

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2639

By: Benson of the House

and

Henry of the Senate

An Act relating to civil procedure; amending 12 O.S. 1991, Section 653, as amended by Section 8, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 653), which relates to application for new trial; amending 12 O.S. 1991, Section 698, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 698), which relates to judgment notwithstanding verdict; amending 12 O.S. 1991, Section 990A, as amended by Section 18, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 990A), which relates to appeals to the Oklahoma Supreme Court; amending 12 O.S. 1991, Section 1031.1, as amended by Section 25, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 1031.1), which relates to authorization to correct, open, modify or vacate judgments; modifying certain time limitations; providing for determination of immediate filings; amending 12 O.S. 1991, Section 2004.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993, 2008, 2009 and 2011 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 2004.1), which relate to the Oklahoma Pleading Code; providing for issuance of subpoenas for actions pending outside this state; providing authorization for issuance of subpoenas; modifying requirements of pleadings demanding relief for money damages and special damages; modifying requirements for signature of pleadings; providing for certain representations to the court; providing sanctions for violations; providing nature of sanctions; amending 12 O.S. 1991, Section 3226, which relates to the Discovery Code; providing for discovery of insurance agreements; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 653, as amended by Section 8, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 653), is amended to read as follows:

Section 653. A. Unless unavoidably prevented, an application for a new trial, if made, must be filed ~~within~~ not later than ten (10) days after the judgment, decree or appealable order prepared in conformance with Section ~~10~~ 696.3 of this ~~act~~ title has been filed, except:

1. In the case of newly discovered material evidence which the moving party could not, with reasonable diligence have discovered and produced at the trial; or

2. Impossibility of preparing a record for an appeal.

B. Where the judgment, decree or appealable order states the matter was taken under advisement, the motion for new trial, if made, must be filed within ten (10) days from the date of mailing of a file-stamped copy of the judgment, decree or appealable order to the moving party, as indicated on the Certificate of Mailing.

C. A motion for new trial filed after the announcement of the decision on all issues in the case but before the filing of the judgment or decree shall be deemed filed immediately after the filing of the judgment or decree.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 698, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 698), is amended to read as follows:

Section 698. When a motion for a directed verdict made at the close of all of the evidence should have been granted, the court shall, at the request of the moving party, grant judgment in the moving party's favor, although a verdict has been found against the moving party, but the court may order a new trial where it appears that the other party was prevented from proving a claim or defense by mistake, accident or surprise. The motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, if made, must be filed ~~within~~ not later than ten (10) days after the judgment, prepared in conformance with ~~Section 40 696.3~~ Section 696.3 of this ~~act~~ title, is filed with the court clerk. A motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict may be joined with a motion for a new trial. Where the judgment states the matter was taken under advisement, the motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, if made, must be filed within ten (10) days from the date of mailing of a file-stamped copy of the judgment to the moving party, as indicated on the Certificate of Mailing. A motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict filed after the announcement of the verdict but before the filing of the judgment shall be deemed filed immediately after the filing of the judgment or decree.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 990A, as amended by Section 18, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 990A), is amended to read as follows:

Section 990A. A. An appeal to the Oklahoma Supreme Court, if taken, must be commenced by filing a petition in error with the Clerk of the Oklahoma Supreme Court within thirty (30) days from the date a judgment, decree or appealable order prepared in conformance with ~~Section 40 696.3~~ Section 696.3 of this ~~act~~ title is filed with the clerk of the trial court. Where such judgment, decree or appealable order states the matter was taken under advisement, the petition in error, if filed, must be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of mailing of a file-stamped copy of such judgment to the appealing party, as indicated on the Certificate of Mailing.

B. The filing of the petition in error may be accomplished either by delivery or by sending it by certified mail with return receipt requested to the Clerk of the Supreme Court. The date of mailing, as shown by the postmark affixed by the post office or other proof from the post office of the date of mailing, shall constitute the date of filing of the petition in error. If there is no proof from the post office of the date of mailing, the date of receipt by the Clerk of the Supreme Court shall constitute the date of filing of the petition in error.

