

CHAPTER 887.

DEPOSITIONS, OATHS AND AFFIDAVITS.

887.01 Oaths, who may administer.	887.17 Deposition, use of in other actions.
887.02 Duty to administer official and election oaths; no fees.	887.18 Deposition may be used on appeal.
887.025 Testimonial oath.	887.20 Deposition in justice court.
887.03 Oath, how taken.	887.21 Deposition; order of examination.
887.04 Affirmations.	887.22 Form of certificate.
887.05 Depositions, may be taken.	887.23 Deposition relative to public institutions.
887.06 Depositions in criminal proceedings.	887.24 Deposition; for use in other states.
887.08 Deposition; attendance of witness.	887.25 Witnesses sent to other states.
887.09 Oral depositions; when taken, before whom, notice, absence of officer.	887.26 Depositions without this state by commission.
887.095 Ex parte deposition in county court.	887.27 Perpetuation of testimony.
887.10 Depositions; how taken and returned.	887.28 Perpetuation of testimony without the state.
887.11 Depositions, court rules for taking.	887.29 Perpetuation of testimony as against all persons.
887.12 Depositions; purpose, procedure, scope, use, effect and related matters.	

887.01 Oaths, who may administer. (1) **WITHIN THE STATE.** An oath or affidavit required or authorized by law (except oaths to jurors and witnesses on a trial and such other oaths as are required by law to be taken before particular officers), may be taken before any judge, court commissioner, resident United States commissioner who has complied with s. 235.19, clerk, deputy clerk or calendar clerk of a court of record, notary public, town clerk, village clerk, city clerk, justice of the peace, including any municipal justice, county clerk or his deputy within the territory in which such officer is authorized to act; and, when certified by such officer to have been taken before him, may be read and used in any court and before any officer, board or commission. Oaths may be administered by any person mentioned in s. 885.01 (3) and (4) to any witness examined before him.

(2) **WITHOUT THE STATE.** Any oath or affidavit required or authorized by law may be taken in any other state, territory or district of the United States before any judge or commissioner of a court of record, master in chancery, notary public, justice of the peace or other officer authorized by the laws thereof to administer oaths, and in case the same shall have been properly certified by any such officer to have been taken before him, and shall have attached thereto a certificate of the clerk of a court of record of the county or district within which such oath or affidavit was taken, under the seal of his office, that the person whose name is subscribed to the jurat was, at the date thereof, such officer as he is therein represented to be, was empowered by law as such officer to administer the oath or affidavit, and that he believes the name so sub-

scribed is the signature of such officer, such oath or affidavit may be read or used in any court within this state and before any officer, board or commission authorized to use or consider the same. Whenever any such oath or affidavit is certified by any notary public or clerk of a court of record and an impression of his official seal is thereto affixed no further attestation shall be necessary.

(3) **OFFICER IN ARMED FORCES.** In every instance where an officer in the armed forces is authorized by s. 235.19 (11) to take an acknowledgment, he may administer an oath.

History: 1961 c. 495; 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.02 Duty to administer official and election oaths; no fees. (1) Every person thereto authorized by law shall administer and certify, on demand, any official oath and any oath required on any nomination paper, petition or other instrument used in the nomination or election of any candidate for public office, or in the submission of any question to a vote of the people.

(2) No fee shall be charged by any officer for administering or certifying any official oath, or any oath to any person relative to his right to be registered or to vote.

History: 1965 c. 66 ss. 2, 8.

887.025 Testimonial oath. (1) In all judicial proceedings the witnesses shall be sworn before testifying, and the oath may be administered substantially in the following form: Do you solemnly swear that the testimony which you shall give in [here indicate the action, proceeding or matter on trial or being inquired into], shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God.

(2) The assent to the oath by the person

being sworn may be manifested by the uplifted hand.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.03 Oath, how taken. Any oath or affidavit required or authorized by law may be taken in any of the usual forms, and every person swearing, affirming or declaring in any such form shall be deemed to have been lawfully sworn.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

Although the first sentence in affidavits ordinarily recites that the affiant is swearing under oath, the absence of such recital does not necessarily render an affidavit fatally defective; likewise as to the jurat's failure to specify the notary's venue; and the statement in the jurat, "sworn to before me," in the absence of proof to the contrary, necessarily presumes that the notary duly administered the proper oath to the affiant. *Dunlavy v. Dairyland Mut. Ins. Co.* 21 W (2d) 105, 124 NW (2d) 73.

