

## TITLE XXI.

## Alienation and Descent of Real Property, and of Wills.

## CHAPTER 235.

## ALIENATION BY DEED, AND PROOF AND RECORDING OF INSTRUMENTS.

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**235.01 Conveyances, how made, homesteads.** (1) Conveyances of land or any estate or interest therein may be made by deed signed and sealed by the person from whom the estate or interest is intended to pass, being of lawful age, or by his lawful agent or attorney. Conveyances may be acknowledged and may be executed in the presence of 2 witnesses who shall subscribe their names as such. The absence of such acknowledgment or witnesses does not affect the validity of a conveyance, but compliance with the provisions of s. 235.39 is required before a conveyance is entitled to be recorded.

(2) No mortgage or other alienation by a married man of his homestead, exempt by law from execution, or any interest therein, legal or equitable, present or future, by deed or otherwise, shall be valid without his wife's consent, evidenced by her act of joining in the same deed, mortgage or other conveyance, or by her act of executing a separate deed, mortgage or conveyance, except a conveyance from husband to wife.

(3) No mortgage or other alienation by a married woman of any interest, legal or equitable, present or future, by deed or otherwise, in a homestead held by her and her husband as joint tenants, shall be valid without her husband's consent, evidenced by his act of joining in the same conveyance or mortgage or executing a separate conveyance or mortgage of the same nature as the wife's except a conveyance from wife to husband.

(4) When a mistake is made in the description of land occupied as a homestead, the attempted conveyance shall be construed as an executory contract to convey said homestead by said husband and wife, and the description of said land may at any time be corrected as other conveyances are corrected, and shall bind said parties as fully as though it were correctly described.

(5) When such conveyances are of lands or any interest therein, owned by a corporation organized under any law of this state, they shall be signed by the president or other authorized officers of the corporation, sealed with the corporate seal, if any, otherwise as provided in s. 990.01 (37) and countersigned by the secretary, assistant secretary, cashier or assistant cashier, or clerk thereof; and all corporate conveyances so executed prior to September 1, 1898 shall be valid.

**Cross Reference:** For the meaning of "conveyance" and "purchase," see 235.50.

A lease for 2 years renewable for 2 more years under (5). *St. Regis Apartment Corp. v. Sweitzer*, 32 W (2d) 426, 145 NW (2d) 711.

**235.02 No covenants implied.** No covenant shall be implied in any conveyance of real estate whether such conveyance contain special covenants or not. No mortgage shall be construed as implying a covenant for the payment of the sum thereby intended to be secured, and when there shall be no express covenant for such payment contained in the mortgage and no bond or other separate instrument to secure such payment shall have been given the remedies of the mortgagee shall be confined to the lands mentioned in the mortgage.

**235.03 Grant of land held adversely.** No grant of land shall be void for the reason that at the time of delivery thereof such lands shall be in actual possession of a person claiming under title adverse to the grantor.

**235.04 Words of inheritance not essential.** In conveyances of lands words of inheritance shall not be necessary to create or convey a fee, and every grant of lands or any interest therein shall pass all the estate or interest of the grantor unless the intent to pass a less estate or interest shall appear by express terms or be necessarily implied in the terms of such grant.

**235.05 Quitclaim deed.** A deed of quitclaim and release of the form in common use or of the form hereinafter provided shall be sufficient to pass all the estate which the grantor could lawfully convey by deed of bargain and sale.

**235.06 Warranty and quitclaim deeds; exceptions to covenants.** (1) Conveyances of land may be in substantially the following form:

**WARRANTY DEED.**

A. B., grantor, of .... county, Wisconsin, hereby conveys and warrants to C. D., grantee, of .... county, Wisconsin, for the sum of .... dollars, the following tract of land in .... county (here describe the premises).

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor this .... day of ...., 19...

In presence of	}	.....	.....	[Seal]
.....		.....	.....	[Seal]
.....				

**QUITCLAIM DEED.**

A. B., grantor, of .... county, Wisconsin, hereby quitclaims to C. D., grantee, of .... county, Wisconsin, for the sum of .... dollars, the following tract of land in .... county (here describe the premises).

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor this .... day of ...., 19...

In presence of	}	.....	.....	[Seal]
.....		.....	.....	[Seal]
.....				

(2) Such deeds, when executed and acknowledged as required by law, shall, when of the first of the above forms, have the effect of a conveyance in fee simple to the grantee, his heirs and assigns of the premises therein named together with all the appurtenances, rights and privileges thereto belonging, with a covenant from the grantor, his heirs and personal representatives that he is lawfully seized of the premises; has good right to convey the same; that he guarantees the grantee, his heirs and assigns in the quiet possession thereof; that the same are free from all incumbrance and that the grantor, his heirs and personal representatives will forever warrant and defend the title and possession thereof in the grantee, his heirs and assigns against all lawful claims whatsoever; any exceptions to such covenants may be briefly inserted in such deed, following the description of the land; and when in the second of the above forms, shall have the effect of a conveyance in fee simple

to the grantee, his heirs and assigns of all right, title, interest and estate of the grantor, either in possession or expectancy, in and to the premises therein described and all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging.

Where the allegations of the complaint of a purchaser for breach of covenants contained in a warranty deed, and the answer and the affirmative defenses set up by it, disclosed that there existed a use of an easement which was open, notorious, continuous, and adverse to the plaintiff, and under claim of right, all known to the plaintiff antedating the plaintiff's purchase, the plaintiff, on the basis of such pleadings, could not maintain an action for the breach of the covenants of seizin and against the easement incumbrance now complained of. Merchandising Corp. v. Marine Nat. Ex. Bank, 12 W (2d) 79, 106 NW (2d) 317.

235.07 Life estates; form of deed; rights of parties. (1) Deeds reserving a life estate may be in substantially this form:

DEED RESERVING A LIFE ESTATE.

A. B., grantor, of . . . county, Wisconsin, hereby conveys unto C. D., grantee, of . . . county, Wisconsin, for the sum of (here also state any other consideration) dollars, the following tract of land in . . . county (here describe premises).

To have and to hold said tract of land, together with the appurtenances thereto, unto the said C. D., the said A. B. reserving unto himself a life estate in said tract of land for his own life and for the life of (here insert the name of the wife or other person for whose life a life estate is reserved).

