

## CHAPTER 815

## EXECUTIONS

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**815.01 Judgments enforced.** The owner of a judgment may enforce the same in the manner provided by law.

**History:** Sup Ct Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats 1975 s. 815.01

**815.02 Judgments, enforced by execution.** A judgment which requires the payment of money or the delivery of property may be enforced in those respects by execution. Where it requires the performance of any other act a certified copy of the judgment may be served upon the party, person or officer who is required to obey the same, and if he refuse he may be punished for contempt, and his obedience enforced.

**History:** Sup Ct Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats 1975 s. 815.02

**815.03 Executions, kinds.** There are three kinds of executions: One against the property of the judgment debtor, another against his person, and the third for the delivery of property, or such delivery with damages for withholding the same. They are the process of the court, and shall be as prescribed by s. 815.05.

**History:** Sup Ct Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats 1975 s. 815.03

**815.04 Execution, when issued. (1)** Upon any judgment of a court of record perfected as specified in s. 806.06 or any judgment of any other court docketed in a court of record, execution may issue at any time within 5 years after the rendition thereof, and when an execution shall have been so issued and returned unsatisfied in whole or in part other executions may issue at any time upon application of the judgment creditor. But if no execution was issued within said 5 years, or, if application be made by one other than the judgment creditor, execution shall issue only upon leave of the court, in its discretion, upon prior notice to the judgment debtor, served as a summons is served, in a court of record. If the judgment debtor is absent or a nonresident, service of the notice may be by a class 3 notice, under ch. 985, or in such other manner as the court directs. Application shall be by the petition of the judgment creditor or of the assignee, setting forth that such judgment or a portion thereof remains unpaid, and that the petitioner is the bona fide owner thereof, for value; but no executions shall issue or any proceedings be

had upon any judgment after 20 years from the rendition thereof.

**(2)** When the sheriff holds an execution against property any person indebted to the judgment debtor may pay to the sheriff the amount of his debt not exempt from execution or so much thereof as shall be necessary to satisfy the execution, and the sheriff's receipt shall be a sufficient discharge for the amount so paid.

**History:** Sup Ct Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats 1975 s. 815.04

**815.05 Execution, how issued; contents.** The execution must be issued from and be sealed with the seal of the court and signed by the clerk where the judgment roll, or a certified copy thereof, or the transcript of the municipal judge's judgment is filed, directed to the sheriff, or coroner if the sheriff is a party or interested, countersigned by the owner or his or her attorney, and must intelligibly refer to the judgment, stating the court, the county where the judgment roll or a certified copy thereof or the transcript is filed, the names of the parties, the amount of the judgment, if it is for money, and the amount due thereon, and the time of docketing in the county to which the execution is issued, and shall require the officer, substantially as follows:

**(1)** If it be against the property of the judgment debtor, to satisfy the judgment out of the personal property of such debtor, and if sufficient personal property cannot be found, out of the real property belonging to him on the day when the judgment was docketed in the county or at any time thereafter.

**(2)** If real estate shall have been attached and judgment rendered for the plaintiff, the execution may also direct a sale of the interest which the defendant had in such real estate at the time it was attached or at any time thereafter.

**(3)** If upon a judgment to enforce a lien upon specific property, to sell the interest which the defendant had in such property at the time such lien attached.

**(4)** If it be against property in the hands of personal representatives, heirs, devisees, legatees, tenants of real property or trustees, to satisfy the judgment out of such property.

(5) If it be against the person of the judgment debtor, to arrest him and commit him to the county jail until he shall pay the judgment or be discharged according to law.

(6) If it is for the delivery of property, to deliver the possession of the same, particularly describing it, to the party entitled thereto, and may require the officer to satisfy any costs, damages or rents and profits covered by the judgment out of the personal property of the party against whom it was rendered, and shall specify the value of the property for which the judgment was recovered; if a delivery of the property cannot be had and if sufficient personal property cannot be found, then out of the real property belonging to him on the day when the judgment was docketed or at any time thereafter. When a judgment in replevin is entered against the principal and also against his sureties under s. 810.15, the execution shall direct that the property of the surety shall not be levied on unless the property found, belonging to the principal, is not sufficient to satisfy the judgment.

(7) When the judgment is not all due the execution may issue for the collection of such instalments as have become due, and shall direct the sheriff to collect the amount then due, with interest and costs, stating the amount of each; the judgment shall remain as security for the instalments thereafter to become due and whenever any further instalments shall become due execution may in like manner be issued for their collection.

(8) Except as provided in s. 807.01 (4), every execution upon a judgment for the recovery of money shall direct the collection of interest at the rate of 12% per year on the amount recovered from the date of the entry thereof until paid.

**History:** 1971 c. 141; Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats. 1975 s. 815.05; 1977 c. 305; 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (13); 1979 c. 271, 355.

**Cross References:** The law by which the debtor may be discharged from jail is in ch. 898.

See 59.30 for provision that sheriff is to collect his fees on execution in the same manner as the sum collected under the writ.

In counties which adopt the medical examiner system, the execution should be directed to the county clerk when the sheriff is a party; see 59.34 (5).

Where a transcript of a judgment docket is filed in another county, the court of that county has no jurisdiction to issue an execution; execution may issue only from the court of the county of entry. *Wilson v. Craite*, 60 W (2d) 350, 210 NW (2d) 700.

See note to 806.24, citing *Prof. Office Bldgs. v. Royal Indem.* 145 W (2d) 573, 427 NW (2d) 427 (Ct. App. 1988).

Sub. (8) establishes interest rate for every judgment for which legislature has not explicitly established different rate. *Burlington Northern R. v. Superior*, 159 W (2d) 434, 464 NW (2d) 643 (1991).

