

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE BILL HB1411

By: Covey

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to civil procedure; amending 12 O.S. 2001, Section 696.2, which relates to preparation and filing of judgments, decrees and appealable orders; requiring judgments, decrees and appealable orders to be prepared and filed within a certain time; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 2001, Section 696.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 696.2 A. ~~After~~ Within thirty (30) days after the granting of a judgment, decree or appealable order, it shall be reduced to writing in conformance with Section 696.3 of this title, signed by the court, and filed with the court clerk. The court may direct counsel for any party to the action to prepare a draft for the signature of the court, in which event, the court may prescribe procedures for the preparation and timely filing of the judgment, decree or appealable order, including, but not limited to, the time within which it is to be submitted to the court. If a written judgment, decree or appealable order is not submitted to the court by the party directed to do so within the time prescribed by the court, then any other party may reduce it to writing and submit it to the court.

B. A file-stamped copy of every judgment, decree, or appealable order shall be mailed to all parties who are not in default for failure to appear in the action by the counsel for a party or party who prepared it, or by a person designated by the trial court,

promptly and no later than three (3) days after it is filed. The mailing shall be done in the manner provided in Section 2005 of ~~Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title for the service of papers, and a certificate of service must be filed with the court clerk. If the judgment, decree or appealable order was prepared by the court, the court may direct a bailiff, court clerk or party to perform the mailing and certificate of service required by this subsection.

C. In any probate, guardianship, or conservatorship proceeding commenced on or after October 1, 1996, where a party, heir, devisee, legatee, or other interested party or representative of a party has received notice of a hearing which resulted in the issuance of a judgment, decree, or appealable order and did not file an entry of appearance, no further mailing of any judgment, decree, or appealable order shall be required to be sent to such party, heir, devisee, legatee, or other interested party or representative of a party, unless otherwise specifically required by law. No certificate of mailing shall be required to be filed where no party, heir, devisee, legatee, or other interested party, or representative of a party has filed an entry of appearance.

D. The filing with the court clerk of a written judgment, decree or appealable order, prepared in conformance with Section 696.3 of this title and signed by the court, shall be a jurisdictional prerequisite to the commencement of an appeal. The following shall not constitute a judgment, decree or appealable order: A minute entry; verdict; informal statement of the proceedings and relief awarded, including, but not limited to, a letter to a party or parties indicating the ruling or instructions for preparing the judgment, decree or appealable order.

E. A judgment, decree or appealable order, whether interlocutory or final, shall not be enforceable in whole or in part unless or until it is signed by the court and filed; except that the

adjudication of any issue shall be enforceable when pronounced by the court in the following actions: divorce; separate maintenance; annulment; post-decree matrimonial proceedings; paternity; custody; adoption; termination of parental rights; mental health; guardianship; juvenile matters; habeas corpus proceedings; or proceedings for temporary restraining orders, temporary injunctions, permanent injunctions, conservatorship, probate proceedings, special executions in foreclosure actions, quiet title actions, partition proceedings or contempt citations. The time for appeal shall not begin to run until a written judgment, decree or appealable order, prepared in conformance with Section 696.3 of this title, is filed with the court clerk, regardless of whether the judgment, decree, or appealable order is effective when pronounced or when it is filed.

F. The preparation of orders, decisions and awards and the taking of appeals in workers' compensation cases shall be governed by the provisions of Title 85 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2003.

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