C. The Supreme Court shall provide by court rules, which will have the force of statute, and be in furtherance of this method of appeal:

1. For the filing of cross-appeals;

2. The procedure to be followed by the trial courts or tribunals in the preparation and authentication of transcripts and records in cases appealed under this act; and

3. The procedure to be followed for the completion and submission of the appeal taken hereunder.

D. In all cases the record on appeal shall be complete and ready for filing in the Supreme Court within the time prescribed by rules of that court ~~but within a period of not more than six (6) months from the date of filing of the judgment, decree or appealable order, unless the Supreme Court, for good cause shown, shall extend the time.~~

E. Except for the filing of a petition in error as provided herein, all steps in perfecting an appeal are not jurisdictional.

F. If a petition in error is filed before the time prescribed in this section, it shall be dismissed as premature; however, if the time to commence the appeal accrues before the appeal is dismissed, the appellant may file a supplemental petition in error, without the payment of any additional costs. Such supplemental petition in error shall state when the time for commencing the appeal began and shall set out all matters which have occurred since the filing of the original petition in error and which should be included in a timely petition in error. When a proper supplemental petition in error is filed, the appeal shall not be dismissed on the ground that it was premature.

If an appeal is dismissed on the ground that it was premature, the appellant may file a new petition in error within the time prescribed in this section for filing petitions in error or within thirty (30) days after notice is mailed to the parties which states that the appeal was dismissed on the ground that it was premature, whichever date is later. A notice that an appeal was dismissed on the ground that it was premature shall include the date of mailing and the ground for dismissal.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 1031.1, as amended by Section 25, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 1031.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1031.1 A. A court may correct, open, modify or vacate a judgment, decree or appealable order on its own initiative ~~within~~ not later than thirty (30) days after the judgment, decree or appealable order prepared in conformance with Section ~~40~~ 696.3 of this ~~act~~ title has been filed with the court clerk. Notice of the court's action shall be given as directed by the court to all affected parties.

B. On motion of a party made ~~within~~ not later than thirty (30) days after a judgment, decree or appealable order prepared in conformance with Section ~~40~~ 696.3 of this ~~act~~ title has been filed with the court clerk, the court may correct, open, modify or vacate the judgment, decree or appealable order. Where the judgment, decree or appealable order states the matter was taken under advisement, the motion to correct, open, modify, or vacate the judgment, decree or appealable order, if made, must be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of mailing of a file-stamped copy of the judgment, decree or appealable order to the moving party. The moving party shall give notice to all affected parties. A motion to correct, open, modify or vacate a judgment or decree filed after the announcement of the decision on all issues in the case but before the filing of the judgment or decree shall be deemed filed immediately after the filing of the judgment or decree.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 2004.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 2004.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2004.1

SUBPOENA

A. SUBPOENA; FORM; ISSUANCE.

1. Every subpoena shall:

- a. be issued by the clerk under the seal of the court;
- b. state the name of the court and the title of the action; and
- c. command each person to whom it is directed to attend and give testimony or to produce and permit inspection and copying of designated books, documents or tangible things in the possession, custody or control of that person, or to permit inspection of premises, at a time and place therein specified. A subpoena shall issue from the clerk of the court where the action is pending, and it may be served at any place within the state. If the action is pending outside of Oklahoma, the clerk of the district court for the county in which the deposition is to be taken shall issue the subpoena. Proof of service of a notice to take deposition constitutes a sufficient authorization for the issuance by the clerk of subpoenas for the persons named or described therein.

2. A witness shall be obligated upon service of a subpoena to attend a trial or hearing at any place within the state and to attend a deposition or produce or allow inspection of documents at a location that is authorized by subsection B of Section 3230 of this title.

3. The clerk shall issue a subpoena, or a subpoena for the production of documentary evidence, signed and sealed but otherwise in blank, to a party requesting it, who shall fill it in before service.

B. 1. SERVICE. Service of a subpoena upon a person named therein shall be made by delivering or mailing a copy thereof to such person and, if the person's attendance is demanded, by tendering to him the fees for one (1) day's attendance and the mileage allowed by law. Service of a subpoena may be accomplished by any person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older. Prior notice of any commanded production of documents and things or inspection of premises before trial shall be served on each party in the manner prescribed by subsection B of Section 2005 of this title.

