ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2122

By: Benson of the House

and

Henry of the Senate

An Act relating to civil procedure; amending 12 O.S. 1991, Sections 993, as amended by Section 22, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993, 2004.1, as last amended by Section 10, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1994, 3226, as amended by Section 13, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1994, 3229, 3230, as amended by Section 15, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1994, 3232, 3233 and 3237 (12 O.S. Supp. 1995, Sections 993, 2004.1, 3226 and 3230), which relate to procedures in civil cases; modifying provision related to interlocutory orders; modifying procedures related to issuance of subpoena; authorizing licensed attorneys to issue and sign subpoena; modifying discovery procedures with respect to expert witnesses; requiring specific support for claims of privilege or trial preparation material; requiring certification with respect to motions for protective orders; modifying provisions related to supplementary discovery responses; modifying provision related to stipulations regarding discovery procedures; modifying provisions related to examination of witnesses; imposing requirement related to objections to evidence; modifying procedures with respect to review of depositions; providing for filing of depositions upon stipulation by parties; providing for safekeeping of depositions; requiring copies of depositions recorded in certain manner; modifying reference; providing for presentation of depositions during evidentiary proceeding; modifying procedures with respect to interrogatories; imposing requirement with respect to motions compelling discovery; repealing 5 O.S. 1991, Sections 17, 17.1 and 17.2, which relate to certain requirements of attorneys; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 993, as amended by Section 22, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1993 (12 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 993), is amended to read as follows:

Section 993. A. When an order:

1. Discharges, vacates, or modifies or refuses to discharge, vacate, or modify an attachment;

2. Denies a temporary <u>or permanent</u> injunction, grants a temporary <u>or permanent</u> injunction except where granted at an ex

parte hearing, or discharges, vacates, or modifies or refuses to discharge, vacate, or modify a temporary or permanent injunction;

3. Discharges, vacates, or modifies or refuses to discharge, vacate, or modify a provisional remedy which affects the substantial rights of a party;

4. Appoints a receiver except where the receiver was appointed at an ex parte hearing, refuses to appoint a receiver, or vacates or refuses to vacate the appointment of a receiver;

5. Directs the payment of money pendente lite except where granted at an ex parte hearing, refuses to direct the payment of money pendente lite, or vacates or refuses to vacate an order directing the payment of money pendente lite;

6. Certifies or refuses to certify an action to be maintained as a class action; or

7. Grants a new trial or opens or vacates a judgment or order, the party aggrieved thereby may appeal the order to the Supreme Court without awaiting the final determination in said cause, by filing the petition in error and the record on appeal with the Supreme Court within thirty (30) days after the order prepared in conformance with Section ~~10~~ 696.3 of this ~~act~~ title, is filed with the court clerk. Where the 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 the order to the appealing party, as indicated on the Certificate of Mailing. The Supreme Court may extend the time for filing the record upon good cause shown.

B. If the order discharges or modifies an attachment or temporary injunction and it becomes operative, the undertaking given upon the allowance of an attachment or temporary injunction shall stay the enforcement of said order and remain in full force until final order of discharge shall take effect.

C. Where a receiver shall be or has been appointed, upon the appellant filing an appeal bond, with sufficient sureties, in such sum as may have been required of the receiver by the court or a judge thereof, conditioned for the due prosecution of the appeal and the payment of all costs or damages that may accrue to the state or any officer or person by reason thereof, the authority of the receiver shall be suspended until the final determination of the appeal, and if the receiver has taken possession of any property, real or personal, it shall be returned and surrendered to the appellant upon the filing and approval of the bonds.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 2004.1, as last amended by Section 10, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1994 (12 O.S. Supp. 1995, 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 from which it is issued and the title of the action; and

~~c.~~ b. 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. <u>As an officer of the court, an attorney authorized to practice law in Oklahoma may also issue and sign a subpoena on behalf of an Oklahoma state court.</u>

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 3. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 3226, as amended by Section 13, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1994 (12 O.S. Supp. 1995, 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. TRIAL PREPARATION: MATERIALS. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 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. 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~~ In addition to 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.

4. CLAIMS OF PRIVILEGE OR PROTECTION OF TRIAL PREPARATION MATERIALS. When a party withholds information otherwise discoverable under the Oklahoma Discovery Code by claiming that it is privileged or subject to protection as trial preparation material, the party shall make the claim expressly and shall describe the nature of the documents, communications, or things not produced or disclosed in a manner that, without revealing

information itself privileged or protected, will enable other parties to assess the applicability of the privilege or protection.

