

CRIMINAL FACILITATION IN THE FOURTH DEGREE
(Facilitation of a felony)
Penal Law § 115.00 (1)
(Committed on or after Sept. 1, 1978)

The (*specify*) count is Criminal Facilitation in the Fourth Degree.

Under our law, a person is guilty of Criminal Facilitation in the Fourth Degree when, believing it probable that he or she is rendering aid to a person who intends to commit a crime, he or she engages in conduct¹ which provides such person with means or opportunity for the commission thereof and which in fact aids such person to commit a felony.

The following terms used in that definition have a special meaning:

INTENT means conscious objective or purpose.² Thus, a person INTENDS to commit a crime when that person's conscious objective or purpose is to commit a crime.

CRIME means a violation of law which is classified as a

¹ In 2013, Penal Law § 115.20 was added, stating:

"For purposes of [Penal Law article 115], such conduct shall include, but not be limited to, making available, selling, exchanging, giving or disposing of a community gun, which in fact, aids a person to commit a crime. 'Community gun' shall mean a firearm that is actually shared, made available, sold, exchanged, given or disposed of among or between two or more persons, at least one of whom is not authorized pursuant to law to possess such firearm. 'Dispose of' shall have the same meaning as that term is defined in section 265.00 of this chapter. 'Share' and 'make available' shall, in the case of a firearm, be construed to include knowingly placing such firearm at a location accessible and known to one or more other persons." If a "community gun" is in issue, the trial court may, to the extent it deems appropriate, incorporate some or all of the language of that statute in this charge. Whether that statute only defines "conduct," and the remaining elements, including the culpable mental state, must be proven, or whether that statute defines a crime of "criminal facilitation" without the culpable mental state element remains to be determined.

² See Penal Law § 15.05 (1). If necessary, an expanded definition of "intent" is available in the section on Instructions of General Applicability under Culpable Mental States.

misdemeanor or felony.³

(Name of felony) is a felony. A person commits (name of felony) when that person (read the applicable portion of the statutory definition of the committed felony).

Under our law, it is no defense to a prosecution for criminal facilitation that the defendant is not guilty of the felony which he/she is charged with facilitating because he/she did not act with the intent or other culpable mental state required for the commission thereof.⁴

[NOTE: Add if appropriate:

Under our law, it is no defense to a prosecution for criminal facilitation that the person facilitated was not guilty of the underlying felony owing to criminal irresponsibility or legal incapacity or exemption, or to unawareness of the criminal nature of the conduct in question or to other factors precluding the mental state required for the commission of such felony.⁵]

[NOTE: Add if appropriate:

Under our law, it is no defense to a prosecution for criminal facilitation that the person facilitated has not been prosecuted for or convicted of the underlying felony (or has previously been acquitted of the underlying felony).⁶]

[NOTE: Add if appropriate:

The defendant may not be convicted of criminal facilitation in the fourth degree under this count upon the testimony of a person who has committed the felony charged to have been facilitated unless such testimony is corroborated by such other evidence as tends to connect the defendant with such facilitation.⁷]

³ See Penal Law § 10.00 (6). Where the defendant believed it probable that he/she was rendering aid to a person who intended to commit a particular crime, and that crime differs from the felony actually committed (and defined in the next paragraph), the court should here instruct the jury that: “(Specify) is a crime,” and then define it.

⁴ See Penal Law § 115.10 (3).

⁵ See Penal Law § 115.10 (1).

⁶ See Penal Law § 115.10 (2).

⁷ See Penal Law § 115.15.

In order for you to find the defendant guilty of this crime, the People are required to prove, from all of the evidence in the case, beyond a reasonable doubt, each of the following three elements:

1. That on or about (date), in the county of (county), the defendant, (defendant's name), engaged in conduct which provided (specify person facilitated) with means or opportunity to commit a crime⁸;
2. That the defendant did so believing it probable both: that (specify person facilitated) intended to commit such crime, and that he/she, the defendant, was rendering aid to (specify person facilitated) to do so; and
3. That the defendant's conduct in fact aided (specify person facilitated) to commit the felony of (specify the facilitated felony).

If you find the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt each of those elements, you must find the defendant guilty of this crime.

If you find the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt any one or more of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of this crime.

⁹ If the indictment or bill of particulars alleges a particular crime, or if the evidence is sufficient to establish the commission of a particular crime, the court should specify that crime in the first element.