### IDJI 4.80 – Definition of defamation

INSTRUCTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Defamation is the communication of false information which tends to impugn the honesty, integrity, virtue or reputation of the person [or entity] about whom the statement is made, or exposes that person [or entity] to public hatred, contempt or ridicule.

Libel is a form of defamation. Libel is the communication of defamatory information by written words, or by some form that has the characteristics of written words.

Slander is a form of defamation by any other means.

Comment:

Gough v. Tribune-Journal Co., 73 Idaho 173, 177, 249 P.2d 192 (1952). Restatement (Second) of Torts, § 568(1); Restatement (Second) of Torts, § 568(2).

Whether a given incident is libel or slander is a question of law for the court. Use such parts of this instruction as may be necessary to inform the jury for the purposes of the case at bar.