

**UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT IN THE FIRST DEGREE**  
**Penal Law § 135.10**  
**(Committed on or after Sept. 1, 1967)**

The (*specify*) count is Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree.

Under our law, a person is guilty of Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree when he or she restrains another person under circumstances which expose the latter to a risk of serious physical injury.

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

**RESTRAIN** means to restrict a person's movements intentionally and unlawfully in such manner as to interfere substantially with his or her liberty by moving him or her from one place to another, or by confining him or her either in the place where the restriction commences or in a place to which he or she has been moved, without consent and with knowledge that the restriction is unlawful.<sup>1</sup>

A person restricts another's movements intentionally when his or her conscious objective or purpose is to restrict that person's movements.<sup>2</sup>

A person restricts another's movements unlawfully when he or she is not authorized by law to do so.

**SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY** means physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes death or serious and protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Penal Law § 135.00(1).

<sup>2</sup> See Penal Law § 15.05(1).

<sup>3</sup> Penal Law § 10.00(10).

*NOTE: Select appropriate alternative:*

Under our law, with certain exceptions not applicable here, a person is not authorized by law to restrict another's movements.

*or*

Under our law, a person is authorized by law to restrict another's movements when (read the applicable law that authorizes a person to restrict another's movements<sup>4</sup>).

A person restricts another's movements with knowledge that the restriction is unlawful when he or she is aware that the restriction is not authorized by law.<sup>5</sup>

A person is moved or confined without consent when such is accomplished

*NOTE: Select appropriate alternative:*

by physical force, intimidation or deception.

*or*

by any means whatever, including acquiescence of the victim, if he or she is a child less than sixteen years old or an incompetent person and the parent, guardian or other person or institution having lawful control or custody of him or her has not acquiesced in the movement or confinement.<sup>6</sup>

SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY means impairment of a person's physical condition which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes death or serious and protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health, or protracted loss

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<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., CPL §§ 140.15, 140.35, Penal Law §§ 35.05, 35.10.

<sup>5</sup> See *People v. Weiss*, 276 N.Y. 384 (1938). Cf. Penal Law § 15.05(2).

<sup>6</sup> See Penal Law § 135.00(1).

or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.<sup>7</sup>

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

1. That on or about     (date)    , in the County of     (count)    , the defendant, (defendant's name), restricted (specify)'s movements in such manner as to interfere substantially with his/her liberty by moving him/her from one place to another, or by confining him/her either in the place where the restriction commenced or in a place to which he/she had been moved;
2. That the defendant did so without consent of     (specify)    ;
3. That the defendant did so intentionally;
4. That the restriction of (specify)'s movements was unlawful, and the defendant knew that the restriction was unlawful.
5. That the defendant restrained (specify) under circumstances which exposed (specify) to a risk of serious physical injury.

*[NOTE: If affirmative defense does not apply, conclude as follows:*

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.

*[NOTE: If affirmative defense applies, continue as follows:*

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<sup>7</sup> See Penal Law § 10.00(10).

If you find that the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt any one or more of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree as charged in the \_\_\_\_\_ count.

On the other hand, if you find that the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt each of those elements, you must consider an affirmative defense the defendant has raised. Remember, if you have already found the defendant not guilty of Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree, you will not consider the affirmative defense.

Under our law, it is an affirmative defense to this charge that the person restrained was a child less than sixteen years old, and the defendant was a relative of such child, and the defendant's sole purpose was to assume control of such child.<sup>8</sup> The term "relative" includes a parent [an ancestor] [a brother] [a sister] [an uncle] [an aunt].<sup>9</sup>

Under our law, the defendant has the burden of proving an affirmative defense by a preponderance of the evidence.

In determining whether the defendant has proven the affirmative defense by a preponderance of the evidence, you may consider evidence introduced by the People or by the defendant.

A preponderance of the evidence means the greater part of the believable and reliable evidence, not in terms of the number of witnesses or the length of time taken to present the evidence, but in terms of its quality and the weight and convincing effect it has. For the affirmative defense to be proved by a preponderance of the evidence, the evidence that supports the affirmative defense must be of such convincing quality as to outweigh any evidence to the contrary.

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<sup>8</sup> See Penal Law § 135.15.

<sup>9</sup> See Penal Law § 135.00(3).

Therefore, if you find that the defendant has not proven the affirmative defense by a preponderance of the evidence, then, based upon your initial determination that the People had proven beyond a reasonable doubt each of the elements of Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree, you must find the defendant guilty of that crime as charged in the \_\_\_\_\_ count.

On the other hand, if you find that the defendant has proven the affirmative defense by a preponderance of the evidence, then you must find the defendant not guilty of Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree as charged in the \_\_\_\_\_ count.]