**815.06 Execution, when returnable.** Every execution shall be made returnable, within sixty days after its receipt by the officer, to the clerk of the court from which it issued but if the officer has levied upon property previous to the expiration of said sixty days he may retain such execution until he has sold the property. The officer shall state in his return how he executed the writ.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.06

**815.07 To what county issued.** When the execution is against the property of the judgment debtor it may be issued to the sheriff of any county where the judgment is docketed. When it requires the delivery of real or personal property it must be issued to the sheriff of the county where the property or some part thereof is situated. Executions may be issued at the same time to different counties.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.07

**815.08 Sheriff to indorse date of receipt.** Upon receipt of any execution the sheriff or other officer shall indorse thereon the year, month, day and hour of the day when he received the same.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.08

**815.09 Execution against debtor's person.** If the action be one in which the defendant might have been arrested, as provided in ch. 818, an execution against the person of the judgment debtor may be issued after the return of an execution against his property unsatisfied in whole or in part; but if the defendant be imprisoned on execution in another action, or upon mesne process in the same action, an execution may issue against his body without any previous execution against his property.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats. 1975 s. 815.09; Sup. Ct. Order, 83 W (2d) xiii

**815.10 Execution against body only remedy, exception.** When a party shall have been arrested on an execution no other execution upon the same judgment can be issued against him or his property except as provided by s. 898.10; but if he shall escape he may be retaken by a new execution against his body or an execution against his property may be issued in the same manner as if he had never been arrested on execution.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.10

**815.11 Writs of assistance.** When any order or judgment is for the delivery of possession of property real or personal the party in whose favor it is entered is entitled to a writ of execution or assistance upon application to the clerk.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.11

**Cross References:** 815.11 is the general rule for writs of execution or assistance to enforce orders or judgments for delivery of possession of real or personal property. The following are special provisions for writs of execution or assistance:

32.05 (8), 32.06 (9) (c) Condemnation proceedings  
779.12 Lien foreclosure  
799.44 Eviction actions  
815.63 Sale of land upon execution.  
842.19 Partition.  
843.17 Actions for possession of real property  
Ch. 846 Mortgage foreclosure.

**815.12 Execution; death of person arrested.** If any person arrested on execution shall die while under arrest a new execution may issue against his property in the same manner as if he had never been arrested; but such new execution shall not be levied upon any real estate which the deceased shall have sold in good faith nor upon any real estate which shall have been sold under any other judgment against him.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.12

**815.13 Execution against sheriff.** Whenever a judgment shall be recovered in any court of record against the sheriff instead of directing the execution thereon to the coroner of the county it may be directed and delivered to any person (except a party in interest) designated by order of the court; and such person shall perform the duties of a sheriff and be liable in all respects to all the provisions of law respecting sheriffs, as far as the same may be applicable.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.13

**815.14 Execution after debtor's death.** After the expiration of one year from the death of a judgment debtor execution may be issued against any property upon which the judgment was a lien at the time of the debtor's death, and may be executed in the same manner and with the same effect as if he were still living; but no such execution shall issue except upon an order, made upon sufficient cause shown. If such judgment be against such deceased debtor and others jointly execution may issue against surviving judgment debtors without delay.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.14

**815.15 Execution after judgment creditor's death.** If the judgment creditor dies before satisfaction of the judgment an execution may be issued by his attorney of record in the name

of such decedent or in the name of his executor or administrator. Before an execution shall issue in the name of an executor or administrator he shall file with the clerk a copy of his letters testamentary or of administration, and the clerk shall file such papers with the other papers in the action or proceeding and enter at the foot of the judgment, in the judgment record, the fact of the death of such creditor, the name and date of appointment of such executor or administrator. The moneys collected thereon shall be paid to the executors or administrators of such creditor; but if there be none then the moneys so collected shall be paid to the clerk of the court.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.15; 1983 a. 302 s. 8

#### 815.17 Execution; who acts on sheriff's death or removal.

If any sheriff shall die or be removed from office before the execution be returned, his undersheriff or deputy shall proceed thereon in the same manner as the sheriff might have done.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.17

**815.18 Property exempt from execution. (1) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.** This section shall be construed to secure its full benefit to debtors and to advance the humane purpose of preserving to debtors and their dependents the means of obtaining a livelihood, the enjoyment of property necessary to sustain life and the opportunity to avoid becoming public charges.

#### (2) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Aggregate value" means the sum total of the debtor's equity in the property claimed exempt.

(b) "Business" means any lawful activity, including a farm operation, conducted primarily for the purchase, sale, lease or rental of property, for the manufacturing, processing or marketing of property, or for the sale of services.

(c) "Debtor" means an individual. "Debtor" does not include an association, corporation, partnership, cooperative or political body.

(d) "Dependent" means any individual, including a spouse, who requires and is actually receiving substantial support and maintenance from the debtor.

(e) "Depository account" means a certificate of deposit, demand, negotiated order of withdrawal, savings, share, time or like account maintained with a bank, credit union, insurance company, savings bank, savings and loan association, securities broker or dealer or like organization. "Depository account" does not include a safe deposit box or property deposited in a safe deposit box.

(f) "Equipment" means goods used or bought for use primarily in a business, including farming and a profession.

(g) "Equity" means the fair market value of the debtor's interest in property, less the valid liens on that property.

(h) "Exempt" means free from any lien obtained by judicial proceedings and is not liable to seizure or sale on execution or on any provisional or final process issued from any court, or any proceedings in aid of court process.

(i) "Farm products" has the meaning given under s. 409.109 (3).

(j) "Inventory" has the meaning given under s. 409.109 (4).

(k) "Life insurance" means a policy issued by a stock or mutual life insurance company or by any mutual beneficiary or fraternal corporation, society, order or association to insure the life of an individual.

(m) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle. "Motor vehicle" does not include equipment.

(n) "Net income" means gross receipts paid or payable for personal services or derived from rents, dividends or interest

less federal and state tax deductions required by law to be withheld.

(r) "Resident" means an individual who intends to maintain his or her principal dwelling in this state.

(t) "To the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents" means what the court determines is required to meet the present and anticipated needs of the debtor and the debtor's dependents, after consideration of the debtor's responsibilities, and the debtor's present and anticipated income and property, including exempt property.

**(3) EXEMPT PROPERTY.** The debtor's interest in or right to receive the following property is exempt, except as specifically provided in this section and ss. 70.20 (2), 71.91 (5m) and (6), 74.55 (2) and 102.28 (5):

(a) *Provisions for burial.* Cemetery lots, aboveground burial facilities, burial monuments, tombstones, coffins or other articles for the burial of the dead owned by the debtor and intended for the burial of the debtor or the debtor's family.

(b) *Business and farm property.* Equipment, inventory, farm products and professional books used in the business of the debtor or the business of a dependent of the debtor, not to exceed \$7,500 in aggregate value.

(c) *Child support, family support or maintenance payments.* Alimony, child support, family support, maintenance or separate maintenance payments to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents.