887.04 Affirmations. (1) Every person who shall declare that he has conscientious scruples against taking the oath, or swearing in the usual form, shall make his solemn declaration or affirmation, which may be in the following form: Do you solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the testimony you shall give in [here indicate the action, proceeding or matter on trial or being inquired into] shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; and this you do under the pains and penalties of perjury.

(2) The assent to the affirmation by the person making it may be manifested by the uplifted hand.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.05 Depositions, may be taken. (1) Depositions (including that of a party taken on his own behalf) may be taken to be used before any court, magistrate or any other person authorized to hear testimony, in any civil action, matter or proceeding whatever, or on any motion therein.

(2) No deposition shall be taken before any officer or commissioner who is the attorney or of counsel for any party or person interested, or is himself otherwise interested in the action, matter or proceeding in or for which the deposition is taken, except by written consent of the parties.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.06 Depositions in criminal proceedings. (1) **WHEN TAKEN.** If it appears that a prospective witness may be unable to attend or prevented from attending a criminal trial or hearing, that his testimony is material and that it is necessary to take his deposition in order to prevent a failure of justice, the court at any time after the filing of an indictment or information may upon motion and notice to the parties order that his testi-

mony be taken by deposition and that any designated books, papers, documents or tangible objects, not privileged, be produced at the same time and place. If a witness is committed for failure to give bail to appear to testify at a trial or hearing, the court upon notice to the parties may direct that his deposition be taken. After the deposition has been subscribed the court may discharge the witness.

(2) **NOTICE OF TAKING.** The party at whose instance a deposition is to be taken shall give to every other party reasonable written notice of the time and place for taking the deposition. The notice shall state the name and address of each person to be examined. On motion of a party upon whom the notice is served, the court for cause shown may extend or shorten the time.

(3) **DEFENDANT'S COUNSEL.** If a defendant is without counsel the court shall advise him of his right and assign counsel to represent him unless the defendant elects to proceed without counsel or is able to obtain counsel.

(4) **HOW TAKEN.** A deposition shall be taken in the manner provided in civil actions. The court at the request of a defendant may direct that a deposition be taken on written interrogatories in the manner provided in civil actions.

(5) **ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT; WAIVER OF RIGHT TO FACE WITNESS.** (a) If the state or a witness procures such an order, the notice shall inform the defendant that he is required to personally attend at the taking of the deposition and that his failure so to do is a waiver of his right to face the witness whose deposition is to be taken; and failure to attend shall constitute such waiver unless the defendant was physically unable to attend.

(b) If the defendant is not in custody, he shall be paid witness fees for travel and attendance. If he is in custody, his custodian shall, at county expense, produce him at the taking of the deposition. If the defendant is in custody, leave to take a deposition on motion of the state shall not be granted unless all states which the custodian will enter with the defendant in going to the place the deposition is to be taken have conferred upon the officers of this state the right to convey prisoners in and through them.

(6) **USE OF DEPOSITION.** At the trial or upon any hearing, a part or all of a deposition (so far as otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence) may be used if it appears: That the witness is dead; or that the witness is out of the state, unless it appears that the

absence of the witness was procured by the party offering the deposition; or that the witness is unable to attend or testify because of sickness or infirmity; or that the party offering the deposition has been unable to procure the attendance of the witness by subpoena. Any deposition may also be used by any party for the purpose of contradicting or impeaching the testimony of the deponent as a witness. If only a part of a deposition is offered in evidence by a party, an adverse party may require him to offer all of it which is relevant to the part offered and any party may offer other parts.

(7) **OBJECTION TO ADMISSIBILITY.** Objections to receiving in evidence a deposition or part thereof may be made as provided in civil actions.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.08 Deposition; attendance of witness.

Any witness may be subpoenaed and compelled to give his deposition at any place within 20 miles of his abode, under the same penalties as he may be subpoenaed and compelled to attend as a witness in any court.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.09 Oral depositions; when taken, before whom, notice, absence of officer. (1)

ORAL DEPOSITIONS IN THIS STATE. (a) Such deposition, in this state, may be taken by a justice of the peace, notary public, court commissioner or other person authorized to take depositions, except as provided in s. 887.12 (4), at any time after the action or proceeding is commenced or after a submission to arbitration.