C. PROTECTIVE ORDERS. 1. Upon motion by a party or by the person from whom discovery is sought, accompanied by a certification that the movant has in good faith conferred or attempted to confer, either in person or by telephone, with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action, 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:

a. that the discovery not be had,

b. that the discovery may be had only on specified terms and conditions, including a designation of the time or place,

c. that the discovery may be had only by a method of discovery other than that selected by the party seeking discovery,

d. 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,

e. that a deposition after being sealed be opened only by order of the court,

f. that a trade secret or other confidential research, development or commercial information not be disclosed or be disclosed only in a designated way, and

g. that the parties simultaneously file specified documents or information enclosed in sealed envelopes to be opened as directed by the court;

2. 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. Any protective order of the court which has the effect of removing any material obtained by discovery from the public record shall contain the following:

a. a statement that the court has determined it is necessary in the interests of justice to remove the material from the public record,

b. specific identification of the material which is to be removed or withdrawn from the public record, or which is to be filed but not placed in the public record, and

c. a requirement that any party obtaining a protective order place the protected material in a sealed manila envelope clearly marked with the caption and case number and is clearly marked with the word "CONFIDENTIAL", and stating the date the order was entered and the name of the judge entering the order;

3. No protective order entered after the filing and microfilming of documents of any kind shall be construed to require the microfilm record of such filing to be amended in any fashion;

4. The party or counsel which has received the protective order shall be responsible for promptly presenting the order to appropriate court clerk personnel for appropriate action;

5. All documents produced or testimony given under a protective order shall be retained in the office of counsel until required by the court to be filed in the case;

6. Counsel for the respective parties shall be responsible for informing witnesses, as necessary, of the contents of the protective order; and

7. When a case is filed in which a party intends to seek a protective order removing material from the public record, the plaintiff(s) and defendant(s) shall be initially designated on the petition under pseudonym such as "John or Jane Doe", or "Roe", and the petition shall clearly indicate that the party designations are fictitious. The party seeking confidentiality or other order removing the case, in whole or in part, from the public record, shall immediately present application to the court, seeking instructions for the conduct of the case, including confidentiality of the records.

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 to an interrogatory, request for production, or request for admission if ~~he~~ the party obtains information upon the basis of which ~~he~~:

a. (i) the party knows that the response was incorrect in some material respect when made, or

~~b.~~ (ii) the party knows that the response, which was correct when made, is no longer true in some material respect; and ~~the circumstances are such that a failure to amend the response is in substance a knowing concealment~~

b. the additional or corrective information has not otherwise been made known to the other parties during the discovery process or in writing.

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 4. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 3229, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3229. Unless the court orders otherwise, the parties may by written stipulation:

1. Provide that depositions may be taken before any person, at any time or place, upon any notice, and in any manner and when so taken may be used like other depositions; and

2. Modify ~~the procedures provided by these rules for other methods of~~ <u>other procedures governing or limitations placed upon</u> discovery, except that stipulations extending the time provided in Sections 3226, 3233, 3234 and 3236 of this title for responses to discovery may<u>, if they would interfere with any time set for</u>

completion of discovery, be made only with the approval of the court. A person designated by the stipulation has the power by virtue of his designation to administer any necessary oath.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 3230, as amended by Section 15, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1994 (12 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 3230), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3230. A. WHEN DEPOSITIONS MAY BE TAKEN.

1. After commencement of the action, any party may take the testimony of any person, including a party, by deposition upon oral examination. Leave of court, granted with or without notice, shall be obtained only if the plaintiff seeks to take a deposition prior to the expiration of thirty (30) days after service of the summons and petition upon any defendant provided that leave is not required:

a. If a defendant has served a notice of taking deposition or otherwise sought discovery; or

b. If special notice is given as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section.

The attendance of witnesses may be compelled by subpoena. The deposition of a person confined in prison may be taken only by leave of court on such terms as the court prescribes.

2. Unless otherwise agreed, a deposition upon oral examination may be taken only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on a day other than a Saturday or Sunday and on a date other than a holiday designated in Section 82.1 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

B. PLACE WHERE WITNESS OR PARTY IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND TAKING OF DEPOSITIONS.

1. A witness shall be obligated to attend to give his deposition only in the county of his residence, a county adjoining the county of his residence or the county where he is located when the subpoena is served upon him.