(d) *Consumer goods.* Household goods and furnishings, wearing apparel, keepsakes, jewelry and other articles of personal adornment, appliances, books, musical instruments, firearms, sporting goods, animals or other tangible personal property held primarily for the personal, family or household use of the debtor or a dependent of the debtor, not to exceed \$5,000 in aggregate value.

(df) *County fairs and agricultural societies.* All sums paid as state aid under s. 93.23 (1) to county fairs and agricultural societies.

(ds) *Federal disability insurance benefits.* All moneys received or receivable by a person as federal disability insurance benefits under subchapter II of 42 USC.

(e) *Fire and casualty insurance.* For a period of 2 years after the date of receipt, insurance proceeds on exempt property payable to and received by the debtor, if the exempt property has been destroyed or damaged by fire or casualty of any nature.

(ef) *Fire and police pension fund.* All money paid or ordered to be paid to any member of any fire or police department or to the surviving spouse or guardian of the minor child or children of a deceased or retired member of any such department, which money has been paid or ordered to be paid to any such person as a pension on account of the service of any person in any such department in any city in this state whose population exceeds 100,000.

(em) *Fire engines and equipment.* All fire engines, apparatus and equipment, including hose, hose carts and hooks and ladders, belonging to or which may hereafter belong to any town, city or village in this state, and which are or may be kept and used for the protection of property in such town, city or village from fire, together with the engine houses and hooks and ladder houses for the protection of the same, and the lot or lots on which such engine and hook and ladder houses may be situated, when owned by any such town, city or village; and any lot or lots owned, used and occupied by any such town, city or village for corporate purposes.

(f) *Life insurance.* Any unmatured life insurance contract owned by the debtor and insuring the debtor, the debtor's

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dependent or an individual of whom the debtor is a dependent, other than a credit life insurance contract, and the debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed \$4,000 in value, in any accrued dividends, interest or loan value of all unmaturing life insurance contracts owned by the debtor and insuring the debtor, the debtor's dependent or an individual of whom the debtor is a dependent.

(g) *Motor vehicles.* Motor vehicles not to exceed \$1,200 in aggregate value. Any unused amount of the aggregate value from par. (d) may be added to this exemption to increase the aggregate exempt value of motor vehicles under this paragraph.

(h) *Net income.* Seventy-five percent of the debtor's net income for each one week pay period. The benefits of this exemption are limited to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents, but to not less than 30 times the greater of the state or federal minimum wage.

(i) *Life insurance claims, personal injury or wrongful death claims.* 1. Any of the following payments:

a. A payment to the debtor under a life insurance contract that insured the life of an individual of whom the debtor was a dependent on the date of that individual's death, to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents.

b. A payment resulting from the wrongful death of an individual of whom the debtor was a dependent, in an amount reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents.

c. A payment, not to exceed \$25,000, resulting from personal bodily injury, including pain and suffering or compensation for actual pecuniary loss, of the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is a dependent.

d. A payment in compensation of loss of future earnings of the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is or was a dependent in an amount reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents.

2. Any property traceable to payments under subd. 1 is exempt.

(j) *Retirement benefits.* 1. Assets held or amounts payable under any retirement, pension, disability, death benefit, stock bonus, profit sharing plan, annuity, individual retirement account, individual retirement annuity, Keogh, 401-K or similar plan or contract providing benefits by reason of age, illness, disability, death or length of service and payments made to the debtor therefrom.

2. The plan or contract must meet one of the following requirements:

a. The plan or contract complies with the provisions of the internal revenue code.

b. The employer created the plan or contract for the exclusive benefit of the employer, if self-employed, or of some or all of the employees, or their dependents or beneficiaries and that plan or contract requires the employer or employees or both to make contributions for the purpose of distributing to the employer, if self-employed, the employees, or their dependents or beneficiaries, the earnings or the principal or both of a trust, annuity, insurance or other benefit created under the plan or contract and makes it impossible, at any time prior to the satisfaction of all liabilities with respect to beneficiaries under a trust created by the plan or contract, for any part of the principal or income of the trust to be used for or diverted to purposes other than for the exclusive benefit of those beneficiaries.

3. The plan or contract may permit the income created from personal property held in a trust created under the plan or contract to accumulate in accordance with the terms of the

trust. The trust may continue until it accomplishes its purposes. The trust is not invalid as violating the rule against perpetuities or any law against perpetuities or the suspension of the power of alienation of title to property.

4. The benefits of this exemption with respect to the assets held or amounts payable under or traceable to an owner-dominated plan for or on behalf of a debtor who is an owner-employee shall be limited to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents.

5. This exemption does not apply to an order of a court concerning child support, family support or maintenance payments, or to any judgment of annulment, divorce or legal separation.

6. In this paragraph:

a. "Employer" includes a group of employers creating a combined plan or contract for the benefit of their employees or the beneficiaries of those employees.

b. "Owner-dominated plan" means any plan or contract that meets the requirements of subd. 2 and under which 90% or more of the present value of the accrued benefits or 90% or more of the aggregate of the account is for the benefit of one or more individuals who are owner-employees. For purposes of this definition, the accrued benefits or account of an owner-employee under a plan or contract shall include the accrued benefits or account of the spouse and any ancestor, lineal descendant or spouse of a lineal descendant of the owner-employee under the same plan or contract.

c. "Owner-employee" means any individual who owns, directly or indirectly, the entire interest in an unincorporated trade or business, or 50% or more of the combined voting of all classes of stock entitled to vote or the total value of shares of all classes of stock of a corporation, or 50% or more of the capital interest or profits interest of a partnership.

(k) *Depository accounts.* Depository accounts in the aggregate value of \$1,000.

(m) *Private property from execution against municipalities.* All private property shall be exempt from seizure and sale upon any execution or other process issued to enforce any judgment or decree of any court that has been rendered against any county, town, city, village, vocational, technical and adult education district or school district in this state.

(n) *War pension.* All money received by a person, a resident of this state, as pension, compensation, government insurance, or adjusted compensation, back pension, compensation or insurance from the U.S. government on account of military or naval service, and all other money received by a person on account of military or naval service from the U.S. government administered by the U.S. department of veterans affairs, whether the same is in the actual possession of such person, on deposit, or loaned.

(4) **TRACING.** Property traceable to property that would be exempt under this section in the form of cash proceeds or otherwise is not exempt unless expressly provided for in this section.

(5) **AVAILABILITY.** A resident is entitled to the exemptions provided by this section. A nonresident is entitled to the exemptions provided by the law of the jurisdiction of his or her residence.

