**1A.16 LIMITING INSTRUCTION – RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**

The law does not permit you to consider whether a person is religious as a way of deciding how much weight to give their testimony. No such evidence will come before you about any party or witness. However, you are allowed to consider the fact that a witness is a member of a church that is a party to this suit in order to decide whether this affects the weight to be given the testimony.

Use Note

This instruction should only be given in a case in which a witness' religious affiliations are admitted as evidence. Such cases should be rare.

Comment

Alaska R. Evid. 610 bars the use of a person's religious beliefs to attack or to support credibility. But the Rule does not prohibit the introduction of evidence that might suggest that a witness is biased. This instruction covers such a case and is designed to indicate to the jury that it should not be surprised to hear that one party is a member of a church and to hear nothing about the other party's religious activities.