2. A party, in addition to the places where a witness may be deposed, may be deposed in the county where the action is pending or the county where he is located when the notice is served upon him.

C. NOTICE OF EXAMINATION; GENERAL REQUIREMENTS; SPECIAL NOTICE; NONSTENOGRAPHIC RECORDING; PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THINGS; DEPOSITION OF ORGANIZATION; DEPOSITION BY TELEPHONE.

1. A party desiring to take the deposition of any person upon oral examination shall give notice in writing to every other party to the action. The notice shall state the time and place for taking the deposition and shall state the name and address of each person to be examined, if known, and, if the name is not known, a general description sufficient to identify him or the particular class or group to which he belongs. The notice shall be served in order to allow the adverse party sufficient time, by the usual route of travel, to attend, and three (3) days for preparation, exclusive of the day of service of the notice.

If a subpoena duces tecum is to be served on the person to be examined, the designation of the materials to be produced, as set forth in the subpoena, shall be attached to or included in the notice.

2. Leave of court is not required for the taking of a deposition by plaintiff if the notice states that the person to be examined is about to leave the state and will be unavailable for examination, unless his deposition is taken before expiration of the thirty-day period, and sets forth facts to support the statement. The attorney for the plaintiff shall sign the notice, and his signature constitutes a certification by him that to the best of his knowledge, information and belief the statement and supporting facts are true. For a willful violation of this section, an attorney may

be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and sanctions under Section 3237 of this title.

If a party shows that when he was served with notice under this paragraph he was unable, through the exercise of diligence, to obtain counsel to represent him at the taking of the deposition, the deposition may not be used against him.

3. The court may for cause shown enlarge or shorten the time for taking the deposition and for notice of taking the deposition.

4. The parties may stipulate in writing or the court may upon motion order that the testimony at a deposition be recorded by other than stenographic means. Unless good cause is shown to the contrary, such motions shall be freely granted. The stipulation or order shall designate the person before whom the deposition shall be taken, the manner of recording, preserving and filing the deposition, and may include other provisions to assure that the recorded testimony will be accurate and trustworthy. If the deposition is recorded by other than stenographic means, the party taking the deposition shall upon request by any party or the witness furnish a copy of the deposition to the witness. The party taking the deposition may furnish either a stenographic copy of the deposition or a copy of the deposition as recorded by other than stenographic means.

Any objections under subsection D of this section, any changes made by the witness, the signature of the witness identifying the deposition as his own or the statement of the officer that is required if the witness does not sign, as provided in subsection F of this section, and the certification of the officer required by subsection G of this section shall be set forth in a writing to accompany a deposition recorded by nonstenographic means.

5. The notice to a party deponent may be accompanied by a request made in compliance with Section 3234 of this title for the production of documents and tangible things at the taking of the deposition. The procedure of Section 3234 of this title shall apply to the request.

6. A party may in his notice and in a subpoena name as the deponent a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or governmental agency and describe with reasonable particularity the matters on which examination is requested. In that event, the organization so named shall designate one or more officers, directors or managing agents, or other persons who consent to testify on its behalf, and may set forth, for each person designated, the matters on which he will testify. Such designation of persons to testify and the subject of the testimony shall be delivered to the other party or parties prior to or at the commencement of the taking of the deposition of the organization. A subpoena shall advise a nonparty organization of its duty to make such a designation. The persons so designated shall testify as to matters known or reasonably available to the organization.

This paragraph does not preclude taking a deposition by any other procedure authorized in the Oklahoma Discovery Code.

7. The parties may stipulate in writing or the court may upon motion order that a deposition be taken by telephone <u>or other remote electronic means</u>. For the purposes of this section, subsection A of Section 3228, and paragraphs 1 of subsections A and B of Section 3237 of this title, a deposition taken by ~~telephone~~ <u>such means</u> is taken in the county and state and at the place where the deponent is to answer questions ~~propounded to him~~.

