

FORGERY OF A VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
(E Felony)
(Removal of Vehicle Identification Number From Vehicle)
PENAL LAW 170.65(2)
(Committed on or After April 1, 1971)

The _____ count is Forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number.

Under our law, a person is guilty of forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number when he or she removes any such number from a vehicle or component part thereof except as required by the provisions of the vehicle and traffic law.¹

The term "vehicle" used in this definition has its own special meaning in our law. I will now give you the meaning of that term.

A VEHICLE means a motor vehicle [or trailer], [or semi-trailer], [snowmobile], [or aircraft], or any vessel equipped for propulsion by mechanical means or by sail.²

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, both of the following two elements:

1. That on or about _____ (*date*), in the county of _____ (*county*), the defendant, _____ (*defendant's name*), removed a vehicle identification number from a vehicle or component part thereof; and

¹See Vehicle & Traffic Law article 17 (§ 420, et seq.). See also, e.g., Vehicle & Traffic Law § 429(3).

²See Penal Law §10.00(14). See also, Vehicle and Traffic Law §125 for the definition of motor vehicle; VTL §156 for the definition of a trailer, VTL §143 for the definition of a semi-trailer, Parks and Recreation Law §21.05(3) for the definition of a snowmobile.

2. That the defendant was not required to do so by the vehicle and traffic law.

Therefore, if you find that the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt both of those elements, you must find the defendant guilty of the crime of Forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number as charged in the _____ count.

On the other hand, if you find that the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt either one or both of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of the crime of Forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number as charged in the _____ count.