

**REWARDING OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT
IN THE FIRST DEGREE
Penal Law § 200.22
(Committed on or after September 1, 1973)**

The (specify) count is Rewarding Official Misconduct in the First Degree.

Under our law, a person is guilty of rewarding official misconduct in the first degree when he knowingly confers, or offers or agrees to confer, any benefit upon a public servant for having violated his duty as a public servant in the investigation, arrest, detention, prosecution, or incarceration of any person for the commission or alleged commission of a class A felony defined in article two hundred twenty of the penal law or the attempt to commit any such class A felony.

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

BENEFIT means any gain or advantage to the beneficiary and includes any gain or advantage to a third person pursuant to the desire or consent of the beneficiary.¹

PUBLIC SERVANT means any public officer or employee of the state or of any political subdivision thereof or of any governmental instrumentality within the state, or any person exercising the functions of any such public officer or employee. [The term public servant includes a person who has been elected or designated to become a public servant.]²

A person **KNOWINGLY** confers, or offers or agrees to confer, any benefit upon a public servant for having violated his or her duty as a public servant in the investigation, arrest, detention, prosecution, or incarceration of any person for the

¹ Penal Law § 10.00(17).

² Penal Law § 10.00(15).

commission or alleged commission of a class A felony defined in article two hundred twenty of the penal law or the attempt to commit any such class A felony when that person is aware that he or she is doing so.³

Under our law, (specify) is a class A felony defined in article two hundred twenty of the penal law.

Under our law, it is no defense to this charge that the public servant did not have power or authority to perform the act or omission for which the alleged reward was given.⁴

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 three elements:

1. That on or about (date), (specify) was a public servant;

2 That on or about that date in the county of (specify), the defendant, (defendant's name), conferred, or offered, or agreed to confer, a benefit upon (specify) for having violated his/her duty as a public servant in the investigation, arrest, detention, prosecution, or incarceration of any person for the commission or alleged commission of a class A felony defined in article two hundred twenty of the penal law or the attempt to commit any such class A felony; and

3. That the defendant did so knowingly.

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

³ See Penal Law § 15.05(2).

⁴ Penal Law § 200.15 (2).

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.