(b) One day's notice shall be sufficient to authorize the taking of depositions of additional witnesses desired to be examined, given during the course of the taking of any deposition where the parties on each side appear.

(c) In case the officer designated shall not attend at the time and place noticed for taking the deposition, it may be taken before any other officer, authorized to take depositions, designated by the party who served the notice of taking deposition, and notice of such designation to the opposite party, in sufficient time to attend before the officer so designated if the opposite party shall have appeared at the time and place mentioned in the first notice; but if he shall not so appear, the moving party may, after waiting one hour, proceed to take such deposition before such other officer without further notice.

(2) **ORAL DEPOSITIONS WITHOUT THIS STATE.** (a) Such deposition may be taken orally without this state by any notary pub-

lic or justice of the peace or by any judge or justice, court commissioner or master in chancery of any court of record of the United States or any state or territory thereof, or by any commissioner appointed pursuant to s. 137.02, within the territory in which such officer is authorized to act.

(b) In a foreign country such deposition may be taken before any judge or clerk of a court of such country, any notary public, or any consul, vice consul, deputy consul or consular agent of the United States, resident in such country, or by any officer authorized by the laws of the United States to take depositions.

(c) Such deposition without the state may be taken, certified, returned, filed and used in the manner and under the provisions of law applicable to depositions taken within the state.

History: 1961 c. 113; 1963 c. 459; 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.095 Ex parte deposition in county court.

In proceedings in the county court where there is no contest, depositions may be taken for use therein in such manner as the court directs, either within or without the state.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.10 Depositions; how taken and returned.

The deponent shall be sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth relating to the action, proceeding or matter for which his testimony is taken, and his testimony shall be taken in writing, or in shorthand by a stenographer approved by the officer taking the same, or by all parties in interest, and by or under the supervision of such stenographer typewritten or reduced to longhand. There must be inserted therein every answer or declaration of the witness and every oral interrogatory which any party requires to be inserted. The deposition must be read to or by the witness and subscribed by him, unless the parties represented shall stipulate, upon the record (which they may do), that the reading of the deposition to or by the deponent and his signature thereto are waived, and that the deposition may be used with like force and effect as if read and subscribed by him. The attendance of the deponent for the purpose of reading and subscribing his deposition may be compelled in the same manner that his attendance to be examined may be compelled. The deposition shall in all cases be delivered or transmitted by the officer by whom the same is taken to the clerk of the court, the magistrate, board or officer before whom the action, proceeding or matter is pending, securely sealed, and

shall remain sealed until opened by such court, clerk, magistrate, board or officer.

History: 1961 c. 113; 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

See note to 270.635, citing *Kanios v. Frederick*, 10 W (2d) 358, 103 NW (2d) 114.

887.11 Depositions, court rules for taking.

Additional rules may be prescribed by courts of record in respect to actions and proceedings therein, concerning the issuing and return of commissions, the taking, return, safe-keeping and opening of depositions or any other matters connected therewith, including depositions to perpetuate testimony, taken within or without the state, not inconsistent with law and such rules as may be prescribed by the supreme court.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.12 Depositions; purpose, procedure, scope, use, effect and related matters. (1)

WHEN DEPOSITIONS MAY BE TAKEN. In any civil action or proceeding, any party may examine any person, including a party, by deposition upon oral examination at any time before final determination thereof, for the purposes of discovery or for use as evidence in the action or for both purposes.

(2) **SCOPE OF EXAMINATION.** A deponent shall be examined regarding any matter, not privileged, which is relevant to the controversy, but it shall not be grounds for objection that testimony will be inadmissible at trial if the testimony sought appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

(3) **ORDERS FOR THE PROTECTION OF DEPENDENTS.** After notice is served for taking a deposition, upon motion reasonably made by any party or by the person to be examined, and, upon notice and for good cause shown, the court may make an order that the deposition shall not be taken, or that certain matters shall not be inquired into, or any other order which justice requires to protect the party or witness from annoyance, embarrassment or oppression.

