

Ala. Code 1975, § 13A-6-61(a)(1)*
Rape First Degree
(Forcible Compulsion)

*[These instructions apply only to offenses committed on or after 9/1/2019]

The defendant is charged with rape in the first degree.

A person commits the crime of rape in the first degree if he/she engages in sexual intercourse with another person by forcible compulsion.

To convict, the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt each of the following elements:

- (1) The defendant engaged in sexual intercourse with **[Insert Victim's name]**;
- (2) The defendant did so by forcible compulsion; **(AND)**
- (3) The defendant acted **[Insert appropriate mens rea element - See Use Note]**.

Sexual intercourse has its ordinary meaning and occurs upon any penetration, however slight; emission is not required. [13A-6-60(4)]

Forcible compulsion is use or threatened use, whether express or implied of physical force, violence, confinement, restraint, physical injury, or death to the threatened person or to another person. Factors to be considered in determining an implied threat include, but are not limited to, the respective ages and sizes of the victim and the accused; the respective mental and physical conditions of the victim and the accused; the atmosphere and physical setting in which the incident was alleged to have taken place; the extent to which the accused may have been in a position of authority, domination, or custodial control over the victim; or, whether the victim was under duress. Forcible compulsion does not require proof of resistance by the victim. [13A-6-60(1)]

If you find from the evidence that the State has proved beyond a reasonable doubt each of the above elements of rape in the first degree, then you shall find the defendant guilty of rape in the first degree.

If you find that the State has failed to prove any one or more of the elements of the offense of rape in the first degree, then you cannot find the defendant guilty of rape in the first degree.

[If lesser-included offenses are included, the Court should instruct on those offenses at this point.]

Use Notes

The statute does not state a specific mens rea element. The courts have concluded that rape in the first degree does not include "specific intent" as an element. *Anonymous v. State*, 507 So.2d 972 (Ala. 1987); *Toler v. State*, 623 So. 2d 408 (Ala. Crim. App.), cert. denied, No. 1921231 (Ala. 1993).

Insert the appropriate mens rea element considering the indictment and the evidence before the court. There are few, if any, strict liability offenses in the Code. See Commentary for 13A-2-3 and 13A-2-4(b). There are four mens rea elements in the Alabama Code: intentionally, knowingly, recklessly and with criminal negligence. See 13A-2-2.

1. A person acts *intentionally* with respect to a result or to conduct described by a statute defining an offense when his/her purpose is to cause that result or to engage in that conduct. [13A-2-2(1)]
2. A person acts *knowingly* with respect to conduct or to a circumstance described by a statute defining an offense he/she is aware that his/her conduct is of that nature or that the circumstance exists. [13A-2-2(2)]
3. A person acts *recklessly* with respect to a result or to a circumstance when he/she is aware of and consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the result will occur or that the circumstance exists. The risk must be of such nature and degree that disregard thereof constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable person would observe in the situation. [13A-2-2(3)]
4. A person acts with *criminal negligence* with respect to a result or to a circumstance when he/she fails to perceive a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the result will occur or that the circumstance exists. The risk must be of such nature and degree that the failure to perceive it constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of care that a reasonable person would observe in the situation. A court or jury may consider statutes or ordinances regulating the defendant's conduct as bearing upon the question of criminal negligence. [13A-2-2(4)]

[Approved 01-31-25]