

## CHAPTER 228

## RECORDING AND COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN POPULOUS COUNTIES

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**228.01 Recording of documents and public records by mechanical process authorized.** Whenever any officer of any county having a population of 500,000 or more is required or authorized by law to file, record, copy, recopy or replace any document, court order, plat, paper, written instrument, writings, record or book of record, on file or of record in his or her office, notwithstanding any other provisions in the statutes, the officer may do so by photostatic, photographic, microphotographic, microfilm, or other mechanical process which produces a clear, accurate and permanent copy or reproduction of the original document, court order, plat, paper, written instrument, writings, record or book of record in accordance with the standards specified in s. 16.61 (7). Any such officer may also reproduce by such processes any document, court order, plat, paper, written instrument, writings, record or book of record which has previously been filed, recorded, copied or recopied.

*History:* 1985 a. 180.

**NOTE:** This section is shown as amended by 1985 Wis. Act. 180, eff. 5-1-87.

**228.02 Certification of records.** In counties having a population of 500,000 or more, in any case where an original document, court order, plat, paper, written instrument, writings, record or book of record previously filed or of record in the office of such officer is, whether because of the worn or injured condition thereof or for any other reason, copied and replaced by such process under s. 228.01, and where such officer is required by law to certify in or on the paper or book replacing the original so copied that the replacement is a true and correct copy of the original, a copy of such certification by such officer, similarly made and produced and included at the end of the replacement, shall be sufficient compliance with such law.

**228.03 Copy to be deemed to be original record. (1)** A photographic reproduction of an original document, court order, plat, paper, written instrument, writing, record, book of record, file or other material bearing upon or pertinent to the activities and functions of any county office, department, agency, board, commission, court or institution, in counties having a population of 500,000 or more, is deemed to be an original for all purposes, if it meets the applicable standards established in s. 16.61 (7).

**(2)** Any photographic reproduction meeting the standards prescribed in s. 16.61 (7) shall be taken as and stand in lieu of and have all of the effect of the original record and shall be admissible in evidence in all courts and all other tribunals or agencies, administrative or otherwise, in all cases where the original document is admissible. A transcript, exemplification or certified copy of such a reproduction, for the purposes specified in this subsection, is deemed to be a transcript, exemplification or certified copy of the original. The custodian of a photographic reproduction shall place the reproduction in conveniently accessible files and shall make provision for preserving, examining and using the reproduction.

An enlarged copy of any photographic reproduction on film made in accordance with the standards specified in s. 16.61 (7) and certified by the custodian as provided in s. 889.18 (2) has the same effect as the photographic reproduction itself.

*History:* 1985 a. 180.

**NOTE:** This section is shown as affected by 1985 Wis. Act 180, eff. 5-1-87.

**228.04 Inspection of records and copies of records.** Every custodian of public records in counties having a population of 500,000 or more shall keep them in such arrangement and condition as to make them easily accessible for convenient use. Photographic, photostatic, microphotographic, microfilm or other mechanical process of records shall be considered as accessible for convenient use regardless of the size of such records, provided that a suitable means for public inspection of the records is provided by the agency maintaining the records. Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, he shall permit all public records in his custody to be inspected, examined, abstracted or copied at reasonable times and under his supervision and regulation by any person; and he shall, upon the demand of any person, furnish certified copies thereof on payment in advance of fees not to exceed the fees prescribed by law.

**228.05 Marginal references.** The register of deeds of any county having a population of 500,000 or more who has copied a document by microphotography or microfilm accepted by him for recording or filing shall also, as a substitute for marginal references required, prepare an index for documents of ancillary nature for which marginal references are required. Such index for ancillary documents shall be prepared and maintained to show the document number or volume and page of the original recording or filing plus a record of any and all recordings or filings affecting or pertinent to such original recording or filing requiring marginal references subsequent to the date on which the county begins such recording or recopying by microphotography or microfilm.

**228.06 Correction and alterations.** In counties having a population of 500,000 or more, in any case where any record or replacement thereof in the office of any county officer is produced by a mechanical process, any correction, alteration, indorsement or entry required or authorized to be made of or on any instrument or paper or on the record thereof, may be made by copying or reproducing the affidavit, certificate, court order or corrected copy by the same means used to produce the original copy, and by noting and making reference to the correction, alteration, indorsement or entry in the indexes showing the location of the original filing or recording.

**228.07 Recording and copying by other counties.** Any county by resolution may elect to be controlled by this chapter.

*History:* 1971 c. 104; 1981 c. 390 s. 252.