(4) **TIME, PLACE, NOTICE; OFFICERS EMPOWERED TO TAKE.** Such examinations shall be taken in counties within this state having a population of 500,000 or more before a court commissioner or judge at chambers and elsewhere before any officer authorized to take depositions by the laws of the state where the deposition is taken on previous notice to all adverse parties or their respective attorneys of at least 5 days. If the person to be examined is a nonresident party to the action or proceeding, or is an officer, director, or managing agent of a corporation that is a party, the court may upon just terms fix the time

and place of such examination, and he shall attend at such time and place and submit to the examination, and, if required, attend for the reading and signing of such deposition, without service of subpoenas. Such examination shall not be compelled in any county other than that in which the person examined resides, except that any nonresident subject to examination may be examined in any county of this state in which he is personally served with notice and subpoena. The court may fix another place for such an examination in the case of a person who is physically unable to attend the examination in the county of his residence. When a party has instituted suit in any county of this state, he shall be subject to adverse examination in such county whether he resides in such county or not provided a subpoena is served upon him within such county.

(5) **EFFECT OF IRREGULARITIES AS TO TAKING OF DEPOSITIONS.** (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 at the oral examination in the manner of taking 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 reasonable objection thereto is made at the taking of the deposition.

(6) **DISCOVERY NEEDED TO PLEAD.** If discovery is sought of an adverse party to enable the plaintiff to frame a complaint, the notice of taking the examination shall be accompanied by the affidavit of himself, his attorney or agent, stating the general nature and object of the action or proceeding; that discovery is sought to enable him to plead, and the subjects upon which information is desired; and the examination relative thereto shall be permitted unless the court or presiding judge thereof shall, before the examination is begun, further limit the subjects to which it shall extend, which may be done on one day's notice.

(7) **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 rules of evidence, may be used against any party who was present or represented at the taking of the

deposition or who had due notice thereof, in accordance with any one of the following provisions:

(a) Any deposition may be used by any party for the purpose of contradicting or impeaching the testimony of the deponent as a witness.

(b) The deposition of a party or of any one who at the time of taking the deposition, or at the time of the occurrence of the facts made the subject of the examination, was an officer, director, agent or employe of a public or private corporation, partnership, or association which is a party, may be used by an adverse party for any purpose, subject to the limitations prescribed in s. 885.27, relating to admissions by members of corporations.

(c) The deposition of a witness, whether or not a party, may be used by any party for any purpose if the court finds:

1. That the witness lives more than 30 miles from the place of trial or hearing of the action, proceeding or matter in which his testimony is desired or beyond the reach of the subpoena of the court;

2. That the witness is out of the state and will not return before the termination of the trial or hearing;

3. That the witness is dead or is so sick, infirm or aged as to make it probable that he will not be able to attend at the trial or hearing of the action, proceeding or matter in which his testimony is desired;

4. That the witness is a member of the legislature, if any committee of the same or the house of which he is a member is in session, provided he waive his privilege;

5. That his testimony is material to any motion or other similar proceeding in any court of record and he refuses to make affidavit of the facts within his knowledge and with reference thereto; or

6. 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 of presenting the testimony of witnesses orally in open court, to allow some portion or all of the deposition to be used.

(8) **INTRODUCING ADDITIONAL PARTS.** If only part of a deposition is offered in evidence by a party, an adverse party may require him to introduce all of it which is relevant to the part introduced, and any party may thereupon introduce any other parts of said deposition relevant to the parts introduced.

(9) **EXAMINATION AND CROSS-EXAMINATION.** Examination and cross-examination

deponents shall proceed as permitted at the trial.

(10) **EFFECT OF TAKING OR USING DEPOSITIONS.** A party shall not be deemed to make a person his own witness for any purpose by taking his deposition. The introduction in evidence of the deposition, or any part thereof, for any purpose other than that of contradicting or impeaching the deponent makes the deponent the witness of the party so introducing the deposition, but this shall not apply to the introduction in evidence by a party of a deposition taken of the adverse party. At the trial or hearing any party may rebut any relevant evidence contained in the deposition whether introduced by him or by any other party.

(11) **DEPOSITION FOLLOWING EXAMINATION.** At the conclusion of any adverse examination the deposition of the witness may be taken without previous notice and before the same officer by any party, and the same may be used in like cases and with like effect as if taken upon notice.