(6) **CLAIMING EXEMPTIONS.** (a) A debtor shall affirmatively claim an exemption or select specific property in which to claim an exemption. The debtor may make the claim at the time of seizure of property or within a reasonable time after the seizure, but shall make the claim prior to the disposition of the property by sale or by court order. Exempt property is not exempt unless affirmatively claimed as exempt. With respect to property partially exempt under this section, the claiming of an exemption includes the process of selection

required of the debtor. The debtor or a person acting on the debtor's behalf shall make any required affirmative claim, either orally or in writing, to the creditor, the creditor's attorney or the officer seeking to impose a lien by court action upon the property in which the exemption is claimed. A debtor waives his or her exemption rights by failing to follow the procedure under this paragraph. A contractual waiver of exemption rights by any debtor before judgment on the claim is void. The court, in making a determination as to the extent property is reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents, is not limited to the standard of living to which the debtor and the debtor's dependents have become accustomed. The court shall consider the amount and use of any income of any person claimed as a dependent when determining if that person is a dependent of a debtor.

(b) Notwithstanding sub. (13), this subsection does not apply to any of the following:

1. Public employe trust funds exempt under s. 40.08 (1).
2. Retirement benefits and allowances from retirement systems of 1st class cities exempt under s. 66.81.
3. Retirement benefits and allowances from retirement systems of counties having a population of 500,000 or more exempt under chapter 201, laws of 1937, section 11.
4. A homestead exempt under s. 815.20.

(7) **VALUATION OF PROPERTY.** The value of any property subject to exemption under this section shall be determined by agreement of the parties or by a commercially reasonable manner.

(8) **MARITAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.** Each spouse is entitled to and may claim the exemptions under this section. If the property exempt under this section is limited to a specified maximum dollar amount, each spouse is entitled to one exemption. That exemption is limited to the specified maximum dollar amount, which may be combined with the other spouse's exemption in the same property or applied to different property included under the same exemption. The exemption under sub. (3) (h) may not be combined with the other spouse's exemption under sub. (3) (h) and applied to the same property.

(9) **PARTIALLY EXEMPT PROPERTY.** In the case of property that is partially exempt, the debtor or any person acting on the debtor's behalf is entitled to claim the exempt portion of property. The exempt portion claimed shall be set apart for the debtor, or for the debtor's dependents, and the nonexempt portion shall be subject to a creditor's claim. If partially exempt property is indivisible, the property may be sold and the exempt value of the property paid to the debtor or the debtor's dependents. Any proceeds paid to the debtor or to the debtor's dependents shall be exempt while held by the debtor or the debtor's dependents as cash or in a depository account.

(10) **FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS.** A conveyance or transfer of wholly exempt property shall not be considered a fraudulent conveyance or transfer. Property that is not totally exempt in value under this section may be subject to a fraudulent transfer action under ch. 242 to set aside that transfer to the extent that the property's value is not exempt under this section. If a court is required to satisfy the claim of a creditor and if that relief is demanded, the court may determine the manner of dividing fraudulently transferred property into exempt and nonexempt portions, or may order the sale of the whole property and an accounting of the exempt portion. Any or all of the exemptions granted by this section may be denied if, in the discretion of the court having jurisdiction, the debtor procured, concealed or transferred assets with the intention of defrauding creditors.

(11) **CONSUMER CREDIT TRANSACTION EXEMPTIONS.** The debtor may claim either the exemptions listed in s. 425.106 or the exemptions under this section for an obligation arising from a consumer credit transaction.

(12) **LIMITATIONS ON EXEMPTIONS.** No property otherwise exempt may be claimed as exempt in any proceeding brought by any person to recover the whole or part of the purchase price of the property or against the claim or interest of a holder of a security interest, land contract, condominium or homeowners association assessment or maintenance lien or both, mortgage or any consensual or statutory lien.

(13) **APPLICABILITY TO OTHER PROPERTY.** Subsections (2), (4) to (7), (9), (10) and (12) apply to the following exempt property except as otherwise provided by law:

- (a) Assistance benefits exempt under s. 49.41.
- (b) Crime victim awards exempt under s. 949.07.
- (c) Fraternal benefits exempt under s. 614.96.
- (d) A homestead exempt under s. 815.20.
- (e) Partnership property exempt under s. 178.21 (3) (c).
- (f) Public employe trust fund benefits exempt under s. 40.08 (1).
- (g) Salary used to purchase savings bonds exempt under s. 20.921 (1) (e).
- (h) Retirement benefits and allowances from retirement systems of 1st class cities exempt under s. 66.81.
- (hm) Retirement benefits and allowances from retirement systems of counties having a population of 500,000 or more exempt under chapter 201, laws of 1937, section 11.
- (i) Tenant's lease and stock interest of a housing corporation exempt under s. 182.004 (6).
- (j) Unemployment compensation benefits exempt under s. 108.13.
- (k) Veterans benefits exempt under s. 45.35 (8) (b).

**History:** 1971 c. 154, 172; 1971 c. 211 s. 126; 1971 c. 229 s. 14; Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; 1975 c. 94 s. 91 (3), (5); 1975 c. 199; 1975 c. 359 s. 51; Stats 1975 s. 815.18; 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (4); 1979 c. 191, 265, 355; 1985 a. 37; 1989 a. 56, 278, 359; 1991 a. 39, 221.

Sub. (31), 1987 stats. [now (3) (j)] does not violate Art. I, sec. 17. North Side Bank v. Gentile, 129 W (2d) 208, 385 NW (2d) 133 (1986).

Court did not abuse discretion under 272.18 (30) (a), 1969 stats. [now 815.18 (10)] in ruling that bankrupt, by fraudulently concealing and transferring assets, forfeited any right to exemptions, only with respect to collection of trustee's judgment. In Re Schroeder, 356 F Supp. 417 (E D Wis 1973).

Updating Wisconsin's exemption law. Ludwig and Poulos Wis Law Aug 1990

**815.19 Levy on personal property; appraisal.** (1) Personal property shall be bound from the time it is seized. Whenever personal property is seized on attachment or execution and any part of the property is exempt therefrom and the exemption is claimed by the debtor or the debtor's spouse, the officer making the seizure shall, upon request by either of them, or may upon the officer's motion, cause the exempt property to be appraised by 2 disinterested freeholders of the county, who shall first be sworn by the officer to make a true appraisal thereof, which appraisal shall be in writing, be signed by the appraisers and be prima facie evidence of the value of the property appraised. The appraisal, together with the true inventory of all the property seized, shall be returned with the writ. The fees of the appraisers are prescribed in s. 814.72.