And the said C. D., as a part of the consideration for the grant of said tract of land, does agree to assume and pay (here state any incumbrance that may be assumed by the grantee or any agreement that may be had in regard to the payment of taxes, assessments, etc., by the grantee).

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor this . . . day of . . . , 19...

In presence of } . . . . . [Seal]
. . . . . } . . . . . [Seal]
. . . . . }

(2) Such deed when executed and acknowledged as required by law shall reserve to the grantor or other person or persons, for whose lives a life estate is reserved and to the survivor of them, a good and sufficient title and right to the exclusive possession of the lands conveyed, until the death of all the persons for whose lives such estate is reserved; and upon the death of all the persons for whose lives such an estate is reserved the fee to such lands shall vest absolutely in the grantee.

235.08 Mortgage form; copies. (1) A mortgage may be substantially in the following form:

A. B., mortgagor, of . . . county, Wisconsin, hereby mortgages to C. D., mortgagee, of . . . county, Wisconsin, for the sum of . . . dollars, the following tract of land in . . . county (here describe the premises).

This mortgage is given to secure the following indebtedness (here state amount or amounts and form of indebtedness, whether on note, bond or otherwise, time or times when due, rate of interest, by and to whom payable, etc.).

The mortgagor agrees to pay all taxes and assessments on said premises, and the sum of . . . dollars attorney's fees in case of foreclosure thereof.

Witness the hand and seal of said mortgagor this . . . day of . . . , 19...

In presence of } . . . . . [Seal]
. . . . . } . . . . . [Seal]
. . . . . }

(2) When executed and acknowledged as required by law shall have the effect of a conveyance of the land therein described, together with all the rights, privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging in pledge to the mortgagee, his heirs, assigns and legal representatives for the payment of the indebtedness therein set forth, with covenant from the mortgagor that all taxes and assessments levied and assessed upon the land described, during the continuance of the mortgage, shall be paid previous to the day appointed by law for the sale of lands for taxes as fully as the forms of mortgage now and heretofore in common use in this state, and may be foreclosed in the same manner and with the same effect, except that the same cannot be foreclosed by advertisement as provided in chapter 297, upon any default being made in any of the conditions thereof as to payment of either principal, interest or taxes. Foreclosures by advertisement of mortgages in the form aforesaid, completed prior to January 1, 1913, if otherwise regular, shall be valid unless the action in which the validity of such foreclosure is questioned be commenced or the defense alleging the invalidity thereof be interposed prior to January 1, 1915.

(3) When the mortgage instrument has been executed and acknowledged and the mortgage note signed, copies of these instruments shall be furnished to the mortgagor by the mortgagee at the request of the mortgagor.

History: 1963 c. 45.

235.088 Prohibiting lender from designating attorney for mortgagor. No bank, savings and loan association or other lender or lending agency requiring a borrower to give a mortgage on real estate as security for a loan or an existing indebtedness shall designate the attorney to represent the mortgagor's interest in connection with the giving of the mortgage when the mortgagor has or desires a different attorney for that purpose. Any person violating this section shall be fined not more than \$100 for each violation.

History: 1961 c. 224.

235.09 Assignment of mortgage. An assignment of a mortgage may be substantially in the following form:

For value received, I, A. B., of . . . ., Wisconsin, hereby assign to C. D., of . . . ., Wisconsin, the within mortgage (or a certain mortgage executed to . . . . . by C. F. and wife, of . . . . county, Wisconsin, the . . . . day of . . . ., 19. ., and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of . . . . county, Wisconsin, in Vol. . . . . of mortgages, on page . . . .), together with the . . . . and indebtedness therein mentioned.

Witness my hand and seal this . . . . day of . . . ., 19. .

In presence of }  
..... }  
..... }

A. B. [Seal.]

Such assignment when executed and acknowledged shall be sufficient to vest in the assignee for all purposes all the rights of the mortgagee under the mortgage described and the amount of the indebtedness due thereon at the date of the assignment. Such assignment shall not be indorsed upon the margin of the recorded mortgage.

235.10 Removal of buildings from mortgaged premises. The removal, without the consent of the mortgagee or his assigns, of any building from any real estate upon which there is an unsatisfied mortgage, properly recorded, shall not destroy the lien of such mortgage upon such removed building, but the mortgagee or his assigns shall be entitled to recover the possession of the same in an action of replevin, from any person, and wherever the same may be situated, without regard to the question of the adequacy of the real estate remaining to pay the mortgage debt. If such removal be made by the mortgagor or with his consent, all reasonable expense incurred in recovering such building shall be added to, and collected as a part of the mortgage debt.

235.11 Form of sheriff's deed on execution sale. (1) Deeds of sheriffs upon sale on execution may be in substantially the following form:

Whereas, a judgment in favor of A. B. and against C. D. was docketed in the circuit court of . . . . county, Wisconsin, on the . . . . day of . . . ., 19. ., and E. F., sheriff (or G. H., then sheriff) of said county, in pursuance of an execution upon said judgment against the property of said C. D., said execution being dated the . . . . day of . . . ., 19. ., levied upon the lands hereinafter described and proceeded according to law to advertise and sell the same to satisfy the damages and costs mentioned in the execution, and did on the . . . . day of . . . ., 19. ., sell the said lands to L. M. for . . . . dollars, said L. M. being the best bidder therefor, and thereupon made out duplicate certificates of said sale in the form required by law and filed one of said certificates in the office of the register of deeds of the county of . . . . within ten days after said sale, and delivered the other to the purchaser;

And whereas, . . . . months have expired since said sale and said premises remain unredeemed, and no creditor of the said C. D. has acquired the right of said purchaser (or, and J. K., a creditor of said C. D., has acquired the rights of the purchaser by redemption, as the case may be):

Now, therefore, the said E. F., sheriff aforesaid, in consideration of the premises and of said sum of . . . . dollars to him (or to his predecessor) paid by the said L. M., hereby conveys to the said L. M. (or if a creditor shall have acquired the right of said L. M., then to said creditor by name) the following tract of land in . . . . county, Wisconsin (describe premises), with all the interest which said C. D. had therein on the . . . . day of . . . ., 19. ., or has since acquired.

Witness the hand and seal of said sheriff this . . . . day of . . . ., 19. .

In presence of }  
..... }  
..... }

..... [Seal]

Sheriff of . . . . County, Wisconsin.