History: 1961 c. 113; 1963 c. 33; 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

The proponent of a will was an adverse party to an objector to the will before trial, under (1), and hence the proponent was subject to adverse examination by the objector before trial. *Estate of Schmidt*, 13 W (2d) 538, 109 NW (2d) 87.

Before the revision of this section in 1961 the court held that the party whose adverse examination has been taken has the right to read in excerpts of such examination to explain questions and answers read to the jury by the opposing side, but such explanatory questions and answers should be offered immediately after the reading of the questions and answers sought to be explained. Where this was not so done, the trial court did not abuse its discretion in refusing to allow it to be done at a stage of the trial some 4 witnesses later. *Walker v. Baker*, 13 W (2d) 637, 109 NW (2d) 499.

Privilege of expert witnesses discussed. An expert can be compelled to disclose an opinion already formed. The court can order a witness fee of up to \$25 per day. *State ex rel. Reynolds v. Circuit Court*, 15 W (2d) 311, 112 NW (2d) 686, 113 NW (2d) 537.

A court will wholly deny a discovery examination, when from the statement of the nature and object of the action, it affirmatively appears that the plaintiff has no cause of action. *Weeden v. Beloit*, 22 W (2d) 414, 126 NW (2d) 54.

Under (7) (b) portions of a deposition of an adverse party, if relevant to the issues, may be offered in evidence even though the deponent is in court. *Fisher v. Gibb*, 25 W (2d) 600, 131 NW (2d) 382.

This section does not encompass adverse discovery examination in proceedings before administrative agencies. *State ex rel. Thompson v. Nash*, 27 W (2d) 183, 133 NW (2d) 769.

Wisconsin's new discovery statute. 45 MLR 600.

887.17 Deposition, use of in other actions.

When a deposition shall have been lawfully taken in any action it may be used in any trial, inquiry or assessment therein, and it may also be used in any other action between the same parties, including their respective legal representatives, involving the same controversy, if it shall have been duly filed in the first mentioned action and have since re-

mained in the custody of the clerk of the court where the same was pending, subject to the same objections as if originally taken for such other action.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.18 Deposition may be used on appeal.

When an action or proceeding shall have been appealed from one court to another all depositions lawfully taken to be used in the court below may be used in the appellate court; but if any such deposition was offered in the court below, then subject to the same objections for informality or irregularity, and none other, which were duly taken in writing in such court below.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.20 Deposition in justice court.

The justice of the peace before whom any civil cause is pending may, on any day on which a trial may be had, after an application has been made for adjournment and before making an order for an adjournment, on the application of either party, showing any cause provided by law therefor, proceed to take the deposition of any witness then in attendance before the justice; and no prior notice shall be required.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.21 Deposition; order of examination.

The party producing the deponent shall, in all cases, be allowed first to examine him, either upon verbal or written interrogatories, on all points which he shall deem material, and then the adverse party may examine the deponent in like manner, after which either party may propose such further interrogatories as the case may require.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.22 Form of certificate. The officer shall annex to the deposition a certificate substantially as follows:

STATE OF WISCONSIN, }
 _____ County. } ss.

I, A. B. (add official designation), in and for said county, do hereby certify that the above deposition was taken before me at my office, in the ____ of ____, in said county, on the ____ day of ____, 19____, at ____ o'clock, ____ noon; that it was taken at the request of the plaintiff (or defendant, or other person procuring it), upon verbal (or written) interrogatories; that it was reduced to writing by myself (or by ____ a disinterested person, in my presence, and under my direction, or was taken in shorthand by ____ approved by me, or by all parties in interest and by him reduced to longhand); that it was taken to be used in the

action of A. B. vs. C. D., now pending in ____ court (or to be used in some proceeding or matter, mentioning it), and that the reason for taking it was (here state the true reason); that ____ attended at the taking of such deposition (or that a notice, of which the annexed is a copy, was served upon ____ on the ____ day of ____, 19____; or that the deposition was taken in pursuance of the annexed stipulation); that said deponent, before examination, was sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth relative to said cause, and that said deposition was carefully read to (or by) said deponent and then subscribed by him (or the parties attending the taking of the deposition stipulated on the record, that the reading of the deposition by or to the deponent and his signature thereto is waived and that it may be used as if read and signed). A. B. (adding official designation).

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.23 Deposition relative to public institutions.