D. EXAMINATION AND CROSS-EXAMINATION; RECORD OF EXAMINATION; OATH; OBJECTIONS. Examination and cross-examination of witnesses may proceed as permitted at the trial under the provisions of

Section 2101 et seq. of this title except Section 2104. The officer before whom the deposition is to be taken shall put the witness on oath or affirmation and shall personally, or by someone acting under his direction and in his presence, record the testimony of the witness. The testimony shall be taken stenographically or recorded by any other ~~means ordered in accordance with~~ method authorized by paragraph 4 of subsection C of this section. ~~If requested by one of the parties, the testimony shall be transcribed at the expense of the party.~~

All objections made at the time of the examination to the qualifications of the officer taking the deposition, ~~or~~ to the manner of taking it, ~~or~~ to the evidence presented, ~~or~~ to the conduct of any party, ~~and any other objection to~~ or to any other aspect of the proceedings~~,~~ shall be noted by the officer upon the record of the deposition~~. Evidence objected to shall be~~; however, the examination shall proceed, with the testimony being taken subject to the objections.

In lieu of participating in the oral examination, parties may serve written questions in a sealed envelope on the party taking the depositions and he shall transmit them to the officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim.

E. MOTION TO TERMINATE OR LIMIT EXAMINATION.

1. Any objection to evidence during a deposition shall be stated concisely and in a nonargumentative and nonsuggestive manner. A party may instruct a deponent not to answer only where the information sought is not discoverable by law, when necessary to preserve a privilege, to enforce a limitation on evidence directed by the court, to present a motion under paragraph 2 of this subsection, or to move for a protective order under subsection C of Section 3226 of this title. If the court finds a person has engaged in conduct which has frustrated the fair examination of the deponent, it may impose upon the persons responsible an appropriate sanction, including the reasonable costs and attorney's fees incurred by any parties as a result thereof.

2. At any time during the taking of the deposition, on motion of a party or of the deponent and upon a showing that the examination is being conducted in bad faith or in such manner as unreasonably to annoy, embarrass or oppress the deponent or party, the court in which the action is pending or the court in the county where the deposition is being taken may order the officer conducting the examination to cease taking the deposition, or may limit the scope and manner of the taking of the deposition as provided in subsection C of Section 3226 of this title. If the order entered terminates the examination, it shall be resumed thereafter only upon the order of the court in which the action is pending. Upon demand of the objecting party or deponent, the taking of the deposition shall be suspended for the time necessary to make a motion for the order provided for in this section. 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.

F. ~~SUBMISSION TO~~ REVIEW BY WITNESS; CHANGES; SIGNING. ~~When the testimony is fully transcribed the deposition shall be submitted to the witness for examination and shall be read to or by him, unless such examination and reading are waived by the witness and by the parties. Any changes in form or substance in the deposition which the witness desires to make shall be entered at the conclusion of the deposition by the officer with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making them. The original testimony shall be retained in the deposition. If a correction is determined to be an error of the officer or person acting under his direction in~~

~~recording or transcribing the deposition, the correction shall be made in the body of the deposition. The original language of the deposition shall be entered at the conclusion of the deposition stating the nature of the correction made by the person recording or transcribing the deposition.~~

~~The deposition shall then be signed by the witness, unless waived either by stipulation of the parties or because the witness is ill, cannot be found or refuses to sign. If the deposition is not signed by the witness within thirty (30) days of its submission to him, the officer shall sign it and state on the record the reason for the absence of the signature of the witness. The deposition may then be used as fully as though signed unless, on a motion to suppress under paragraph 4 of subsection C of Section 3232 of this title, the court holds that the reason given for the refusal to sign requires rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.~~

The deponent shall have the opportunity to review the transcript of the deposition unless such examination and reading are waived by the deponent and by the parties. After being notified by the officer that the transcript is available, the deponent shall have thirty (30) days in which to review it and, if there are changes in form or substance, to sign a statement reciting such changes and the reasons given by the deponent for making them. The officer shall indicate in the certificate prescribed by paragraph 1 of subsection G of this section whether any review was requested and, if so, shall append any changes made by the deponent during the period allowed.

G. CERTIFICATION AND FILING BY OFFICER; EXHIBITS; COPIES; NOTICE OF FILING.

1. The officer shall certify on any stenographic deposition:
   a. the qualification of the officer to administer oaths, including his certificate number,
   b. that the witness was duly sworn by him,
   c. that the deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the witness, and
   d. that the officer is not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, and is not financially interested in the action.

Except on order of the court or unless a deposition is attached to a motion response thereto, ~~or~~ is needed for use in a trial or hearing, or the parties stipulate otherwise, depositions shall not be filed with the court clerk. The officer shall securely seal any stenographic deposition in an envelope endorsed with the title of the action and marked "Deposition of (here insert name of witness)" and send it to the attorney who arranged for the deposition, who shall store it under conditions that will protect it against loss, destruction, tampering, or deterioration.

