stipulation that the images contained in Exhibits 1 through 4:

- are visual depictions;
- which depict actual minors;
- who are engaged in sexually explicit conduct; and
- that the images were either transported in interstate commerce, or were produced using materials which had been transported in interstate commerce.

PART III: CONSIDERATION OF THE EVIDENCE

26. EXHIBITS

Exhibits admitted into evidence by the Court are properly before you, and will be available to you during your deliberations. An exhibit marked by the Court for identification is not evidence in the case unless or until it was admitted by the Court as a full exhibit. If it has not been admitted as a full exhibit, you may not consider it. If it was admitted, however, it is just as much a part of the evidence in the case as the testimony which you have heard from the witness stand.

27. REMARKS OF COUNSEL

Remarks, statements, or questions by counsel are not evidence and are not to be considered by you as evidence during your deliberations. Neither should you permit objections by counsel to the admission of evidence, or the rulings of the Court, create any bias or prejudice toward counsel or the party whom he or she represents. It is the duty of counsel for both sides to represent their clients vigorously and to defend their client's rights and interests. In the performance of that duty, counsel freely may make objection to the admission of offered evidence, or to any other ruling of the Court, and should not be penalized for doing so.

28. CONDUCT OF COURT AND COUNSEL

If during trial, or in instructing you, I have said or done anything that has caused you to believe that I was indicating an opinion as to what the facts are in this case, you should put that belief out of your mind. I did not intend to indicate any such opinion. In fact, I try not to have an

opinion about the case because you are the sole and exclusive judges of the facts.

In determining the facts, you are to consider only that evidence which has properly been placed before you. It is the Court's duty to pass upon the admissibility of offered evidence, that is, to decide whether or not offered evidence should be considered by you. Evidence admitted by the Court is properly before you for your consideration; evidence which the Court has refused to admit, or may have stricken from the record after you heard it, is not a proper subject for your deliberations and is not to be considered by you.

PART IV: CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES

29. TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES

The law does not require you to accept or credit the evidence I have admitted. In determining what evidence you will accept, you must make your own evaluation of the testimony given by each of the witnesses, and the weight you choose to give to his or her testimony.

In evaluating the testimony of witnesses you may consider several facts—the opportunity of the witnesses to have acquired knowledge of that to which they testified; their conduct and demeanor while testifying; their interest or lack of interest, if any, in the outcome of the case; their intelligence or lack thereof; and the probability or improbability of the truth of their testimony.

Inconsistencies or discrepancies in the testimony of a witness or between the testimony of different witnesses may or may not cause you to disbelieve or discredit such testimony. Two or more persons witnessing an incident or a transaction may simply see or hear it differently. Innocent misrecollection, like failure of recollection, is not an uncommon experience. In weighing the effect of a discrepancy, however, always consider whether it pertains to a matter of importance or an insignificant detail and consider whether the discrepancy results from innocent error or from intentional falsehood.

From these circumstances, and from all of the other facts and circumstances proved at the trial, you may determine whether or not the government has sustained its burden of proof.

30. OPINION EVIDENCE – EXPERT WITNESS

The rules of evidence ordinarily do not permit witnesses to testify as to opinions or

conclusions. An exception to this rule exists as to those whom we call “expert witnesses.” Such witnesses, who have special training or experience in a technical field, may state an opinion concerning that technical matter and may also state the reasons for their opinion.

Merely because an expert witness has expressed an opinion, of course, does not mean that you must accept it. As with any other witness, you should consider the testimony and give it such weight as you think it deserves.

31. DEFENDANT’S RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

The law does not compel a defendant in a criminal case to take the witness stand and testify. No presumption of guilt may be raised and no inference of any kind may be drawn from the fact that the defendant did not testify.

Further, the law never imposes upon a defendant in a criminal case the burden of calling any witnesses or producing any evidence.

PART V: THE DELIBERATIONS AND VERDICT

32. UNANIMOUS VERDICT—JURY CONDUCT

To render a verdict, all twelve of you must agree, that is, your verdict must be unanimous.

Therefore, during your deliberations and in your consideration of the evidence, you should exercise reasonable and intelligent judgment. It is not required that you yield your view simply because a majority holds to the contrary view, but in pursuing your deliberations, you should keep your minds reasonably open with respect to any point in dispute so that you will not be prevented from achieving a unanimous verdict due to mere stubbornness. It is your right, however, to maintain your view. The vote of each juror is as important as the vote of any other juror, and you need not give up your view, sincerely held, simply because a majority holds to the contrary view.

Do not approach your consideration of the case in an intellectual vacuum. You are not required to disregard your experiences and observations in the ordinary everyday affairs of life. Indeed, your experiences and observations are essential to your exercise of sound judgment and discretion, and it is your right and duty to consider the evidence in light of such experiences and observations. It is hoped and anticipated that you will sift all of the evidence in this case through maturity and common sense.

Of course, prejudice, sympathy or compassion should not be permitted to influence you. All that any party is entitled to, or expects, is a verdict based upon your fair, scrupulous and conscientious examination of the evidence and an application of the law to that evidence as I have instructed you.

33. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN COURT AND JURY DURING DELIBERATIONS

If it becomes necessary during your deliberations to communicate with the Court, you may send a note signed by your foreperson, or by one or more members of the jury. The foreperson may then hand such written request or question to the marshal in whose charge you will be placed. The marshal will bring any written questions or requests to me. I will have you brought into the courtroom and will attempt to fulfill your request or answer your question. Other than the method outlined, please do not attempt to communicate privately or in any other way with the Court.

Bear in mind also that you are never to reveal to any person—not even to the Court—how the jury stands, numerically or otherwise, on the question of whether the accused is guilty or not guilty, until after you have reached a unanimous verdict.

You may now retire with the marshal to enter upon your deliberations. When you have reached a verdict, you will return here and make your verdict known.