(1) WHO MAY REQUIRE. The state department of public welfare, the state board of health, the state superintendent, the board of regents of the university, or the board of regents of state colleges may order the deposition of any witness to be taken concerning any institution under his or its government or superintendence, or concerning the conduct of any officer or agent thereof, or concerning any matter relating to the interests thereof. Upon presentation of a certified copy of such order to any justice, notary public or court commissioner, such officer shall take the desired deposition in the manner provided for taking depositions to be used in actions. When any officer or agent of any institution is concerned and will be affected by the testimony, 2 days' written notice of the time and place of taking such deposition shall be given him. Any party interested may appear in person or by counsel and examine the witness touching the matters mentioned in the order. The deposition, duly certified, shall be delivered to the authority which ordered it.

(2) FEES. Every officer who takes a deposition, and every witness who appears and testifies under this section, shall be paid the fees allowed on the taking of other depositions, and the account of the expenses incurred in taking any such deposition, being duly certified, shall be paid out of the state treasury and charged to the appropriation of the authority which ordered the deposition.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.24 Deposition; for use in other states.

Any witness may be subpoenaed and com-

pelled to attend and give his deposition before any person authorized to take depositions in this state, or before any commissioner appointed under the authority of any other state, territory or country, or any court thereof, in any action, cause or proceeding pending in such other state, territory or country; provided, its laws contain provisions similar to this section, requiring persons within its borders to give their testimony by deposition in actions pending in Wisconsin.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.25 Witnesses sent to other states.

(1) Upon presentation to any judge of a court of record in Wisconsin of the certificate of the judge or the clerk of any foreign court of record, under seal, stating that any person being or residing in Wisconsin is believed to be a necessary witness in any civil action pending in that court, such judge (if satisfied by such proof as he shall require that the testimony of such witness is necessary to the trial of such action) shall issue and attach to such certificate a subpoena commanding such witness to appear in the court where such action is pending, at the time and place stated therein, or show cause, before such judge, at a time and place fixed in such subpoena, why he should not appear as therein commanded. Such judge may refuse to issue a subpoena or may vacate the subpoena after it is issued, if it appear that compliance will cause undue hardship to the witness.

(2) If any person on whom such subpoena has been served, and to whom has been tendered the sum of 10 cents for each mile to be traveled to and from the court, together with the sum of \$5 for each day that his attendance is required, shall neglect to attend and testify at such trial, he shall be punished as for a criminal contempt unless such subpoena shall be vacated.

(3) This section shall not apply to any action pending in any state, territory or country whose laws do not contain provisions similar to this section, requiring persons within their borders to attend for the purpose of testifying in any civil or criminal action pending in this state.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

Cross Reference: For extradition of prisoners as witnesses, see 885.32 and for extradition of witnesses in criminal actions, see 885.33.

887.26 Depositions without this state by commission.

(1) HOW TAKEN. In any civil action, proceeding or matter in which depositions may be taken within this state, the deposition of any witness without the state may be taken upon written interrogatories as provided in this section.

(4) COMMISSION TO TAKE. A commission may issue from any court of record to take the deposition of any witness without the state, where an issue of fact has been joined or the time therefor has expired, for any cause which shall be deemed sufficient by the court, or when required for use on any trial or hearing or upon any motion or proceeding. The commission shall be signed by the clerk and sealed and shall be accompanied by a copy of subs. (4), (5) and (6).

(5) PROCURING COMMISSION. (a) The party desiring a commission shall prepare interrogatories and state in the caption thereof the name of the commissioner proposed by him, the name of the witness and the residence of each with particularity, and shall serve a copy thereof on the opposite party, with a notice that, at the expiration of 10 days from the date of such service, a commission will be issued to take the deposition of the witness, specifying the reason for taking the same. Within such time the opposite party may file with the clerk and serve upon the other his objections, to the interrogatories proposed and to the competency of the witness and to the issuance of the commission and serve his cross-interrogatories; and state the name and residence of any person whom he desires to act as an additional commissioner, who must reside in the county in which the commissioner first named resides.