2. Service of a subpoena by mail may be accomplished by mailing a copy thereof by certified mail with return receipt requested and delivery restricted to the person named in the subpoena. The person serving the subpoena shall make proof of service thereof to the court promptly and, in any event, before the witness is required to testify at the hearing or trial. If service is made by a person other than a sheriff or deputy sheriff, such person shall make affidavit thereof. If service is by mail, the person serving the subpoena shall show in his proof of service the date and place of mailing and attach a copy of the return receipt showing that the mailing was accepted. Failure to make proof of service does not affect the validity of the service, but service of a subpoena by mail shall not be effective if the mailing was not accepted by the person named in the subpoena. Costs of service shall be allowed whether service is made by the sheriff, his deputy, or any other person. When the subpoena is issued on behalf of a state department, board, commission, or legislative committee, fees and mileage shall be paid to the witness at the conclusion of the testimony out of funds appropriated to the state department, board, commission, or legislative committee.

C. PROTECTION OF PERSONS SUBJECT TO SUBPOENAS.

1. A party or an attorney responsible for the issuance and service of a subpoena shall take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to that subpoena. The court on behalf of which the subpoena was issued shall enforce this duty and impose upon the party or attorney, or both, in breach of this duty an appropriate sanction, which may include, but is not limited to, lost earnings and a reasonable attorney's fee.

2. a. A person commanded to produce and permit inspection and copying of designated books, papers, documents or tangible things, or inspection of premises need not appear in person at the place of production or inspection unless commanded to appear for deposition, hearing or trial.

b. Subject to paragraph 2 of subsection D of this section, a person commanded to produce and permit inspection and copying may, within fourteen (14) days after service of the subpoena or before the time specified for compliance if such time is less than fourteen (14) days after service, serve upon the party or attorney designated in the subpoena written objection to inspection or copying of any or all of the designated materials or of the premises. If objection is made, the party serving the subpoena shall not be entitled to inspect and copy the materials or inspect the premises except pursuant to an order of the court by which the subpoena was issued. If objection has been made, the party serving the subpoena may, upon notice to the person commanded to produce, move at any time for an order to compel the production. Such an order to compel production shall protect any person who is not a party or an officer of a party from significant expense resulting from the inspection and copying commanded.

3. a. On timely motion, the court by which a subpoena was issued shall quash or modify the subpoena if it:

- (1) fails to allow reasonable time for compliance; or
- (2) requires a person to travel to a place beyond the limits allowed under paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section; or
- (3) requires disclosure of privileged or other protected matter and no exception or waiver applies; or
- (4) subjects a person to undue burden; or
- (5) requires production of books, papers, documents or tangible things that fall outside the scope of discovery permitted by Section 3226 of this title.

b. If a subpoena:

- (1) requires disclosure of a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information; or
- (2) requires disclosure of an unretained expert's opinion or information not describing specific events or occurrences in dispute and resulting from the expert's study made not at the request of any party,

the court may, to protect a person subject to or affected by the subpoena, quash or modify the subpoena. However, if the party in whose behalf the

subpoena is issued shows a substantial need for the testimony or material that cannot be otherwise met without undue hardship and assures that the person to whom the subpoena is addressed will be reasonably compensated, the court may order appearance or production only upon specified conditions.

D. DUTIES IN RESPONDING TO SUBPOENA.

1. A person responding to a subpoena to produce documents shall produce them as they are kept in the usual course of business or shall organize and label them to correspond with the categories in the demand.

2. When information subject to a subpoena is withheld on a claim that it is privileged or subject to protection as trial preparation materials, the claim shall be made expressly and shall be supported by a description of the nature of the documents, communications, or things not produced that is sufficient to enable the demanding party to contest the claim.

E. CONTEMPT. Failure by any person without adequate excuse to obey a subpoena served upon him may be deemed a contempt of the court from which the subpoena issued.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 2008, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2008.

GENERAL RULES OF PLEADING.

A. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF. A pleading which sets forth a claim for relief, whether an original claim, counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party claim, shall contain:

1. A short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief; and

2. A demand for judgment for the relief to which he deems himself entitled. Every pleading demanding relief for damages in money in excess of ~~Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)~~ Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) shall, without demanding any specific amount of money, set forth only that the amount sought as damages is in excess of ~~Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)~~ Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), except in actions sounding in contract. Every pleading demanding relief for damages in money in an amount of ~~Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)~~ Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or less shall specify the amount of such damages sought to be recovered.

Relief in the alternative or of several different types may be demanded.