Documents and things produced for inspection during the examination of the witness shall, upon the request of a party, be marked for identification and annexed to the deposition and may be inspected and copied by any party. If the person producing the materials desires to retain them he may:

   a. Offer copies to be marked for identification and annexed to the deposition and to serve as originals if he affords to all parties fair opportunity to verify the copies by comparison with the originals, or
   b. Offer the originals to be marked for identification, after giving to each party an opportunity to inspect and copy them, in which event the materials may then be used in the same manner as if annexed to the deposition. Any party may move for an order that the

original be annexed to and returned with the deposition to the court, pending final disposition of the case.

2. Each party who takes the deposition of a witness or of another party shall bear all expenses thereof, including the cost of transcription, and shall furnish upon request to the adverse party or parties, free of charge, ~~at least~~ one copy of the transcribed deposition. If the party taking the deposition recorded it on videotape or by other nonstenographic means, that party shall also furnish upon request to the adverse party or parties, free of charge, one copy of the videotape or other recording of the deposition.

~~3. The party taking the deposition shall give prompt notice of its filing to all other parties.~~

H. FAILURE TO ATTEND OR TO SERVE SUBPOENA; EXPENSES.

1. If the party giving the notice of the taking of a deposition fails to attend and proceed therewith and another party attends in person or by attorney pursuant to the notice, the court may order the party giving the notice to pay to such other party the reasonable expenses incurred by him and his attorney in attending, including reasonable attorney's fees.

2. If the party giving the notice of the taking of a deposition of a witness fails to serve a subpoena upon him and the witness because of such failure does not attend, and if another party attends in person or by attorney because he expects the deposition of that witness to be taken, the court may order the party giving the notice to pay to such other party the reasonable expenses incurred by him and his attorney in attending, including reasonable attorney's fees.

I. WITNESS FEES.

1. The attendance and travel fees for a witness shall be paid as provided in ~~Sections 391 and~~ Section 400 of this title.

2. A party deponent must attend the taking of a deposition without the payment or tender of attendance or travel fees.

J. TAXING OF COSTS OF DEPOSITIONS. The cost of transcription of a deposition, as verified by the statement of the certified court reporter, the fees of the sheriff for serving the notice to take depositions and fees of witnesses shall each constitute an item of costs to be taxed in the case in the manner provided by law. The court may upon motion of a party retax the costs if the court finds the deposition was unauthorized by statute or unnecessary for protection of the interest of the party taking the deposition.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 3232, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3232. A. USE OF DEPOSITIONS. At the trial or upon the hearing of a motion or an interlocutory proceeding, any part or all of a deposition, so far as admissible under the Oklahoma Evidence Code applied as though the witness were then present and testifying, may be used against any party who was present or who was represented at the taking of the deposition or who had reasonable notice thereof, in accordance with any of the following provisions:

1. Any deposition may be used by any party for the purpose of contradicting or impeaching the testimony of deponent as a witness, or for any other purpose permitted by the Oklahoma Evidence Code;

2. The deposition of a party or of anyone who at the time of taking the deposition was an officer, director or managing agent, or a person designated under paragraph 6 of subsection C of Section 3230 or subsection A of Section 3231 of this title to testify on behalf of a public or private corporation, partnership or

association or governmental agency which is a party may be used for any purpose;

3. The deposition of a witness, whether or not a party may be used for any purpose if the court finds:

a. That the witness is dead, or

b. That the witness does not reside in the county where the action or proceeding is pending or is sent for trial by a change of venue or the witness is absent therefrom, unless it appears that the absence of the witness was procured by the party offering the deposition, or

c. That the witness is unable to attend or testify because of age, illness, infirmity or imprisonment, or

d. That the party offering the deposition has been unable to procure the attendance of the witness by subpoena, or

e. That the witness is an expert witness, who for purposes of this section is a person educated in a special art or profession or a person possessing special or peculiar knowledge acquired from practical experience, or

f. Upon application and notice, that such exceptional circumstances exist as to make it desirable, in the interest of justice and with due regard to the importance or presenting the testimony of witnesses orally in open court, to allow the deposition to be used.

Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of the appropriate office to issue a subpoena to compel an expert witness to appear in the same manner as any other witness;

4. If only part of a deposition is offered in evidence by a party, an adverse party may require the introduction of any other part which ought in fairness to be considered with the part introduced, and any party may introduce any other parts.