(b) At the expiration of the time limited, the moving party may file the notice and interrogatories, with proof of service thereof and his objections to the cross-interrogatories. He may also serve redirect interrogatories on the opposite party, who may, within 3 days after such service, file objections to such redirect interrogatories. Thereupon the commission shall be issued, with the interrogatories, direct, cross and redirect, and all objections, and transmitted to the commissioner first named by mail or express at the expense of the moving party. But when any defendant shall not have appeared and the time for him to plead has expired, no notice is required to be given such defendant, and the commission may issue on filing the direct interrogatories. No commission shall issue if the residences are not given as required.

(6) DUTY OF COMMISSIONER. (a) The commissioner first named shall fix the time and place for executing the commission and give the other commissioner one day's notice thereof, when he resides in the same place, and when not, one day's notice in addition for every 30 miles of distance between his place of residence and the place fixed for ex-

cuting the commission. If the notice be by mail double time shall be allowed; but notice may be waived in writing or by appearance at the execution of the commission. If there be 2 commissioners the commission shall be executed in the county where they reside, unless they agree upon another. The commissioner first named shall have charge of and return the deposition, which return shall be in the form and manner directed by the commission or as provided by s. 887.22. If either commissioner shall not attend at the time and place so fixed, the other may execute the commission with like effect as if both were present, but he must certify in his return that the other had due notice but failed to attend.

(b) One of the commissioners shall publicly administer an oath or affirmation to each witness that the answers which he shall make to each of the interrogatories propounded to him shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. His answers to each interrogatory shall be reduced to writing. Each witness shall subscribe his name at the end of his answer and the commissioners shall subscribe their names at the foot of each page of the testimony. If any exhibit is produced and proved or referred to in the answer of any witness, it shall be marked as an exhibit, either by letter or number, by a commissioner, and referred to in the testimony of the witness, and annexed to and returned with the deposition. If the paper be a record or other document not in the control of either party, it shall be sufficient to annex a copy, stated by the witness in his answers to be a true copy thereof. The commissioners shall certify in their return that each witness, before giving his evidence, was duly sworn or affirmed, and shall state the time when the testimony was taken.

(c) The proper commissioner shall inclose the commission, the interrogatories, and the deposition with the return annexed in a sealed envelope, with the title of the action indorsed thereon and immediately transmit the same by mail or express to the clerk of the court from which the commission issued.

(d) Upon the receipt of such package, the clerk shall indorse the time and manner in which he received the same, and open it and file the contents thereof and give notice of the receipt of the same to the attorneys for the respective parties.

(7) FEES. The persons who take depositions and the witness shall be entitled to the fees allowed justices of the peace and witnesses for similar service by the law of this

state, or such as may be prescribed by the law of the state or country where taken.

(8) TRANSLATIONS. When the witness is unable to speak the English language, the judge of the court from which the commission issues may appoint some competent and disinterested person to translate the commission, rules, interrogatories and cross-interrogatories, or such part thereof as may be necessary, from the English into the language spoken by the witness; and such translation shall be sent to the commissioner in place of the original papers that have been translated. Upon the return of the commission and deposition, such judge shall in like manner cause the answers of the witness and the exhibits to be translated into English, as well as all other proceedings in a foreign language, and such translation to be filed. The translator shall append to all translations his affidavit that he knows the English and such foreign language, and that in making such translation he carefully and truly translated such proceedings from the English into such foreign language or from the latter into English, and that such translation is correct. Such translation shall have the same effect as if all the proceedings were in English, but the trial court, upon the deposition being offered in evidence, may admit the testimony of witnesses learned in such foreign language for the purpose of correcting errors therein; and, if it shall appear that the first translation was in any respect so incorrect as to mislead the witness, the court may, in discretion, continue the cause for the further taking of testimony.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

887.27 Perpetuation of testimony. (1)

REQUEST FOR. When any person desires to perpetuate testimony in this state he shall make a written statement of his title, claim or interest in or to the subject concerning which he desires to perpetuate the evidence and the names of all other persons interested or supposed to be interested therein, and the name of the witness proposed to be examined, and shall deliver the statement to a judge of a court of record, requesting him to take the deposition of the witness.

(2) NOTICE OF TAKING. The said judge shall thereupon cause notice to be given of the time and place appointed for taking the deposition to all persons mentioned as interested; which notice shall be given as prescribed by s. 887.12 (4).