(2) If the property seized is an automobile which is appraised and can be sold for more than \$1,000 or if the property seized is a tractor used in farming operations which is appraised and can be sold for more than \$1,500, the officer may sell such automobile or tractor and out of the proceeds of such sale the officer shall pay to the debtor or the debtor's spouse the exempted value of such automobile or tractor. The

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balance of the proceeds of such sale shall be applied on the execution or attachment.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; 1975 c. 94 s. 91 (3); 1975 c. 199; Stats. 1975 s. 815.19; 1979 c. 355; 1981 c. 317; 1983 a. 186.

**815.195 Levy on real property; how made.** Levy of execution on real property is made by indorsing on the execution a description of the property on which the levy was made, and filing a copy of the execution, so indorsed, in the office of the register of deeds.

**History:** 1973 c. 189; Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.195.

**815.20 Homestead exemption definition. (1)** An exempt homestead as defined in s. 990.01 (14) selected by a resident owner and occupied by him or her shall be exempt from execution, from the lien of every judgment and from liability for the debts of the owner to the amount of \$40,000, except mortgages, laborers', mechanics' and purchase money liens and taxes and except as otherwise provided. The exemption shall not be impaired by temporary removal with the intention to reoccupy the premises as a homestead nor by the sale of the homestead, but shall extend to the proceeds derived from the sale to an amount not exceeding \$40,000, while held, with the intention to procure another homestead with the proceeds, for 2 years. The exemption extends to land owned by husband and wife jointly or in common or as marital property, and when they reside in the same household may be claimed by either or may be divided in any proportion between them, but the exemption may not exceed \$40,000 for the household. If the husband and wife fail to agree on the division of exemption, the exemption shall be divided between them by the court in which the first judgment was taken. The exemption extends to the interest therein of tenants in common, having a homestead thereon with the consent of the cotenants, and to any estate less than a fee.

**(2)** Any owner of an exempt homestead against whom a judgment has been rendered and docketed, and any heir, devisee or grantee of such owner, or any mortgagee of such homestead, may proceed under s. 806.04 for declaratory relief if such homestead is less than \$40,000 in value and the owner of such judgment shall fail, for 10 days after demand, to execute a recordable release of such homestead from his judgment lien.

**History:** 1973 c. 168; Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats. 1975 s. 815.20; 1983 a. 186; 1985 a. 153.

A defendant who has moved to Michigan intending to stay there loses his Wisconsin homestead exemption. He cannot have an exemption in 2 states. *Plan Credit Corp v. Swinging Singles, Inc.* 54 W (2d) 146, 194 NW (2d) 822.

A vendee in a land contract has an interest sufficient to sustain a homestead exemption. The holder of a judgment lien is subject to a mortgage dated after the judgment. A homestead exemption does not depend on a formal claim to it; occupancy at the time a lien attaches is sufficient. *Lueptow v. Guptill*, 56 W (2d) 396, 202 NW (2d) 255.

The proceeds of rental income are exempt from lien or attachment by a judgment creditor. *Schwanz v. Teper*, 66 W (2d) 157, 223 NW (2d) 896.

Property purchased by a debtor subsequent to docketing of the judgment and immediately occupied as a homestead becomes exempt to the extent of the statutory protection. *Northern State Bank v. Toal*, 69 W (2d) 50, 230 NW (2d) 153.

Homestead exemption may arise in partition action. *Reckner v. Reckner*, 105 W (2d) 425, 314 NW (2d) 159 (Ct. App. 1981).

Homestead rights are no greater than underlying property rights when property rights have been limited by owners themselves. *Master Lock Credit Union v. Rayford*, 119 W (2d) 301, 349 NW (2d) 737 (Ct. App. 1984).

Although debts were contracted prior to effective date of increase in homestead exemption from \$10,000 to \$25,000, debtors were entitled to higher exemption. *Matter of Zahn*, 605 F (2d) 323 (1979).

Establishment and abandonment of a Wisconsin homestead. *Kreitler*, 1973 WLR 876.

Judgment lien claimants' rights against homestead exemption interests: An equitable distribution of mortgage foreclosure sale proceeds. 1981 WLR 697.

**815.205 Certain property of spouse exempt from execution. (1)** Property described in s. 806.15 (4) (intro.) is exempt from execution on a judgment lien that attaches to that property under s. 806.15 (4) (b) if the property is not available

under s. 766.55 to satisfy the obligation for which the judgment was rendered.

**(2) (a)** If execution is issued in connection with the enforcement of a judgment lien on property that is exempt under sub. (1) from execution on the judgment lien, a person with an ownership interest in the property other than the judgment debtor may, at any time before the sale of the property, notify the officer making the levy that the property is exempt from execution. The person making the notification of the exemption shall provide the officer with a description of the property.

**(b)** If notification is made under par. (a), sale of the property is stayed if, within 5 days after the notification, demand on the owner of the judgment is made by a person with an ownership interest in the property other than the judgment debtor for a recordable release of the property from the judgment. If within 5 days after the demand the owner of the judgment fails to execute the recordable release, the stay on the sale of the property continues if a person with an ownership interest in the property other than the judgment debtor commences an action under s. 806.04 for declaratory relief within 15 days after the demand was made. The stay on the sale of the property continues until the court determines whether the property is exempt under sub. (1). If no action under s. 806.04 is commenced within the required period, the stay lapses on the expiration of the required period.

**(c)** If the sale of property is stayed under this subsection, no additional stay on the sale of that property is available under this subsection, regardless of whether the additional stay is sought by the person who initially gave notice under par. (a) or by any other person with an ownership interest in the property.

**History:** 1991 a. 301.

**NOTE:** 1991 Wis. Act 301, which affected this section, contains extensive legislative council notes.

**815.21 Homestead, how set apart after levy. (1)** Whenever a levy shall be made upon lands of any person, he may notify the officer making such levy, at any time before the sale, that he claims an exempt homestead in such lands, giving a description thereof, and his estimate of the value thereof; and the remainder alone shall be subject to sale under such levy, unless the plaintiff in the execution shall deny the right to such exemption or be dissatisfied with the quantity or estimate of the value of the land selected.