(2) Such deed, when executed and acknowledged as required by law, shall convey to the purchaser therein named all the interest of the judgment debtor in the property described as fully as in the form of deed for that purpose heretofore in common use in this state.

**235.12 Form of deeds on foreclosure sales and by advertisement.** (1) Deeds of sheriffs or referees on foreclosure of mortgage shall be sufficient if made in substantially the following form:

Whereas, a judgment of foreclosure and sale was rendered in the .... court of .... county, Wisconsin, on the .... day of .... 19.., in a certain action wherein A. B. was plaintiff and C. D. defendant, and in pursuance thereof, after due advertisement, the mortgaged premises hereinafter described were sold on the .... day of ...., 19.., to E. F. for the sum of .... dollars, he being the best bidder therefor;

And whereas, the said E. F. (or G. H., assignee of said E. F.) is now entitled to a conveyance thereof according to law:

Now, therefore, the undersigned J. K., sheriff (or referee), in consideration of the premises and of the said sum of .... dollars paid by the said E. F., hereby conveys to said E. F. the following tract of land in .... county, Wisconsin (description of land).

Witness the hand and seal of said sheriff this .... day of ...., 19...

In presence of	}	.... [Seal]
....		Sheriff of .... County, Wisconsin.
....		

(2) Such deed, when executed and acknowledged according to law, shall have the effect to convey to the purchaser therein named all the interest of the mortgagor or other persons in the premises described as fully as the forms of such deeds heretofore in common use in this state.

(3) Deeds of sheriffs on foreclosure of mortgage by advertisement under chapter 297 shall be sufficient if made substantially in the following form:

Whereas, a certain mortgage, executed by .... of ...., and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of .... county, Wisconsin, in Vol. .... of mortgages, at page ...., and foreclosed under and by virtue of chapter 297, revised statutes of Wisconsin, and in pursuance thereof, after due advertisement, the mortgaged premises hereinafter described were sold on the .... day of ...., 19.., to E. F., of ...., for the sum of .... dollars, he being the best bidder therefor;

And whereas, the said E. F. (or G. H., assignee of said ....) is now entitled to a conveyance thereof according to law:

Now, therefore, the undersigned J. K., sheriff, in consideration of the premises and of said sum of .... dollars paid by the said E. F., hereby conveys to said E. F. the following tract of land in .... county, Wisconsin (description of land).

Witness the hand and seal of said sheriff this .... day of ...., 19...

In presence of	}	.... [Seal]
....		Sheriff of .... County, Wisconsin.
....		

(4) Such deed as in last-above form, when executed and acknowledged according to law, shall have the effect to convey to the grantee therein named all the interest of the mortgagor or other persons in the premises described as contemplated by chapter 297 as fully as the forms of such deeds heretofore in common use in this state and as fully as any form could do.

**235.13 Deeds by sheriff's successor.** In all cases where any sale has been or may hereafter be made by any sheriff under or in pursuance of any order, judgment or decree of any court and such sheriff did not or shall not, before the expiration of his term of office, execute a deed to carry such sale into effect such deed may be executed by the successor of such sheriff in office at the time of the application for such deed, and any deed so executed by any successor of the sheriff making such sale while in office shall have the same force and effect as though the same had been executed by the sheriff making such sale.

**235.14 Deeds of general and special guardians.** (1) A guardian's deed substantially in the following form:

Whereas, by a license made by the county court of .... county, Wisconsin, on the .... day of .... 19.., A. B., guardian of C. D., minor child of J. D., late of ...., deceased, was authorized to sell the interest of the said C. D. in the lands hereinafter described; and

whereas, the said A. B., having first taken the oath and given the bond required by law, did, after due advertisement, sell, on the . . . day of . . . , 19. . . , said lands to E. F., of . . . county, Wisconsin, for the sum of . . . dollars, he being the best bidder therefor; and whereas, such proceedings were confirmed by an order of said county court on the . . . day of . . . , 19. . . , and this conveyance directed:

Now, therefore, the said A. B., in this capacity as guardian as aforesaid, in consideration of the premises and of the said sum of . . . dollars paid by said E. F., hereby conveys to the said E. F. the following tract of land in . . . county, Wisconsin (description of land).

Witness the hand and seal of the said A. B., guardian as aforesaid, this . . . day of . . . , 19. . .

In presence of } A. B., [Seal]
Guardian of C. D., minor child of
J. D., deceased.

(2) When executed and acknowledged according to law shall have the effect to convey to the grantee therein named all the estate of the ward in the lands therein described.

(3) A deed by a special guardian authorized by the circuit court or circuit judge to convey real estate of any infant in substantially the following form:

Whereas, on application in the circuit court of . . . county, Wisconsin, to sell all the rights, title and interest of . . . infant, in and to the real estate hereinafter described, such proceedings were had that the undersigned was, on the . . . day of . . . , 19. . . , appointed the special guardian of said infant in relation to the proceedings to be had upon such application and gave and filed a duly approved bond to the judge of said court as required, and such proceedings were thereafter had in such circuit court upon such application that by order made on the . . . day of . . . , 19. . . , by said court or by ( . . . , circuit judge), said special guardian was authorized to execute, acknowledge and deliver to . . . a deed of conveyance of all the right, title and interest of said . . . infant, in and to said real estate:

Now, therefore, I, the said . . . , in my capacity of special guardian aforesaid, and in consideration of the premises and . . . dollars to me in hand paid by the said . . . , do hereby grant and convey unto the said . . . all the right, title and interest of the said . . . infant, in and to the following described real estate in . . . county, Wisconsin, to wit: (description of land.)

Witness the hand and seal of the said . . . , special guardian as aforesaid, this . . . day of . . . , 19. . .

In presence of } . . . [Seal]
Special Guardian of . . . , Infant.

(4) When executed and acknowledged according to law shall have the effect to convey to the grantee therein named all the estate, right and title of the infant in the lands therein described. And if there are more than one infant whose land is to be so conveyed, such form may be varied accordingly. And every such deed, when properly executed and acknowledged, and the record thereof, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated and of the authority of every such guardian to execute such deed, and of the regularity and validity of all the proceedings prior to the execution of such deed.

235.15 Use of other forms not forbidden. No form of conveyance hereinbefore prescribed in this chapter shall be deemed to exclude the use of any other form sufficient in law.