(3) MANNER OF TAKING, CERTIFICATION. The deponent shall be sworn and examined and his deposition shall be written, read and subscribed, and his attendance may be re-

quired in the manner prescribed respecting the other depositions, and the judge shall annex thereto his certificate of the time and manner of taking it, and that it was taken in perpetual remembrance of the thing; and containing the names of the persons at whose request it was taken, and of all those who were notified to attend, and of all who did attend the taking thereof.

(4) **DEPOSITION RECORDED.** The deposition, the certificate and the written statement of the party at whose request it was taken, shall, within 90 days after the taking thereof, be recorded in the registry of deeds in the county where the land lies, if the deposition relates to real estate; otherwise, in the county where some of the parties reside.

(5) **DEPOSITION, WHEN USED.** The deposition or a certified copy of such record thereof may be used in any action or proceeding between the person at whose request it was taken and the persons named in the said written statement, or any of them, who were notified as aforesaid, or any person claiming under either of the said parties concerning the title, claim or interest set forth in the statement, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions and objections as if it had been originally taken for said action or proceeding.

History: 1961 c. 622; 1965 c. 66 s. 2.

This section cannot be used as a means of conducting an adverse examination of one not a party nor the agent or servant of a party to a prospective action. Application of Duvoneck, 13 W (2d) 88, 108 NW (2d) 113.

887.28 Perpetuation of testimony without the state. (1) **COMMISSION.** Depositions to perpetuate the testimony of witnesses without the state may be taken upon a commission to be issued by any court of record in the manner hereinafter provided.

(2) **APPLICATION.** The applicant shall file a statement like that prescribed for taking such a deposition within this state; and if the proposed deposition relate to real estate within this state, the statement shall be filed in the county where the land or part thereof lies; otherwise, in the county where some of the parties reside.

(3) **NOTICE.** The court shall order a hearing and that 14 days' notice thereof be given to all persons mentioned as adversely interested and living within the state.

(4) **APPLICATION IN VACATION.** The applicant may, at his election, file his statement in the clerk's office in vacation, and give notice thereof to the persons therein named as adversely interested by serving them with a

certified copy of the statement, 14 days before the next term of court; and the court may thereupon hear the parties.

(5) **COMMISSION, WHEN TO ISSUE.** If, upon such hearing, the court shall be satisfied that there is sufficient cause for taking the deposition, it shall issue a commission therefor in like manner as for taking a deposition to be used in any pending cause.

(6) **HOW TAKEN.** The deposition shall be taken upon written interrogatories and cross-interrogatories; and returned substantially as if taken to be used in a pending cause.

(7) **HOW USED.** All depositions taken according to this section may be used in like manner as if taken within this state.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2; 1965 [13.32 (2) (e)].

887.29 Perpetuation of testimony as against all persons. (1) **COMMISSION.** Depositions to perpetuate the testimony of witnesses, within or without the state, so that the same may be evidence against all persons, may be taken upon a commission to be issued by any court of record.

(2) **APPLICATION.** The commission may be applied for in the manner prescribed in s. 887.28; and all proceedings thereon shall be as prescribed in said section except as herein otherwise provided.

(3) **APPLICANT QUESTIONED; NOTICE.** The court shall inquire, at discretion, as to all persons known or supposed to be interested; and shall, in the commission, direct the commissioner to publish in such newspaper or newspapers, or in such other manner as the court shall consider most effectual, notice of the time and place such depositions will be taken, and of the subject matter thereof; which notice shall be addressed, by name, to each person who is known or supposed to be interested, and generally to all others, and shall state that they may attend and cross-examine the witnesses; and the court may also require personal notice of the time and place of taking, and of the subject matter of such depositions to be given to such persons and in such manner as shall seem proper.

(4) **RECORDING DEPOSITION.** Such deposition, having been returned to the court, and being found by the court (after notice to the parties who have appeared in the matter), to have been taken according to law and the directions contained in the commission, the court shall order it recorded within 30 days in the registry of deeds for the county.

(5) **USE OF DEPOSITION.** Any deposition so taken and recorded or a certified copy

thereof from the registry may be used by the person at whose request it was taken, or by any person claiming under him, against any person whatever in any action or proceeding wherein shall be brought in question the title, claim or interest set forth in the state-

ment upon which the commission was founded in the same manner and subject to the same conditions and objections as if it had been originally taken for said action or proceeding.

History: 1965 c. 66 s. 2.