**(2)** If such plaintiff is dissatisfied with the quantity selected or the estimate of the value thereof, the officer shall cause such lands to be surveyed, beginning at a point to be designated by the owner and set off in compact form. After the lands are surveyed and set off, if in the opinion of the plaintiff, the same shall be of greater value than \$40,000, the officer may still advertise and sell the premises so set off, and out of the proceeds of such sale pay to the exempt homestead claimant the sum of \$40,000 and apply the balance of the proceeds of such sale on the execution; but no sale shall be made in the case last mentioned unless a greater sum than \$40,000 is paid for said premises. The expenses of such survey and sale shall be collected on the execution if the owner claimed as his homestead a greater quantity of land or land of greater value than he was entitled to; otherwise such expenses shall be borne by the plaintiff.

**(3)** If such survey be made the land not exempt shall be sold, but if any person shall neglect or refuse to select his exempt homestead and notify such officer, such officer shall, upon request of the plaintiff, and may without such request, give notice to such person that at a time and place to be therein named he will survey and locate the exempt homestead; and unless such person shall on or before the time so

fixed select such exempt homestead, such officer shall survey and locate and set the same off in a compact form. If the owner after such notice selects his exempt homestead, then the provisions of this section shall apply the same as if he had selected it before such notice.

(4) A homestead so selected and set apart by such officer shall be the exempt homestead of such person. The costs of such notice and survey shall be collected upon the execution. A failure of the officer to set apart such homestead shall affect such levy, only as to such homestead; and the failure of such person to select his homestead shall not impair his right thereto, but only his right to select the same when such selection is lawfully made by such officer. After such homestead is thus set off by such officer, if, in his opinion or in the opinion of the plaintiff, the premises are of greater value than \$40,000 he may sell the same as where the owner makes the selection.

(5) If the land claimed as an exempt homestead exceeds in value \$40,000, the officer shall not be bound to set off any portion thereof but may sell the same, unless the debtor shall make his selection of such a portion thereof as shall not exceed \$40,000 in value.

**History:** 1973 c. 168; Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.21; 1985 a. 153.

The strong public policy to protect the homestead exemption, even in the face of inaction, is demonstrated by ch. 272 [ch. 815]. Sub. (1) provides that, when there is a levy upon the lands of any person, he can make the claim of a homestead exemption at any time before sale. *Anchor Savings & Loan Assn. v. Week*, 62 W (2d) 169, 213 NW (2d) 737.

**815.24 Indemnity may be required.** If there is any reasonable doubt as to the ownership of the property or as to its liability to be taken on the execution the officer may require sufficient security to indemnify him for levying upon such property.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.24.

Term "reasonable" requires that officer provide reason for requiring security. *Ter Maat v. Barnett*, 156 W (2d) 737, 457 NW (2d) 551 (Ct. App. 1990).

**815.25 Money applied; negotiable instruments sold.** Upon executions against property the officer shall levy upon any current money of the United States and shall pay and return the same without exposing it for sale, and he may also levy upon and sell any evidences of debt circulated as money, or a bond or other instrument for the payment of money which is negotiable or payable to the bearer or holder.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.25.

**815.26 Equities sold.** When personal property is subject to a security interest, the right and interest of the debtor in such property may be sold on execution against him, subject to the rights, if any, of the secured party.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.26.

**815.29 Notice of sale of personal property, manner, adjournment. (1)** No execution sale of personal property shall be made unless 20 days previous notice of such sale has been given by posting notices thereof in 3 public places of the town or municipality where such sale is to be had, specifying the time and place of sale but when any property seized is likely to perish or depreciate in value before the expiration of the 20 days the court or a judge may order the same to be sold in such manner and upon such terms as the best interests of the parties demand. Every such sale shall be made at auction between the hour of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and no property shall be sold unless it is in view of those attending the sale, except in the case of the sale of the interest of the judgment debtor in property in the possession of a secured party. It shall be offered for sale in such lots and parcels as is calculated to bring the highest price.

(2) Such sale may be adjourned as provided in s. 815.31 for sale of real estate.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats. 1975 s. 815.29.

**815.31 Notice of sale of realty; manner; adjournment. (1)** The time and place of holding any sale of real estate on execution shall be publicly advertised by posting a written notice describing the real estate to be sold with reasonable certainty in 3 public places in the town or municipality where such real estate is to be sold at least 3 weeks prior to the date of sale; and also in 3 public places of the town or municipality in which the real estate is situated, if it is not in the town or municipality where the sale is to be held.

(2) A copy of the notice of sale shall be printed each week for 6 successive weeks in a newspaper of the county prior to the date of sale.

(3) If there be no newspaper published in the county and the premises are not occupied by any person against whom the execution is issued or by some person holding as tenant or purchaser under him such notice shall be so published in a paper printed at Madison.

(4) The court, or a judge, upon application of the party issuing the execution shall direct, by order, the newspaper in which the publication of the notice is to be made.

(5) If at the time appointed for any such sale the sheriff shall deem it for the interest of all persons concerned he may adjourn the sale from time to time, not exceeding in all three months. In case of such adjournment public notice thereof shall be given at the time and place fixed for the sale. If the adjournment shall be for more than one day further notice shall be given by posting or publishing the same, or both, as the time and circumstances may admit.

(6) Every sale shall be at auction between 9 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

**History:** 1973 c. 189; Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.31.

**815.33 Execution; sale in parcels; limitation.** When real estate offered for sale on execution consists of several lots, tracts or parcels they shall be separately offered for sale; and if any person claiming to be the owner of any of such lots or parcels or an interest or estate therein or claiming to be entitled to redeem the same shall require it to be offered for sale separately, the sheriff shall offer the same for sale accordingly. No more shall be sold than shall appear necessary to satisfy the execution.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.33.

**815.34 Execution sale without notice.** Any officer who shall sell real estate upon execution without having given the previous notices directed by s. 815.31, or otherwise than in the manner prescribed by law, shall be liable to the party injured in the sum of \$1,000 damage and also for the actual damages sustained.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats. 1975 s. 815.34.

**815.35 Execution; taking down notice.** If any person shall take down or deface any notice of a sale upon execution put up by any officer, previous to the day of sale therein specified, unless upon satisfaction of the execution or upon the consent of the parties to the action, such person shall be liable to the party suing out such execution in the sum of \$50.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.35.