235.18 Seal; curative act. Every conveyance of real estate duly signed, witnessed and acknowledged according to the laws of this state in force at the time of its execution, but which conveyance was not sealed, shall, after 10 years after its execution, be deemed to have been a perfect conveyance and to have been entitled to record, the same as if such conveyance had been sealed at the time of its execution; and every such conveyance shall, together with any record thereof, be receivable in evidence with the same effect as if it had been sealed at the time of its execution; but this section shall not apply to deeds to which official seals or seals of corporations should have been affixed, nor shall it affect the interest of any person, who prior to the expiration of said 10-year period, has acquired an adverse interest in the said real estate.

235.19 Uniform acknowledgment act. (1) MANNER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT. Any instrument may be acknowledged in the manner and form now provided by the laws of this state, or as provided by this section.

(2) WHO MAY TAKE WITHIN THE STATE. The acknowledgment of any instrument may be made in this state before:

- (a) A judge of a court of record;
- (b) A clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal;
- (c) A commissioner or register of deeds;
- (d) A notary public;
- (f) A master in chancery or register in chancery; or
- (g) A clerk of a court of record;
- (h) A court commissioner;
- (i) A county clerk or deputy county clerk;
- (j) A municipal justice; or

(k) A United States commissioner residing within this state who files with the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which he resides his certificate of appointment as commissioner, or a copy thereof certified by the clerk of the court which appointed him.

(3) WHO MAY TAKE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. The acknowledgment of any instrument may be made without the state but within the United States or a territory or insular possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Philippine Islands and within the jurisdiction of the officer, before:

- (a) A clerk or deputy clerk of any federal court;
- (b) A clerk or deputy clerk of any court of record of any state or other jurisdiction;
- (c) A notary public;
- (d) A commissioner of deeds.

(4) WHO MAY TAKE WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES. The acknowledgment of any instrument may be made without the United States before:

- (a) An ambassador, minister, charge d'affaires, counselor to or secretary of a legation, consul general, consul, vice consul, commercial attache or consular agent of the United States accredited to the country where the acknowledgment is made;
- (b) A notary public of the country where the acknowledgment is made;
- (c) A judge or clerk of a court of record of the country where the acknowledgment is made.

(5) REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICER. The officer taking the acknowledgment shall know or have satisfactory evidence that the person making the acknowledgment is the person described in and who executed the instrument.

(6) MARRIED WOMAN'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT. An acknowledgment of a married woman may be made in the same form as though she were unmarried.

(7) FORMS OF CERTIFICATES. An officer taking the acknowledgment shall indorse thereon or attach thereto a certificate substantially in one of the following forms:

(a) By individuals:

State of ....  
 County of ....  
 On this the .... day of ...., 19.., before me, ...., the undersigned officer, personally appeared ...., known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name .... subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that ..he.. executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

.....  
 .....  
 Title of Officer.

(b) By a corporation:

State of ....  
 County of ....  
 On this the .... day of ...., 19.., before me, ...., the undersigned officer, personally appeared ...., who acknowledged himself to be the .... of ...., a corporation, and that he, as such ...., being authorized so to do, executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained, by signing the name of the corporation by himself as .....

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

.....  
 .....  
 Title of Officer.

(c) By an attorney in fact:

State of ....  
 County of ....

On this the . . . . day of . . . ., 19. . ., before me, . . . . ., the undersigned officer, personally appeared . . . . ., known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument as attorney in fact for . . . . . and acknowledged that he executed the same as the act of his principal for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

. . . . .  
. . . . .  
Title of Officer.

(d) By any public officer or deputy thereof, or by any trustee, administrator, guardian or executor:  
State of . . . .  
County of . . . .

On this the . . . . day of . . . ., 19. . ., before me, . . . . ., the undersigned officer, personally appeared . . . . ., of the state (county or city as the case may be) of . . . ., known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person described in the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same in the capacity therein stated and for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

. . . . .  
. . . . .  
Title of Officer.

(e) General:  
State of . . . .  
. . . . County.

Personally came before me this . . . . day of . . . ., 19. . ., the above (or within) named A. B. and C. B., his wife (or if an officer adding the name of his office), to me known to be the persons who executed the foregoing (or within) instrument and acknowledged the same.

(Seal) (Insert designation of officer)

(8) EXECUTION OF CERTIFICATE. The certificate of the acknowledging officer shall be completed by his signature, his official seal if he has one, the title of his office, and if he is a notary public, the date his commission expires or if permanently commissioned, words to that effect.

(9) AUTHENTICATION OF FOREIGN ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. (a) If the acknowledgment is taken within this state or is made without the United States by an officer of the United States no authentication shall be necessary.

(b) If the acknowledgment is taken in any other state, territory or district of the United States, unless it is taken before a commissioner appointed by the governor of this state, a clerk of a court of record with its seal attached, or a notary public with his seal attached, the certificate of acknowledgment shall be authenticated by a certificate as to the official character of the officer taking the acknowledgment, executed by a clerk of a court of record of the county, parish or district in which the acknowledgment is taken. The signature to the authenticating certificate may be a facsimile printed, stamped, photographed or engraved thereon when the certificate bears the seal of the authenticating officer. A clerk authenticating an acknowledgment shall endorse thereon or attach thereto a certificate in substantially the following form:

State of . . . .  
County of . . . .

I, . . . . clerk of the . . . . in and for said county, which court is a court of record, having a seal, do hereby certify that . . . . by and before whom the foregoing (or annexed) acknowledgment was taken, was at the time of taking the same a . . . . residing (or authorized to act) in said county, and was authorized by the laws of said state to take and certify acknowledgments in said state, and, further, that I am acquainted with his handwriting and that I believe that the signature to the certificate of acknowledgment is genuine.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the court this . . . . day of . . . ., 19. . .

(c) If the acknowledgment is taken without the United States and by a notary public or a judge or clerk of a court of record of the country where the acknowledgment is taken, the certificate shall be authenticated by a certificate under the great seal of state of the country, affixed by the custodian of such seal, or by a certificate of a diplomatic, consular or commercial officer of the United States accredited to that country, certifying as to the official character of such officer. The officer authenticating an acknowledgment



shall endorse thereon or attach thereto a certificate in substantially the form prescribed in par. (b).