Substitution of parties pursuant to Section 1081, 1082, 1083 or 2025 of ~~Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title does not affect the right to use depositions previously taken. When an action has been brought in this state or in any court of the United States or of any other state and another action involving the same subject matter is afterward brought between the same parties or their representatives or successors in interest, all depositions lawfully taken and duly filed in the former action may be used in the latter as if originally taken therefor.

A deposition previously taken may also be used as permitted by the Oklahoma Evidence Code.

B. OBJECTIONS TO ADMISSIBILITY. Subject to the provisions of subsection B of Section 3228 of this title and paragraph 3 of subsection C of this section, objection may be made, at the trial or hearing, to receiving in evidence any deposition or part thereof for any reason which would require the exclusion of the evidence if the witness were then present and testifying.

C. FORM OF PRESENTATION. Except as otherwise directed by the court, a party offering deposition testimony pursuant to this section may offer it in stenographic or nonstenographic form, but, if in nonstenographic form, the party shall also provide the court with a transcript of the portions so offered.

D. EFFECT OF ERRORS AND IRREGULARITIES IN DEPOSITIONS.

1. AS TO NOTICE. All errors and irregularities in the notice for taking a deposition are waived unless written objection is promptly served upon the party giving the notice.

2. AS TO DISQUALIFICATION OF OFFICER. Objection to taking a deposition because of disqualification of the officer before whom it is to be taken is waived unless made before the taking of the deposition begins or as soon thereafter as the disqualification becomes known or could be discovered with reasonable diligence.

3. AS TO TAKING OF DEPOSITION.

a. Objections to the competency of a witness or to the competency, relevancy or materiality of testimony are not waived by failure to make them before or during the taking of the deposition, unless the ground of the objection is one which might have been obviated or removed if presented at that time.

b. Errors and irregularities occurring in the manner of the oral examination in the taking of the deposition, in the form of the questions or answers, in the oath or affirmation, or in the conduct of parties, and errors of any kind which might be obviated, removed or cured if promptly presented, are waived unless seasonable objection thereto is made at the taking of the deposition.

c. Objections to the form of written questions submitted under Section 3231 of this title are waived unless served in writing upon the party propounding them within the time allowed for serving the succeeding cross or other questions or within five (5) days after service of the last questions authorized.

4. AS TO COMPLETION AND RETURN OF DEPOSITION. Errors and irregularities in the manner in which the testimony is transcribed or the deposition is prepared, signed, certified, sealed, endorsed, transmitted, filed, or otherwise dealt with by the officer under Sections 3230 and 3231 of this title are waived unless a motion to suppress the deposition or some part thereof is made with reasonable promptness after such defect is, or with due diligence might have been, ascertained.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 3233, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3233. A. AVAILABILITY; PROCEDURES FOR USE. Any party may serve upon any other party written interrogatories to be answered by the party served or, if the party served is a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or governmental agency, by any officer or agent, who shall furnish such information as is available to that party. Interrogatories may, without leave of court, be served upon the plaintiff after commencement of the action or upon any other party with the summons and petition or after service of the summons and petition on that party.

Each interrogatory shall be answered separately and fully in writing under oath, unless it is objected to, in which event the objecting party shall state the reasons for objection ~~shall be stated in lieu of an answer~~ and shall answer to the extent the interrogatory is not objectionable. The number of interrogatories to a party shall not exceed thirty in number. Interrogatories inquiring as to the names and locations of witnesses, or the existence, location and custodian of documents or physical evidence shall be construed as one interrogatory. All other interrogatories, including subdivisions of one numbered interrogatory, shall be construed as separate interrogatories. No further interrogatories will be served unless authorized by the court. If counsel for a party believes that more than thirty interrogatories are necessary, he shall consult with opposing counsel promptly and attempt to reach a written stipulation as to a reasonable number of additional

interrogatories. Counsel are expected to comply with this requirement in good faith. In the event a written stipulation cannot be agreed upon, the party seeking to submit such additional interrogatories shall file a motion with the court (1) showing that counsel have conferred in good faith but sincere attempts to resolve the issue have been unavailing, (2) showing reasons establishing good cause for their use, and (3) setting forth the proposed additional interrogatories. The answers are to be signed by the person making them, and the objections signed by the attorney making them. The party upon whom the interrogatories have been served shall serve a copy of the answers, and objections if any, within thirty (30) days after the service of the interrogatories, except that a defendant may serve answers or objections to interrogatories within forty-five (45) days after service of the summons and complaint upon that defendant. ~~The court may allow a~~ A shorter or longer time may be directed by the court or, in the absence of such an order, agreed to in writing by the parties subject to Section 3229 of this title. All grounds for an objection to an interrogatory shall be stated with specificity. Any ground not stated in a timely objection is waived unless the party's failure to object is excused by the court for good cause shown. The party submitting the interrogatories may move for an order under subsection A of Section 3237 of this title with respect to any objection to or other failure to answer an interrogatory.