**815.36 Execution sale, want of notice, when immaterial.** The omission of any officer to give the notice of execution sale required or the taking down or defacing of any such notice shall not affect the validity of any sale made to a

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purchaser in good faith, without notice of any such omission or offense.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats 1975 s. 815.36

**815.37 Execution sale; officer not to purchase.** The officer to whom any execution shall be directed and his deputy holding any execution and conducting any sale in pursuance thereof shall not, directly or indirectly, purchase any property at such sale; and every purchase made by such officer or deputy, or to his use, shall be void.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats 1975 s. 815.37.

**815.38 Execution, certificate of sale, filing. (1)** Upon the sale of real estate on execution the officer making the same shall make out and subscribe duplicate certificates of such sale containing a particular description of the premises sold; the price bid for each distinct lot or parcel; the whole consideration money paid; and the time when such sale will become absolute and the purchaser will be entitled to a conveyance pursuant to law and shall file one of the said duplicate certificates within ten days after such sale in the office of the register of deeds and shall deliver the other to the purchaser. If there be two or more purchasers a certificate shall be delivered to each.

(2) Promptly following every execution sale the sheriff shall return the execution into court and file with it a detailed report of his doings upon the execution.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats 1975 s. 815.38

**Cross Reference:** See 59.30 for provision that sheriff is to collect his fees on execution in the same manner as the sum collected under the writ

**815.39 Execution sale; redemption of real estate.** Within one year after an execution sale the real estate sold or any lot, tract or portion that was separately sold may be redeemed by the payment to the purchaser, his personal representatives or assigns, or to the then sheriff of the county where such real estate is situated, for the use of such purchaser, of the sum paid on the sale thereof, together with the interest from the time of the sale.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats 1975 s. 815.39

**815.40 Execution sale; who may redeem. (1)** Redemption from execution sale of real estate may be made by a person whose right and title was sold or if such person be dead by his devisee of the premises sold, and if the same shall not have been devised, by his heirs; or, by any grantee of such person who shall have acquired an absolute title to the premises sold, or to any lot, parcel or portion separately sold.

(2) Any such heir or devisee or grantee who shall have acquired an absolute title to a portion of the estate sold or a portion of any lot, tract or parcel that shall have been separately sold may redeem the portion on the same terms and in the same manner as if he were grantee of the whole lot or parcel, and shall have the same remedy to enforce contributions from those who shall own the residue thereof as if the sum required to be paid by him to effect such redemption had been collected by a sale of the portion belonging to such grantee, heir or devisee.

(3) If there be joint tenants or tenants in common in premises sold each tenant may redeem the share or interest belonging to him by paying to the purchaser or officer, a sum that will bear the same proportion to the whole sum bid therefor as the redeemed share bears to the whole number of shares in such premises together with the interest.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats 1975 s. 815.40.

**815.43 Execution sale; redemption makes sale void.** Upon redemption of any real estate sold on execution, the

sale of the premises redeemed and the certificates of such sale, so far as they relate thereto, shall be null and void.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats 1975 s. 815.43.

**815.44 Execution; purchaser's interest. (1) WHO MAY ACQUIRE.** In case the premises sold on execution or any part of them shall not be redeemed within the year prescribed by ss. 815.39 and 815.40 then the interest of the purchaser may be acquired within three months after the expiration of the redemption period by the persons and on the terms prescribed in this section.

(2) **CREDITORS, MORTGAGEES, INTEREST.** Any creditor of the person against whom such execution issued having a judgment or a recorded mortgage which is a lien upon the premises sold, or upon any lot or parcel or portion separately sold, may within fifteen months from the time of such sale by paying the sum paid on the sale thereof, together with interest from the time of such sale, thereby acquire all the rights of the original purchaser, subject to be defeated in the manner mentioned in s. 815.48.

(3) **SALES OF UNDIVIDED INTERESTS.** Any owner of such judgment or mortgage which is a lien upon any undivided share or interest in any real estate sold under execution, may, within the same time, on the same terms and in the same manner, acquire the title of the original purchaser to such share or interest by paying such part of the whole purchase money of such real estate as shall be in a just proportion to the amount of such share or interest.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats 1975 s. 815.44.

**815.48 Execution sale; creditors may acquire title of preceding creditor.** Whenever any creditor shall acquire the title of the original purchaser, pursuant to s. 815.44, any other creditor who might have acquired such title may become a purchaser thereof from the first creditor who acquired the same upon the following conditions:

(1) By paying to such first creditor, his personal representatives or assigns the sum which he paid to acquire such title, together with interest thereon from the time of his payment.

(2) If the judgment or mortgage by virtue of which the first creditor acquired the title of the original purchaser be prior to the judgment or mortgage of such second creditor and is still a lien as to such second creditor he shall also pay to such first creditor the amount due on his judgment or mortgage.

(3) In the same manner any third or other creditor who might have acquired the title of the original purchaser may become a purchaser thereof from the second, third or other creditor who may have become such purchaser from any other creditor, upon the terms and conditions before specified in this section.

(4) If the original purchaser of any premises shall also be a creditor of the defendant against whom the execution issued, and as such might acquire the title of any purchaser according to the preceding provisions, he may avail himself of his judgment or mortgage, in the manner and on the terms prescribed, to acquire the title which any creditor may have obtained.

(5) But the judgment creditor, under whose execution the real estate was sold cannot acquire the title of the original purchaser or of any creditor to the premises so sold by virtue of the judgment on which such execution issued.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats 1975 s. 815.48.

**815.52 Payment on acquisition of purchaser's or creditor's interest.** The sums required to be paid to acquire the title of the original purchaser at the execution sale or to become a purchaser from any creditor may be paid to such purchaser or creditor, his representative or assigns or to the



then sheriff of the county where the real estate is situated; upon such payment being made the title of the original purchaser shall be thereby transferred to the creditor acquiring the same and from such creditor to any other creditor becoming a purchaser thereof.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.52.

**815.53 Execution sale; evidences of right of creditor to acquire title.** To entitle any creditor to acquire the title of the original purchaser on the execution sale or to become a purchaser from any other creditor he shall exhibit to such purchaser or creditor or to the sheriff the following evidences of his right:

(1) A certified copy of the docket of his judgment or of the record of his mortgage.

(2) A certified copy of all assignments of such judgment or mortgage which are necessary to establish his claim.

(3) A certified copy of his letters of administration or letters testamentary, in case of an administrator or executor.