(10) **VALIDITY OF FOREIGN ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** Notwithstanding any provision in this section contained the acknowledgment of any instrument without this state in compliance with the manner and form prescribed by the laws of the place of its execution, if in a state, a territory or insular possession of the United States, or in the District of Columbia, or in the Philippine Islands, verified by the official seal of the officer before whom it is acknowledged, and authenticated in the manner provided by subsection (9) (b), shall have the same effect as an acknowledgment in the manner and form prescribed by the laws of this state for instruments executed within the state.

(11) **PERSONS IN ARMED FORCES AND DEPENDENTS.** In addition to the acknowledgment of instruments in the manner and form and as otherwise authorized by this section, persons serving in or with the armed forces of the United States or their dependents, wherever located, may acknowledge the same before any commissioned officer in active service of the armed forces of the United States. The instrument shall not be rendered invalid by the failure to state therein the place of execution or acknowledgment. No authentication of the officer's certificate of acknowledgment shall be required but the officer taking the acknowledgment shall indorse thereon or attach thereto a certificate substantially in the following form:

On this .... day of ...., 19.., before me, ...., the undersigned officer, personally appeared ...., Serial No. ...., known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be (serving in or with the armed forces of the United States) (a dependent of ...., Serial No. ...., a person serving in or with the armed forces of the United States) and to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that .. he .. executed the same for the purposes therein contained. And the undersigned does further certify that he is at the date of this certificate a commissioned officer of the rank stated below, and is in the active service of the armed forces of the United States.

.....  
Signature of Officer

.....  
Rank and Serial No. of Officer and  
Command to which attached.

(12) **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS VALIDATED.** Any defective acknowledgment taken prior to June 16, 1943 but which would be valid if taken under this section is hereby validated.

(13) **ABSENCE OF SEAL OR WITNESSES.** The absence of a seal or of witnesses to an instrument which is acknowledged in the manner and form provided by subs. (7) (a) to (e) and (8) to (11) shall not render the instrument unrecordable.

(14) **UNIFORMITY OF INTERPRETATION.** This section shall be so interpreted as to make uniform the laws of those states which enact it.

(15) **NAME OF ACT.** This section may be cited as the Uniform Acknowledgment Act.

**History:** 1961 c. 423, 495; 1965 c. 617; 1967 c. 276.

**Cross Reference:** For admissibility of acknowledged instrument as evidence, see 889.23.

**235.20 Defective execution cured.** (1) Any instrument in writing affecting the title to real property in this state, which has been signed by the party or parties, or, if a corporation, by the proper corporate officers, but which instrument is not acknowledged or is defectively acknowledged, or is not properly witnessed, or is not sealed, or was executed without corporate authority, or was otherwise defectively executed, shall, after the same has been recorded in the office of the proper register of deeds for 10 years, have the same force and effect as though such instrument had been originally executed, witnessed, sealed and acknowledged according to law.

(2) Any instrument or certificate in writing made in connection with a map or plat of any lands, affecting the title of real property in this state, which certificate or instrument has been signed by the party or parties, or, if a corporation, by the proper corporate officers, but which instrument or certificate is not acknowledged or is defectively acknowledged, or is not properly witnessed, or is not sealed, or was executed without corporate authority, or was otherwise defectively executed, shall, after the same has been recorded in the office of the proper register of deeds for 10 years, have the same force and effect as though such instrument or certificate had been originally executed, witnessed, sealed and acknowledged as provided by chapter 236.

(3) All deeds or other written instruments, the execution of which has been before May 26, 1923, acknowledged before a register of deeds, are declared to be legal and valid to the same extent, and shall have the same effect as if the execution of such deed or writ-

ten instrument had been acknowledged before a person authorized to take such acknowledgment. All acknowledgments of deeds or other written instruments, prior to July 10, 1943, taken before a duly commissioned officer of any of the armed forces of the United States, including a duly commissioned officer of any of the women's auxiliary military services established by act of congress, are declared to be legal and valid.

**235.21 Effect of seal if legible.** When the seal affixed to a certificate of acknowledgment contains the name and the official title of the officer, any error in stating, or failure to state otherwise the official title of the officer, shall not render the certificate defective.

**History:** 1961 c. 420.

**235.22 Execution and acknowledgment abroad.** Any conveyance or instrument requiring an acknowledgment executed without this state may be executed and acknowledged according to the laws of the place of its execution, and if so executed and acknowledged, the certificate of acknowledgment may state that fact in lieu of other proof thereof.

**History:** 1961 c. 420.

**235.255 Instruments executed by persons in war service validated.** (1) DEFINITIONS. As used in this section the term:

(a) "Person engaged in war service" means any member of the armed forces of the United States, including those held as prisoners of war; any officer or seaman of the merchant marine of the United States; any citizen of the United States who is interned in a foreign country; or any citizen of the United States who is outside the limits of the United States by permission, assignment or direction of any department or official of the United States government, in connection with an activity pertaining to the prosecution of any war in which the United States is then engaged.

(b) "During the period of the existing war" means the period commencing September 16, 1940, and ending one year after the termination by treaty of peace proclaimed by the President of the wars in which the United States is now (1945) engaged.

(c) "Conveyance" means any (writing signed by the person executing it and intended to be a) deed, mortgage, power of attorney, or other instrument (except a will or codicil) affecting the title to or disposition of real or personal property, and the validity of which is governed by the laws of this state.

(2) VALIDATION. Whenever, during the period of the existing war, a person engaged in war service has executed, or shall execute, a conveyance, it shall not be invalid because of the lack of, or defective, seal, attestation, witnessing or acknowledgment; nor shall the conveyance be denied recordation because of lack of, or defective, acknowledgment, witnessing or attestation, if there is recorded an affidavit that the person executing it was a person engaged in war service at the time of the execution of the instrument.

(3) WILLS. Whenever, during the period of the existing war, a person engaged in war service has executed, or shall execute, a will or codicil, it shall not be denied probate, because of lack of witnesses; because the witnesses cannot be found or produced to prove the will; because the signatures of the witnesses cannot be proved; because of any defect in attestation or publication; or because the testator was below testamentary age, if the court finds the signature to be genuine and finds from the face of the instrument or other proof that the signer intended it to take effect as a will or codicil. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect the validity of nuncupative or oral wills.