B. DEFENSES; FORM OF DENIALS. A party shall state in short and plain terms his defenses to each claim asserted and shall admit or deny the averments upon which the adverse party relies. If he is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of an averment, he shall so state and this statement has the effect of a denial. Denials shall fairly meet the substance of the averments denied. When a pleader intends in good faith to deny only a part or a qualification of an averment, he shall specify so much of it as is true and material and shall deny only the remainder. Unless the pleader intends in good faith to controvert all the averments of the preceding pleading, he may make his denials as specific denials of designated averments or paragraphs or he may generally deny all the averments except such designated averments or paragraphs as he expressly admits; but, when he does so intend to controvert all its averments, he may do so by general denial subject to the obligations set forth in Section 2011 of this title.

C. AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES. In pleading to a preceding pleading, a party shall set forth affirmatively:

1. Accord and satisfaction;
2. Arbitration and award;
3. Assumption of risk;
4. Contributory negligence;
5. Discharge in bankruptcy;
6. Duress;
7. Estoppel;
8. Failure of consideration;
9. Fraud;
10. Illegality;
11. Injury by fellow servant;
12. Laches;
13. License;
14. Payment;
15. Release;
16. Res judicata;
17. Statute of frauds;
18. Statute of limitations;
19. Waiver; and
20. Any other matter constituting an avoidance or affirmative defense.

When a party has mistakenly designated a defense as a counterclaim or a counterclaim as a defense, the court on terms, if justice so requires, shall treat the pleading as if there had been a proper designation.

D. EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DENY. Averments in a pleading to which a responsive pleading is required, other than those as to the amount of damage, are admitted when not denied in the responsive pleading. Averments in a pleading to which no responsive pleading is required or permitted shall be taken as denied or avoided.

E. PLEADING TO BE CONCISE AND DIRECT; CONSISTENCY.

1. Each averment of a pleading shall be simple, concise, and direct. No technical forms of pleadings or motions are required.

2. A party may set forth, and at trial rely on, two or more statements of a claim or defense alternately or hypothetically, either in one count or defense or in separate counts or defenses. When two or more statements are made in the alternative and one of them if made independently would be sufficient, the pleading is not made insufficient by the insufficiency of one or more of the alternative statements. A party may also state as many separate claims or defenses as he has regardless of consistency and whether based on legal or equitable grounds. All statements shall be made subject to the obligations set forth in Section 2011 of this title.

F. CONSTRUCTION OF PLEADINGS. All pleadings shall be so construed as to do substantial justice.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 2009, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2009.

PLEADING SPECIAL MATTERS.

A. CAPACITY. It is not necessary to aver the capacity of a party to sue or be sued or the authority of a party to sue or be sued in a representative capacity or the legal existence of an organized association of persons that is made a party. When a party desires to raise an issue as to the legal existence of any party or the capacity of any party to sue or be sued or the authority of a party to sue or be sued in a representative capacity, he shall do so by negative averment, which shall include such supporting particulars as are peculiarly within the pleader's knowledge, and he shall have the burden of proof on that issue.

B. FRAUD, MISTAKE, CONDITION OF THE MIND. In all averments of fraud or mistake, the circumstances constituting fraud or mistake shall be stated with particularity. Malice, intent, knowledge, and other condition of mind of a person may be averred generally.

C. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT. In pleading the performance or occurrence of conditions precedent, it is sufficient to aver generally that all conditions precedent have been performed or have occurred. A denial of performance or occurrence shall be made specifically and with particularity.

D. OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OR ACT. In pleading an official document or official act it is sufficient to aver that the document was issued or the act done in compliance with law.

E. JUDGMENT. In pleading a judgment or decision of a domestic or foreign court, judicial or quasi-judicial tribunal, or of a board or officer, it is sufficient to aver the judgment or decision without setting forth matter showing jurisdiction to render it.

F. TIME AND PLACE. For the purpose of testing the sufficiency of a pleading, averments of time and place are material and shall be considered like all other averments of material matter.

G. SPECIAL DAMAGE. When items of special damage are claimed, their nature shall be specifically stated. In actions where exemplary or punitive damages are sought, the petition shall not state a dollar amount for damages sought to be recovered but shall state whether the amount of damages sought to be recovered is in excess of or not in excess of ~~Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)~~ Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00).

SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 2011, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2011.

SIGNING OF PLEADINGS.

