

**Ala. Code 1975, § 13A-6-63(a)(2)\***  
**Sodomy First Degree**  
**(Incapable of Consent)**

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

The defendant is charged with sodomy in the first degree.

A person commits the crime of sodomy in the first degree if he/she engages in sodomy with a person who is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless or mentally incapacitated.

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

- (1) The defendant engaged in sodomy with **[Insert Victim's name]**;
- (2) **[Insert Victim's name]** was incapable of consent by reason of being incapacitated; **(AND)**
- (3) The defendant acted **[Insert appropriate mens rea element - See Use Note]**.

*Sodomy* means any sexual act involving the genitals of one person and the mouth or anus of another person. [13A-6-60(5)]

*Incapacitated* means (any of the following): **[Read as appropriate]**

- (1) A person who suffers from a mental or developmental disease or disability which renders the person incapable of appraising the nature of his or her conduct [13A-6-60(2)a.]; **OR,**
- (2) A person is temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling his or her conduct due to the influence of a narcotic, anesthetic, or intoxicating substance and the condition was known or should have been known to the offender [13A-6-60(2)b.]; **OR,**
- (3) A person who is unable to give consent or who is unable to communicate an unwillingness to an act because the person is unconscious, asleep, or is otherwise physically limited or unable to communicate. [13A-6-60(2)c.]

Consent is no defense to a prosecution for this offense. [13A-6-70(b)(2)&(c)(2)]

If you find from the evidence that the State has proved beyond a reasonable doubt each of the above elements of sodomy in the first degree, then you shall find the defendant guilty of sodomy 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 sodomy in the first degree, then you cannot find the defendant guilty of sodomy 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 Court of Criminal Appeals has concluded that "intent" is not an element of sodomy or sexual abuse. *Allen v. State*, 624 So. 2d 650 (Ala. Crim. App. 1993). Moreover, in interpreting the rape in the first degree statute which also does not establish 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 11/31/24]