

## Chapter 32

# Instructions to the Jury

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The jury charge is a vital part of a criminal trial, and the content of the instructions can have a profound impact on the jury’s determination of the defendant’s guilt or innocence. G.S. 15A-1231, 15A-1232, and 15A-1234 contain the basic standards and procedures on instructions to the jury. This chapter addresses the general requirements relating to jury instructions as well as the

duties of the trial judge, special requests for instructions by the defendant, and the preservation of issues for appeal.