(4) EXCEPTIONS. (a) This section shall not apply to a conveyance, will or codicil which, before July 19, 1945 has been judicially construed to be invalid.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to affect the rights of the the signer of such legal instrument, will or codicil, or his successors in interest, arising out of fraud, duress, undue influence, mental incompetence, or in the case of a conveyance the rights arising out of infancy.

**235.26 Deed of married woman.** Every married woman of full age residing in this state or elsewhere may, by joint or separate deed, convey her lands in this state or any interest therein or by joint or separate deed of conveyance release her dower in any lands of her husband which have been conveyed voluntarily by him or upon execution, judgment of foreclosure or decree of court in the same manner and with like effect as if she were unmarried; and every conveyance of any such real estate or interest therein, executed and acknowledged by any married woman in the manner prescribed in this chapter, shall have the same effect as if she were unmarried.

**History:** 1961 c. 420.

**235.27 Conveyance by a married minor woman.** A married minor woman, by joining with her husband or with his guardian, if he be under guardianship for any cause,

in a conveyance of any real estate duly executed and acknowledged by her in the manner prescribed in this chapter may alienate any right, title or interest she may have therein including her inchoate right of dower and her homestead rights; and the joinder of her name as grantor in any deed so executed by her shall be sufficient to convey and divest her of right, title or interest in the real estate therein described and bar her dower and release her homestead rights without any other words therein. And whenever her husband's title to any land shall have been lawfully conveyed to another she may, either before or after the decease of her husband, alienate any right, title or interest she may have in the land or bar her dower or release her homestead rights therein by her quitclaim deed to such land to such other person executed and acknowledged as prescribed in this chapter.

**History:** 1961 c. 328.

**235.28 Conveyance by attorney.** Any married woman may, by letter of attorney, executed and acknowledged in the manner prescribed in this chapter, authorize and empower her attorney to bar her dower or to convey any other interest in any real estate in the same manner and in the same cases as she might personally do.

**235.29 Acknowledgment or proof, how made.** Every such conveyance and letter of attorney executed by a married woman, whether executed alone or in conjunction with her husband, of or relating to real estate may be acknowledged by her or the proof of the execution thereof may be taken and certified the same as if she were unmarried.

**235.30 Dower of insane wife, how released.** Whenever any married man shall present a petition, duly verified by his oath, to the circuit court or to the county court of the county in which he resides, showing that his wife is insane; that he is the owner of real estate, describing the same, in which his wife has an inchoate dower interest or homestead interest, and that it would be for his interest to convey, mortgage or otherwise dispose of or that he has conveyed, mortgaged or disposed of any or all of such real estate or of any interest therein, and praying for an order authorizing him or some other person to execute deeds of any such real estate for his wife, relinquishing her dower or homestead interest therein, such court or presiding judge shall make an order fixing the time, not more than 60 nor less than 20 days from the filing of such petition, and the place for the hearing thereof, and shall also appoint some suitable person to act as the guardian of such wife in relation to the matter of such petition; a copy of such petition and order shall be personally served on such wife and such next of kin, if any, as the court or the presiding judge shall direct, at least 20 days and upon such guardian at least 15 days, if she be a resident of this state, and if she be not such resident it shall be served on such wife at least 30 days and on such guardian at least 20 days before the time fixed for such hearing.

**235.31 Dower of insane wife, how released.** Any grantee, immediate or remote, of the husband of an insane woman, may in like manner apply to the circuit court of the county where the real estate conveyed is located to bar the dower of such insane woman, as provided in section 235.30, and thereupon like proceedings shall be had, and such grantee may recover from such husband the amount paid to the guardian of such insane woman, pursuant to the order of the court unless the value of such dower right was expressly excluded from the consideration of the conveyance.

**235.32 Duty of guardian; order of court.** (1) The guardian so appointed shall ascertain as to the propriety and necessity of granting the prayer of the petition, and he and such wife shall have power to resist such application, and they or either of them may deny by answer any or all of the allegations of such petition and produce witnesses and take depositions to show the impropriety of granting the same, and may demand that the issues therein shall be tried by a jury.

(2) Upon the hearing of such petition the proofs shall in all cases be produced in open court; and if it shall appear that such wife is insane, and that the application is made in good faith, and that it will be for her benefit to grant the prayer of said petition the court shall make an order directing the petitioner or such other person as the court shall designate to execute in the name of such wife deeds of release to the proper parties of the dower or homestead right of such wife in or to any lands sold or to be sold, mortgaged or conveyed by such husband during her insanity, describing such lands in such order; provided, the court shall, as a condition of granting such order, require that there shall be secured, in such manner as the court shall direct, upon the estate of such husband, or out of the proceeds of the sales of such real estate, or by bond with sufficient sureties, conditioned for the support and maintenance of such wife, such sum for the use and benefit of such wife during her life as the court shall under all the circumstances deem just, regard being had to the station and condition in life of the said husband and wife.

(3) If in any such proceedings it shall appear that the land petitioned to be sold or mortgaged was acquired by the husband solely from his share of the proceeds of a former sale or mortgage in which former sale or mortgage the dower or homestead interest of such wife was adjusted, the court may in its order authorize the execution and delivery of a deed or mortgage in behalf of such wife without requiring any portion of the proceeds to be held for her benefit. All conveyances executed in pursuance of such order shall release and bar all her dower or homestead interest in the real estate described therein and which shall be sold and conveyed by her husband during her insanity. The power granted by such order, so far as the same shall not have been executed, shall cease as soon as such wife shall become sane and shall apply for and procure a revocation thereof.

**235.33 Conveyance to heir.** Whenever any person holding a contract for the conveyance of land, as purchaser thereof, shall die before the execution of a deed of such lands to him, and such deceased person shall have been entitled to receive such deed prior to his death, or full payment therefor shall be made by his widow or any heir of such deceased, it shall be lawful for the vendor of said land to execute a deed naming such deceased person as grantee therein, and to deliver said conveyance to the widow, or any heir of said deceased, and the execution and delivery thereof shall pass the title to the heirs or devisees, subject to the rights of the widow, if any, in the same manner and with the same interest or estate which they would have received, had the deed been made prior to the death of the deceased and subject to all claims, liens or equities, which might exist had the title passed by descent or devise.