(4) An affidavit of such creditor or his attorney, or agent stating the sum due on such judgment or the sum owing on such mortgage at the time of claiming such right to purchase. Within three days after making such acquisition such creditor shall file such evidences of his right in the office of the register of deeds of the county where the original certificate of sale is filed.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.53.

**815.54 Execution sale, title when divested, action for injury to premises.** The right and title of the person against whom the execution was issued, to any real estate which shall be sold thereby, shall not be divested by such sale until the expiration of fifteen months from the time of sale; and if such real estate shall not have been redeemed and a deed shall be executed in pursuance of a sale the grantee shall be vested with the legal estate from the time of the sale for the purpose of an action for an injury to such real estate.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.54.

**815.55 Execution sale; deed when to issue; limitation.** If after the expiration of fifteen months from the time of the sale of any real estate upon execution any part of the premises sold shall remain unredeemed, the sheriff of the county in which such real estate is situated shall, on demand, execute a deed of the premises unredeemed to the person entitled thereto, which shall convey all the right, title and interest which was sold upon such execution. But no such deed shall be issued after twenty years from the date of the sale.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.55.

**815.56 Sheriff's deed; grantee if purchaser dead.** In case the person who would be entitled to a deed of real estate sold on execution dies before the delivery of that deed the sheriff shall execute a deed to the person's executors or administrators. The real estate so conveyed shall be held in trust for the use of the heirs or devisees of the deceased person, subject to the surviving spouse's right to elect under ss. 861.02 (1) and 861.03, but may be sold for the payment of debts in the same manner as lands of which the person died seized.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; 1975 c. 94 s. 91 (5); 1975 c. 199; Stats. 1975 s. 815.56; 1983 a. 186; 1985 a. 37; 1987 a. 393 s. 53.

**815.57 Sheriff's deed, recovery of purchase price on eviction.** If the purchaser of real estate sold on execution, his heirs or assigns shall be evicted from such real estate, or if in an action for the recovery thereof judgment shall be rendered against him or them in consequence of any irregularity in such sale, or of the judgment upon which such execution

issued being vacated or reversed, he or they may recover of the party for whose benefit such real estate was sold the amount paid on the purchase thereof, with interest.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.57.

**815.58 Execution sale; judgment, creditor's further remedy.** The party for whose benefit real estate was sold on execution and his personal representatives, upon recovery being had against him under s. 815.57 in consequence of any irregularity in such sale, may have further execution upon the judgment to levy the sum paid on such sale, with interest. Such judgment shall be effectual for that purpose against the defendant, his personal representative, heirs and devisees; but not against any purchaser in good faith or any incumbrancer whose title or whose incumbrance accrued before the levy of such execution.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats. 1975 s. 815.58.

**815.59 Contribution when lands of several are sold on execution.** (1) When lands of several persons shall be liable to satisfy any final judgment and the whole of such judgment or more than a due proportion thereof shall be paid by one of such persons or shall be levied upon the lands of any one or more of such persons, the persons so aggrieved or their personal representatives may compel a just contribution by all the persons whose lands ought to contribute to said satisfaction.

(2) Such lands are liable to contribution in the following order:

(a) If they were conveyed by the defendant in the execution, they are liable in succession, commencing with the lands last conveyed.

(b) If they were sold under execution against the defendant, they are liable in succession, commencing with the lands sold under the youngest judgment.

(c) If there be lands so liable, which were conveyed by the defendant in execution, and also lands which were sold under execution against him they are liable in succession, according to the order herein prescribed.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.59.

**815.61 Proceedings to recover contribution.** In an action to compel contribution under s. 815.59 the court shall, in a proper case, permit the plaintiff to use the original judgment and issue execution thereon, for the amount which ought to be contributed by the lands subject to the lien of such judgment, and for that purpose such original judgment shall remain a lien, when preserved as provided in s. 815.62, for the term of 10 years from the date of the entry thereof, to the extent of the sum which ought to be so contributed, but in all cases such liens shall continue for the purposes above stated for 3 years after any sale under which contribution is claimed.

History: Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats. 1975 s. 815.61.

**815.62 Lien, how preserved after execution sale; clerk's fee.** To preserve the lien of the original judgment upon lands and subject them to sale on execution under s. 815.61, the person aggrieved shall, within 20 days after the payment for which he or she claims a contribution, file an affidavit with the clerk of the court in which the original judgment was rendered, stating the sum paid and his or her claim to use the judgment for the reimbursement thereof; and the clerk shall enter in the margin of the docket of the judgment, the sum so paid and that the judgment is claimed to be a lien to that amount. To preserve the lien upon property situated in some other county, a similar affidavit and notice must be filed with the clerk of the court and a like entry made upon the docket of

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the judgment in that county. The clerk's fee for making the entry upon the docket is prescribed in s. 814.61 (5).

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761, 781; Stats. 1975 s. 815.62; 1981 c. 317.

**815.63 Sheriff's deed; writ of assistance.** Whenever title has been perfected to any real estate sold on execution, or to any part or interest in the real estate, and the defendant in execution or any other person claiming under the defendant by title accruing subsequently to the docketing of the judgment upon which it issued shall be in possession of that real estate or part or interest in that real estate, and upon demand of the person in whom such title has been perfected, refuses to surrender the possession the person may apply to the court from which the execution issued, by verified petition, for a writ of assistance to obtain possession. A copy of this petition, with a notice of the time and place when and where the petition will be presented, must be served upon the person against whom the writ is prayed at least 10 days before the petition is presented; the petition may be served as a summons in an action in the circuit court. The court may direct

such writ to issue, and the writ shall be executed and return made in the same manner as upon a sale upon a judgment for foreclosure of a mortgage.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.63; 1977 c. 449.  
**Cross Reference:** The general provision for writs of assistance is 815.11.

**815.64 Judgment lien, how discharged on redemption.**

When any judgment debtor or person claiming under him shall have redeemed the lands or any part thereof or interest therein sold on execution the person or officer to whom the redemption money was paid shall execute, acknowledge and deliver to the redeemer a certificate, attested by two witnesses, stating the fact of such redemption, the date thereof, the amount of money paid, with a description of the lands or interests therein so redeemed. Such certificates may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county in which the lands are situated, and shall be presumptive evidence of the redemption of the lands therein described from such sale and from the lien of the judgment by virtue of which such sale was made.

**History:** Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 761; Stats. 1975 s. 815.64