

**PRESUMPTION OF POSSESSION  
FROM PRESENCE OF WEAPON  
IN STOLEN VEHICLE  
PENAL LAW 265.15(2)**

Under our law, the presence in any stolen vehicle of a (specify)<sup>1</sup> is presumptive evidence of its possession by all persons occupying such vehicle at the time such (specify) is found. What this means that, if the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the (specify) was found in a stolen vehicle and that the defendant was occupying the stolen vehicle at the time that the (specify) was found, then you may, but you are not required to, infer from those facts that the defendant possessed the (specify).

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<sup>1</sup> The statute provides that this presumption applies to "any weapon, instrument, appliance, or substance specified in sections 265.01, 265.02, 265.03, 265.04 and 265.05."