B. SCOPE; USE AT TRIAL. Interrogatories may relate to any matters which can be inquired into under subsection B of Section 3226 of this title, and the answers may be used to the extent permitted by the Oklahoma Evidence Code as set forth in Sections 2101 et seq. of this title.

An interrogatory otherwise proper is not necessarily objectionable because an answer to the interrogatory involves an opinion or contention that relates to fact or the application of law to fact. The court may order that such an interrogatory need not be answered until after designated discovery has been completed or until a pretrial conference or other later time.

C. OPTION TO PRODUCE BUSINESS RECORDS. Where the answer to an interrogatory may be derived or ascertained from the business records of the party upon whom the interrogatory has been served or from an examination, audit or inspection of such business records, including a compilation, abstract or summary thereof, and the burden of deriving or ascertaining the answer is substantially the same for the party serving the interrogatory as for the party served, it is a sufficient answer to such interrogatory to specify the records from which the answer may be derived or ascertained and to afford to the party serving the interrogatory reasonable opportunity to examine, audit or inspect such records and to make copies, compilations, abstracts or summaries thereof. A specification shall be in sufficient detail to permit the party submitting the interrogatory to locate and to identify, as readily as can the party served, the records from which the answer may be ascertained.

SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 1991, Section 3237, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3237. A. MOTION FOR ORDER COMPELLING DISCOVERY. A party, upon reasonable notice to other parties and all persons affected thereby, may apply for an order compelling discovery as follows:

1. APPROPRIATE COURT. An application for an order to a party may be made to the court in which the action is pending, or, on matters, relating to a deposition, to the district court in the county where the deposition is being taken. An application for an

order to a deponent who is not a party shall be made to the district court in the county where the deposition is being taken or to the court in which the action is pending.

2. MOTION. If a deponent fails to answer a question propounded or submitted under Section 3230 or 3231 of this title, or a corporation or other entity fails to make a designation under paragraph 6 of subsection C of Section 3230 or subsection A of Section 3231 of this title, or a party fails to answer an interrogatory submitted under Section 3233 of this title, or if a party, in response to a request for inspection submitted under Section 3234 of this title, fails to respond that the inspection will be permitted as requested or fails to permit the inspection as requested, the discovering party may move for an order compelling an answer, or a designation, or an order compelling inspection in accordance with the request. The motion must include a statement that the movant has in good faith conferred or attempted to confer either in person or by telephone with the person or party failing to make the discovery in an effort to secure the information or material without court action. When taking a deposition on oral examination, the proponent of the question may complete or adjourn the examination before he applies for an order.

If the court denies the motion in whole or in part, it may make such protective order as it would have been empowered to make on a motion made pursuant to subsection C of Section 3226 of this title.

3. EVASIVE OR INCOMPLETE ANSWER. For purposes of this subsection, an evasive or incomplete answer is to be treated as a failure to answer.

4. AWARD OF EXPENSES OF MOTION. If the motion is granted, the court shall, after opportunity for hearing, require the party or deponent whose conduct necessitated the motion or the party or attorney advising such conduct or both of them to pay to the moving party the reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining the order, including attorney's fees, unless the court finds that the opposition to the motion was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of expenses unjust.

If the motion is denied, the court shall, after opportunity for hearing, require the moving party or the attorney advising the motion or both of them to pay to the party or deponent who opposed the motion the reasonable expenses incurred in opposing the motion, including attorney's fees, unless the court finds that the making of the motion was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of expenses unjust.

If the motion is granted in part and denied in part, the court may apportion the reasonable expenses incurred in relation to the motion among the parties and persons in a just manner.

B. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ORDER.

1. SANCTIONS BY COURT IN COUNTY WHERE DEPOSITION IS TAKEN. If a deponent fails to be sworn or to answer a question after being directed to do so by the court in the county in which the deposition is being taken, the failure may be considered a contempt of that court.