A. SIGNATURE. Every pleading, written motion, and other paper ~~of a party represented by an attorney~~ shall be signed by at least one attorney of record in his individual name, whose ~~address and~~ Oklahoma Bar Association identification number shall be stated, or, if the party is not represented by an attorney, shall be signed by the party. ~~A party who is not represented by an attorney shall sign his pleading, motion, or other paper and state his address. Each paper shall state the address of the signer and telephone number, if any.~~ Except when otherwise specifically provided by rule or statute, pleadings need not be verified or accompanied by affidavit. ~~The rule in equity that the averments of an answer under oath must be overcome by the testimony of two witnesses or of one witness sustained by corroborating circumstances is abolished. The signature of an attorney or party constitutes a certificate by him that he has read the pleading, motion, or other paper; that to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation. If a pleading, motion, or other~~ An unsigned paper is not signed, it shall be stricken unless it is signed promptly after the omission of the signature is corrected promptly after being called to the attention of the pleader or movant attorney or party. ~~If a pleading, motion, or other paper is signed in violation of this rule, the court, upon motion or upon its own initiative, shall impose upon the person who signed it, a represented party, or both, an appropriate sanction, which may include an order to pay to the other party or parties the amount of the reasonable expenses~~

~~incurred because of the filing of the pleading, motion, or other paper, including a reasonable attorney's fee.~~

B. REPRESENTATIONS TO COURT. By presenting to the court, whether by signing, filing, submitting, or later advocating, a pleading, written motion, or other paper, an attorney or unrepresented party is certifying that to the best of the person's knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances:

1. It is not being presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation;

2. The claims, defenses and other legal contentions therein are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law or the establishment of new law;

3. The allegations and other factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, are likely to have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery; and

4. The denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if specifically so identified, are reasonably based on a lack of information or belief.

C. SANCTIONS. If, after notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, the court determines that subsection B of this section has been violated, the court may, subject to the conditions stated below, impose an appropriate sanction upon the attorneys, law firms, or parties that have violated subsection B of this section or are responsible for the violation.

1. HOW INITIATED.

a. By Motion. A motion for sanctions under this rule shall be made separately from other motions or requests and shall describe the specific conduct alleged to violate subsection B of this section. It shall be served as provided in Section 2005 of this title, but shall not be filed with or presented to the court unless, within twenty-one (21) days after service of the motion or such other period as the court may prescribe, the challenged paper, claim, defense, contention, allegation, or denial is not withdrawn or appropriately corrected. If warranted, the court may award to the party prevailing on the motion the reasonable expenses and attorneys fees incurred in presenting or opposing the motion. Absent exceptional circumstances, a law firm shall be held jointly responsible for violations committed by its partners, associates, and employees.

b. On Court's Initiative. On its own initiative, the court may enter an order describing the specific conduct that appears to violate subsection B of this section and directing an attorney, law firm, or party to show cause why it has not violated subsection B of this section with respect thereto.

2. NATURE OF SANCTIONS; LIMITATIONS. A sanction imposed for violation of this rule shall be limited to what is sufficient to deter repetition of such conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. Subject to the limitations in subparagraphs a and b of this paragraph, the sanction may consist of, or include, directives of a nonmonetary nature, an order to pay a penalty into court, or, if imposed on motion and warranted for effective deterrence, an order directing payment to the movant of some or all

of the reasonable attorneys fees and other expenses incurred as a direct result of the violation.

- a. Monetary sanctions shall not be awarded against a represented party for a violation of paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section.
- b. Monetary sanctions shall not be awarded on the court's initiative unless the court issues its order to show cause before a voluntary dismissal or settlement of the claims made by or against the party which is, or whose attorneys are, to be sanctioned.

3. ORDER. When imposing sanctions, the court shall describe the conduct determined to constitute a violation of this section and explain the basis for the sanction imposed.

D. INAPPLICABILITY TO DISCOVERY. This section does not apply to disclosures and discovery requests, responses, objections, and motions that are subject to the provisions of Sections 3226 through 3237 of this title.

SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 3226, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3226. A. DISCOVERY METHODS. Parties may obtain discovery by one or more of the following methods: Depositions upon oral examination or written questions; written interrogatories; production of documents or things or permission to enter upon land or other property, for inspection and other purposes; physical and mental examinations; and requests for admission. Unless the court orders otherwise under this section, the frequency of use of these methods is not limited.