**235.34 Conveyance, how proved.** When any grantor shall die or depart from or reside out of this state, not having acknowledged his conveyance, the due execution thereof may be proved by any competent subscribing witness thereto before any court of record; if all the subscribing witnesses to such deed shall be dead or out of this state the same may be proved before any such court by proving the handwriting of the grantor and of any subscribing witness thereto.

**235.35 How made when grantor refuses.** If any grantor residing in this state refuses to acknowledge his conveyance the grantee or any person claiming under him may apply to the county judge in the county where the land lies or where the grantor or any subscribing witness to the conveyance resides, who shall thereupon issue a summons to the grantor to appear at a certain time and place before said judge to hear the testimony of the subscribing witnesses to the conveyance; and the summons, with a copy of the conveyance annexed, shall be served at least 7 days before the time therein assigned for proving the same. At the time mentioned in such summons or at any time to which the hearing may be adjourned the due execution of the conveyance may be proved by the testimony of one or more of the subscribing witnesses: and if proved to the satisfaction of the judge he shall certify the same thereon, and in such certificate he shall note the presence or absence of the grantor as the fact may be.

**History:** 1967 c. 276.

**235.36 How, when witnesses dead.** If any grantor residing in this state shall refuse to acknowledge his conveyance and all the subscribing witnesses thereto be dead or out of the state, it may be proved before any court of record by proving the handwriting of the grantor or of any subscribing witness, upon the court first summoning the grantor to hear the testimony as provided in section 235.35.

**235.37 Witnesses, how subpoenaed; neglect to appear.** The court before whom any conveyance may be presented to be proved, as provided in ss. 235.34 to 235.36, may issue subpoenas to the subscribing witnesses or others, as the case may require, to appear and testify touching the execution of such deed, which subpoenas may be served in any part of this state; and every person so subpoenaed who, without reasonable cause, neglects to appear or refuses to answer on oath touching the matters aforesaid shall be liable to the party injured in the sum of \$100 damages and for such further damages as the party may sustain thereby, and may also be punished as for a contempt by the court.

**History:** 1967 c. 276.

**235.38 Copy of defective conveyance may be filed.** Any person interested in a conveyance that is not acknowledged may, before or during any such application to prove the same, file in the office of the register of deeds a copy of the conveyance compared with the original by the register, which shall, if such proceedings shall have been or shall within ten days thereafter be commenced, have the same effect as the recording of such conveyance until the expiration of seven days after the termination of such proceedings, if such conveyance shall before that time be duly proved or recorded.

**235.39 Recordability.** A certificate of the acknowledgment of any conveyance or of the proof of the execution thereof before a court of record, signed by the clerk of such court before whom the same was taken shall entitle such conveyance with the certificates aforesaid to be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of every county in which any of the lands lie.

**History:** 1961 c. 622; 1967 c. 276.

**235.40 Copy of deed.** Whenever any conveyance of lands situated in different counties shall have been recorded in any county within which any of such lands are situated a copy of the record of such conveyance, duly certified by the register of deeds, may be recorded in any other county in which any of such lands are situated in the same manner and with like effect as the originals.

**235.41 Lands partly in another state.** Whenever any conveyance of any lands, a part of which are situated in this state and a part in some other state, shall have been recorded in such other state a copy of the record of such conveyance, certified by the officer whose duty it is under the laws of such other state to certify to the record of conveyances, may be recorded in every county in this state in which any part of said lands are situated in the same manner and with like effect as the original.

**235.42 Patents; receivers' certificates.** All patents of lands which shall have been issued by the territory or state of Wisconsin or by the proper officers thereof, or by the United States or its proper officers, and all duly certified copies of such patents issued by the United States or this state, or the officers of either, and the receipt of the receiver of any land office of the United States of the entry or purchase of any lands lying in this state, together with an assignment thereof indorsed thereon, may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of any county wherein any part of the lands described in such patent or receiver's receipt are situated.

**235.43 Judgments, etc.** All judgments, decrees and orders rendered or made by any court in cases where the title to land shall have been in controversy or operating to pass title thereto or otherwise affect the title, may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of every county where any part of the lands are situated, in the same manner and with like effect as conveyances. Such recording may be done from a duly certified copy thereof.

**235.435 Bankruptcy proceedings.** Any part of the proceedings in bankruptcy may be recorded in the office of register of deeds in any county in which the bankrupt has an interest in real property.

**235.44 Letters of attorney.** A letter of attorney or other instrument containing a power to convey lands as agent or attorney for the owner thereof when executed, acknowledged and proved in the manner prescribed in this chapter for the execution, acknowledgment and proof of conveyances may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of any county in which any of the lands to which such power relates are situated.

**235.45 Bonds and contracts.** Every bond or contract for the sale or purchase of lands or concerning any interest in lands, made in writing, under seal, attested by two witnesses and acknowledged, may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county where the lands lie.

**235.46 Real estate titles; record evidence.** Affidavits, witnessed by 2 subscribing witnesses, stating facts as to possession of any premises, descent, heirship, date of birth, death or marriage, or the identity of a party to any conveyance of record, or that any such party was or is single or married, or as to the identification of any plats or subdivisions of any city or village, or as to corporate authorization to convey, may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds in any county where such conveyance is recorded, or within which such premises or city or village is situated, and the record of any such affidavit, or a certified copy thereof, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts touching any such matter, which are therein stated.

**235.47 Records of conveyances for new counties.** Where a portion of any county shall have been made a part or all of another county, and the original records of conveyances affecting the title to lands so set off shall remain in such original county, the county board of such new county may direct the register of deeds of either county to prepare in book form true and correct copies (with an entry in the margin of each conveyance showing the volume and page of the original record thereof) of all such original records, and he shall enter at the end of each transcribed volume under his hand and official seal his certificate to the effect that he has carefully compared the same with such originals, and

that the foregoing are true and correct copies of such original records, and of the whole thereof. Such certified volumes of records shall be kept in the office of the register of deeds of such new county, and shall have the same effect as the originals; and a copy of such certified records or of any of them shall be received in all courts and places as a copy of the original record.

**235.48 Effect of deed made under other statutes.** All conveyances of real estate heretofore made and acknowledged or proved in accordance with the laws of this state, in force at the time of such making and acknowledgment or proof, shall have the same force as evidence and be recorded in the same manner and with like effect as conveyances executed and acknowledged in pursuance of the provisions of this chapter.

