

VERDICT OF ACQUITTAL

A GUIDE FOR ADVOCATES

- Does the victim understand the advocate's role and purpose, and that it is ongoing?
- Does the victim know about other services or options to help her/him cope with the experience?
- Does the victim know that an HRO or OFP is still available, and if already in place, is still valid?
- Is the victim aware that the conditions of release are no longer in place?
- Does the victim understand that a civil suit for damages against the assailant is still an option?
- Does the victim know that the standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt can be difficult to meet, even when the jury suspects the defendant is guilty?
- Has the victim been reminded that the police and prosecutor believed the victim?
- Does the victim know the prosecutor can ask to speak with the jury for feedback?
- Does the victim know she/he can ask to meet with the prosecutor for feedback?
- Does the victim know that the prosecutor cannot appeal an acquittal?
- Does the victim know that she/he can request the return of property items used as evidence?
- Is the victim aware that future threats, harassment/stalking, or violence by the assailant can be a new crime?
- Does the victim know she/he will not receive an order for restitution by the court?
- Is the victim aware she/he can still apply for and receive victim's reparations through the state?

Sexual Violence Justice Institute
MNCASA
161 St. Anthony Avenue, Suite 1001
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-209-9993 • 800-964-8847
www.mncasa.org