B. DISCOVERY SCOPE AND LIMITS. Unless otherwise limited by order of the court in accordance with the Oklahoma Discovery Code, the scope of discovery is as follows:

1. IN GENERAL. Parties may obtain discovery regarding any matter, not privileged, which is relevant to the subject matter involved in the pending action, whether it relates to the claim or defense of the party seeking discovery or to the claim or defense of any other party, including the existence, description, nature, custody, condition and location of any books, documents or other tangible things and the identity and location of persons having knowledge of any discoverable matter. It is not a ground for objection that the information sought will be inadmissible at the trial if the information sought appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

2. INSURANCE AGREEMENTS. A party may obtain discovery of the existence and contents of any insurance agreement under which any person carrying on an insurance business may be liable to satisfy part or all of a judgment which may be entered in the action or to indemnify or reimburse for payments made to satisfy the judgment. Information concerning the insurance agreement is not by reason of disclosure admissible in evidence at trial. For purposes of this paragraph, an application for insurance shall not be treated as part of an insurance agreement.

3. TRIAL PREPARATION: MATERIALS. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 4 of this subsection, discovery may be obtained of documents and tangible things otherwise discoverable under paragraph 1 of this subsection and prepared in anticipation of litigation or for trial by or for another party or by or for the representative of that other party, including his attorney, consultant, surety, indemnitor, only upon a showing that the party seeking discovery has substantial need of the materials in the preparation of his case and that he is unable, without undue hardship, to obtain the substantial equivalent of the materials by other means. In ordering discovery

of such materials when the required showing has been made, the court shall protect against disclosure of the mental impressions, conclusions, opinions or legal theories of an attorney or other representative of a party concerning the litigation.

A party may obtain, without the required showing provided for in this paragraph, a statement concerning the action or its subject matter previously made by that party. Upon request, a person not a party may obtain without the required showing a statement concerning the action or its subject matter previously made by that person. If the request is refused, the person may move for a court order. The provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection A of Section 3237 of this title apply to the award of expenses incurred in relation to the motion. For purposes of this paragraph, a statement previously made is:

- a. A written statement signed or otherwise adopted or approved by the person making it, or
- b. A stenographic, mechanical, electrical, or other recording, or a transcription thereof, which substantially recites an oral statement by the person making it and contemporaneously recorded.

~~3.~~ 4. TRIAL PREPARATION: EXPERTS.

- a. Discovery of facts known and opinions held by experts, otherwise discoverable under the provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection and acquired or developed in anticipation of litigation or for trial, may be obtained only as follows:
 - (1) A party may, through interrogatories, require any other party to identify each person whom that other party expects to call as an expert witness at trial and give the address at which that expert witness may be located.
 - (2) After disclosure of the names and addresses of the expert witnesses, the other party expects to call as witnesses, the party, who has requested disclosure, may depose any such expert witnesses subject to scope of this section. Prior to taking the deposition the party must give notice as required in subsections A and C of Section 3230 of this title.
 - (3) In lieu of taking the deposition of an expert witness the party may, through interrogatories, require the party who expects to call the expert witness to state the subject matter on which the expert is expected to testify, and to state the substance of the facts and opinions to which the expert is expected to testify and a summary of the grounds for each opinion.
- b. A party may discover facts known or opinions held by an expert who has been retained or specially employed by another party in anticipation of litigation or preparation for trial and who is not expected to be called as a witness at trial, only upon motion, when the court may order discovery as provided in Section 3235 of this title or upon a showing of exceptional circumstances under which it is impracticable for the party seeking discovery to obtain facts or opinions on the same subject by any other means.
- c. Unless manifest injustice would result:
 - (1) The court shall require that the party seeking discovery pay the expert a reasonable fee for

time spent in responding to discovery under division (2) of subparagraph a of this paragraph and subparagraph b of this paragraph.

- (2) The court shall require that the party seeking discovery with respect to discovery obtained under subparagraph b of this paragraph, pay the other party a fair portion of the fees and expenses reasonably incurred by the latter party in obtaining facts and opinions from the expert.

