

101.10 BURDEN OF PROOF AND REASONABLE DOUBT.

The defendant has entered a plea of "not guilty." The fact that the defendant has been [indicted] [charged] is no evidence of guilt. Under our system of justice, when a defendant pleads "not guilty," the defendant is not required to prove the defendant's innocence; the defendant is presumed to be innocent. The State must prove to you that the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

A reasonable doubt is a doubt based on reason and common sense, arising out of some or all of the evidence that has been presented, or lack or insufficiency of the evidence, as the case may be. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that fully satisfies or entirely convinces you of the defendant's guilt.¹

1. Reasonable doubt need be defined only if specially requested. *State v. Shaw*, 284 N.C. 366, 374 (1973).