2. SANCTION BY COURT IN WHICH ACTION IS PENDING. If a party or an officer, director or managing agent of a party or a person designated under paragraph 6 of subsection C of Section 3230 or subsection A of Section 3231 of this title to testify on behalf of a party fails to obey an order to provide or permit discovery, including an order made under subsection A of this section or Section 3235 of this title, or if a party fails to obey an order entered under subsection F of Section 3226 of this title, the court

in which the action is pending may make such orders in regard to the failure as are just. Such orders may include the following:

a. An order that the matters regarding which the order was made or any other designated facts shall be taken to be established for the purposes of the action in accordance with the claim of the party obtaining the order,

b. An order refusing to allow the disobedient party to support or oppose designated claims or defenses, or prohibiting him from introducing designated matters in evidence,

c. An order striking out pleadings or parts thereof, or staying further proceedings until the order is obeyed, or dismissing the action or proceedings or any part thereof, or rendering a judgment by default against the disobedient party,

d. In lieu of or in addition to the orders provided for in subparagraphs a through c of this paragraph, an order treating as a contempt of court the failure to obey any orders except an order to submit to a physical or mental examination,

e. Where a party has failed to comply with an order under subsection A of Section 3235 of this title requiring him to produce another for examination, such orders as are listed in subparagraphs a, b and c of this paragraph, unless the party failing to comply shows that he is unable to produce such person for examination,

f. If a person, not a party, fails to obey an order entered under subsection C of Section 3234 of this title, the court may treat the failure to obey the order as contempt of court.

In lieu of or in addition to the orders provided for in this paragraph, the court shall require the party failing to obey the order or the attorney advising him or both to pay the reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, caused by the failure, unless the court finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of expenses unjust.

C. EXPENSES ON EXAMINATION OF PROPERTY. The reasonable expense of making the property available under Section 3234 of this title shall be paid by the requesting party, and at the time of the taxing of costs in the case, the court may tax such expenses as costs, or it may apportion such expenses between the parties, or it may provide that they are an expense of the requesting party.

D. EXPENSES ON FAILURE TO ADMIT. If a party fails to admit the genuineness of any document or the truth of any matter as requested under Section 3236 of this title, and if the party requesting the admission thereafter proves the genuineness of the document or the truth of the matter, he may apply to the court for an order requiring the other party to pay him the reasonable expenses incurred in making that proof, including reasonable attorney's fees. The court shall make the order unless it finds that:

1. The request was held objectionable pursuant to subsection C of Section 3236 of this title; or

2. The admission sought was of no substantial importance; or

3. The party failing to admit had reasonable ground to believe that he might prevail on the matter; or

4. There was other good reason for the failure to admit.

E. FAILURE OF PARTY TO ATTEND AT OWN DEPOSITION OR SERVE ANSWER TO INTERROGATORIES OR RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR INSPECTION. If a party

or an officer, director or managing agent of a party or a person designated under paragraph 6 of subsection C of Section 3230 or subsection A of Section 3231 of this title to testify on behalf of a party fails:

1. To appear before the officer who is to take his deposition, after being served with a proper notice; or

2. To serve answers or objections to interrogatories submitted under Section 3233 of this title, after proper service of the interrogatories; or

3. To serve a written response to a request for inspection submitted under Section 3234 of this title, after proper service of the request;

the court in which the action is pending on motion may make such orders in regard to the failure as are just, and among others it may take any action authorized under subparagraphs a, b and c of paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section. In lieu of or in addition to any order, the court shall require the party failing to act or the attorney advising him or both to pay the reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, caused by the failure, unless the court finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of expenses unjust.

The failure to act as described in this subsection may not be excused on the ground that the discovery sought is objectionable unless the party failing to act has applied for a protective order as provided by subsection C of Section 3226 of this title.

F. FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FRAMING OF A DISCOVERY PLAN. If a party or his attorney fails to participate in good faith in the framing of a discovery plan by agreement as is required by subsection F of Section 3226 of this title, the court may, after opportunity for hearing, require such party or his attorney to pay to any other party the reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, caused by the failure.

SECTION 9. REPEALER 5 O.S. 1991, Sections 17, 17.1 and 17.2, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 10. This act shall become effective November 1, 1996.

Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of April, 1996.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 26th day of March, 1996.

President of the Senate