C. PROTECTIVE ORDERS. Upon motion by a party or by the person from whom discovery is sought, and for good cause shown, the court in which the action is pending or on matters relating to a deposition, the district court in the county where the deposition is to be taken may enter any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression or undue burden or expense, including one or more of the following:

1. That the discovery not be had;
2. That the discovery may be had only on specified terms and conditions, including a designation of the time or place;
3. That the discovery may be had only by a method of discovery other than that selected by the party seeking discovery;
4. That certain matters not be inquired into, or that the scope of the discovery be conducted with no one present except persons designated by the court;
5. That a deposition after being sealed be opened only by order of the court;
6. That a trade secret or other confidential research, development or commercial information not be disclosed or be disclosed only in a designated way; and
7. That the parties simultaneously file specified documents or information enclosed in sealed envelopes to be opened as directed by the court.

If the motion for a protective order is denied in whole or in part, the court may, on such terms and conditions as are just, order that any party or person provide or permit discovery. The provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection A of Section 3237 of this title apply to the award of expenses incurred in relation to the motion.

D. SEQUENCE AND TIMING OF DISCOVERY. Unless the court upon motion, for the convenience of parties and witnesses and in the interests of justice, orders otherwise, methods of discovery may be used in any sequence. The fact that a party is conducting discovery, whether by deposition or otherwise, shall not operate to delay discovery by any other party.

E. SUPPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSES. A party who has responded to a request for discovery with a response that was complete when it was made is under no duty to supplement the response to include information thereafter acquired, except as follows:

1. A party is under a duty seasonably to supplement the response with respect to any question directly addressed to:
 - a. The identity and location of persons having knowledge of discoverable matters, and
 - b. The identity of each person expected to be called as an expert witness at trial, the subject matter on which he is expected to testify, and the substance of his testimony.
2. A party is under a duty seasonably to amend a prior response if he obtains information upon the basis of which:
 - a. He knows that the response was incorrect when made, or

- b. He knows that the response, which was correct when made, is no longer true and the circumstances are such that a failure to amend the response is in substance a knowing concealment.

3. A duty to supplement responses may be imposed by order of the court, agreement of the parties, or at any time prior to trial through new requests for supplementation of prior responses.

F. DISCOVERY CONFERENCE. At any time after commencement of an action, the court may direct the attorneys for the parties to appear for a conference on the subject of discovery. The court shall do so upon motion by the attorney for any party if the motion includes:

1. A statement of the issues as they then appear;
2. A proposed plan and schedule of discovery;
3. Any limitations proposed to be placed on discovery;
4. Any other proposed orders with respect to discovery; and
5. A statement showing that the attorney making the motion has made a reasonable effort to reach agreement with opposing attorneys on the matters set forth in the motion.

Each party and his attorney are under a duty to participate in good faith in the framing of a discovery plan if a plan is proposed by the attorney for any party. Notice of the motion shall be served on all parties. Objections or additions to matters set forth in the motion shall be served not later than ten (10) days after service of the motion.

Following the discovery conference, the court shall enter an order tentatively identifying the issues for discovery purposes, establishing a plan and schedule for discovery, setting limitations on discovery, if any; and determining such other matters, including the allocation of expenses, as are necessary for the proper management of discovery in the action. In preparing the plan for discovery the court shall protect the parties from excessive or abusive use of discovery. An order shall be altered or amended whenever justice so requires.

Subject to the right of a party who properly moves for a discovery conference to prompt convening of the conference, the court may combine the discovery conference with a pretrial conference.

G. SIGNING OF DISCOVERY REQUESTS, RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS. Every request for discovery, response or objection thereto made by a party represented by an attorney shall be signed by at least one of his attorneys of record in his individual name whose address shall be stated. A party who is not represented by an attorney shall sign the request, response or objection and state his address. The signature of the attorney or party constitutes a certification that he has read the request, response or objection, and that it is:

1. To the best of his knowledge, information and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry consistent with the Oklahoma Discovery Code and warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law;
2. Interposed in good faith and not primarily to cause delay or for any other improper purpose; and
3. Not unreasonable or unduly burdensome or expensive, given the nature and complexity of the case, the discovery already had in the case, the amount in controversy, and other values at stake in the litigation. If a request, response or objection is not signed, it shall be deemed ineffective.

If a certification is made in violation of the provisions of this subsection, the court, upon motion or upon its own initiative, shall impose upon the person who made the certification, the party on whose behalf the request, response or objection is made, or both,

an appropriate sanction, which may include an order to pay to the amount of the reasonable expenses occasioned thereby, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

SECTION 10. This act shall become effective September 1, 1994.

Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of March, 1994.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 4th day of April, 1994.

President of the Senate