**235.49 Unrecorded deed, effect.** Every conveyance of real estate within this state hereafter made (except patents issued by the United States or this state, or by the proper officers of either) which shall not be recorded as provided by law shall be void as against any subsequent purchaser in good faith and for a valuable consideration of the same real estate or any portion thereof whose conveyance shall first be duly recorded.

Possession of land is constructive notice sufficient to put the purchaser on his guard of whatever rights the possessor may have in the land if such possession is visible, open, clear, full, notorious, unequivocal, unambiguous, inconsistent with, or adverse to the title or interest of the vendor. Such possession is considered constructive notice of the rights of the possessor, whether the possession is used for the purpose of charging a purchaser with notice of an outstanding equity or of an unrecorded conveyance and thereby defeating any claim under this section (because of failure to record the conveyance as provided by law). *Bump v. Dahl*, 26 W (2d) 607, 133 NW (2d) 295, 134 NW (2d) 665.

**235.491 Notice of conveyance from the record.** (1) WHEN CONVEYANCE IS FREE OF PRIOR ADVERSE CLAIM. A purchaser for a valuable consideration, without notice as defined in sub. (2), and his successors in interest, shall take and hold the estate or interest purported to be conveyed to such purchaser free of any claim adverse to or inconsistent with such estate or interest, if such adverse claim is dependent for its validity or priority upon:

(a) *Nondelivery.* Nondelivery, or conditional or revocable delivery, of any recorded conveyance, unless the condition or revocability is expressly referred to in such conveyance or other recorded instrument.

(b) *Conveyance outside chain of title not identified by definite reference.* Any conveyance, transaction or event not appearing of record in the chain of title to the real estate affected, unless such conveyance, transaction or event is identified by definite reference in an instrument of record in such chain. No reference shall be definite which fails to specify, by direct reference to a particular place in the public land record, or, by positive statement, the nature and scope of the prior outstanding interest created or affected by such conveyance, transaction or event, the identity of the original or subsequent owner or holder of such interest, the real estate affected, and the approximate date of such conveyance, transaction or event.

(c) *Unrecorded extensions of interests expiring by lapse of time.* Continuance, extension or renewal of rights of grantees, purchasers, optionees, or lessees under any land contract, option, lease or other conveyance of an interest limited to expire, absolutely or upon a contingency, within a fixed or determinable time, where 2 years have elapsed after such time, unless there is recorded a notice or other instrument referring to such continuance, extension or renewal and stating or providing a later time for the enforcement, exercise, performance or termination of such interest and then only if less than 2 years have elapsed after such later time. This paragraph shall not apply to life estates, mortgages or trust deeds, nor shall it inferentially extend any interest otherwise expiring by lapse of time.

(d) *Nonidentity of persons in chain of title.* Nonidentity of persons named in, signing or acknowledging one or more related conveyances or instruments affecting real estate, provided the persons appear in such conveyances under identical names or under variants thereof, including inclusion, exclusion or use of: commonly recognized abbreviations, contractions, initials, or foreign, colloquial, or other equivalents; first or middle names or initials; simple transpositions which produce substantially similar pronunciation; articles or prepositions in names or titles; description of entities as corporations, companies, or any abbreviation or contraction of either; name suffixes such as senior or junior; where such identity or variance has appeared of record for 5 years.

(e) *Marital interests.* Dower or homestead of the spouse of any transferor of an interest in real estate, where the recorded conveyance purporting to transfer the same states that the person executing it is single, unmarried or widowed; or fails to indicate the marital status of such transferor, and where such conveyance has, in either case, appeared of record for 5 years. This paragraph shall not apply to the interest of a

married woman who is described of record as holder in joint tenancy with such transferor.

(f) *Lack of authority of officers, agents or fiduciaries.* Any defect or insufficiency in authorization of any purported officer, partner, agent or fiduciary to act in the name or on behalf of any corporation, partnership, principal, trust, estate, minor, incompetent or other holder of an interest in real estate purported to be conveyed in a representative capacity, after the conveyance has appeared of record for 5 years.

(g) *Defects in judicial proceedings.* Any defect or irregularity, jurisdictional or otherwise, in an action or proceeding out of which any judgment or order affecting real estate issued after the judgment or order has appeared of record for 5 years.

(h) *Nonexistence, incapacity or incompetency.* Nonexistence, ultra vires act or legal incapacity or incompetency of any purported person or legal entity, whether natural or artificial, foreign or domestic, provided the recorded conveyance or instrument affecting the real estate shall purport to have been duly executed by such purported person or legal entity, and shall have appeared of record for 5 years.

(i) *Facts not asserted of record.* Any fact not appearing of record, but the opposite or contradiction of which appears affirmatively and expressly in a conveyance, affidavit or other instrument of record in the chain of title of the real estate affected for 5 years. Such facts may, without limitation by noninclusion, relate to age, sex, birth, death, capacity, relationship, family history, descent, heirship, names, identity of persons, marriage, marital status, homestead, possession or adverse possession, residence, service in the armed forces, conflicts and ambiguities in descriptions of land in recorded instruments, identification of any recorded plats or subdivisions, corporate authorization to convey, and the happening of any condition or event which terminates an estate or interest.

(j) *Defects in tax deed.* Nonexistence or illegality of any proceedings from and including the assessment of the real estate for taxation up to and including the execution of the tax deed after the tax deed has been of record for 5 years.

(k) *Interests not of record within 30 years.* Any interest of which no affirmative and express notice appears of record within 30 years.

(2) NOTICE OF PRIOR CLAIM. A purchaser has notice of a prior outstanding claim or interest, within the meaning of this section wherever, at the time such purchaser's interest arises in law or equity:

(a) *Affirmative notice.* Such purchaser has affirmative notice apart from the record of the existence of such prior outstanding claim, including notice, actual or constructive, arising from use or occupancy of the real estate by any person at the time such purchaser's interest therein arises, whether or not such use or occupancy is exclusive; but no constructive notice shall be deemed to arise from use or occupancy unless due and diligent inquiry of persons using or occupying such real estate would, under the circumstances, reasonably have disclosed such prior outstanding interest; nor unless such use or occupancy is actual, visible, open and notorious; or

(b) *Notice of record within 30 years.* There appears of record in the chain of title of the real estate affected, within 30 years and prior to the time at which the interest of such purchaser arises in law or equity, an instrument affording affirmative and express notice of such prior outstanding interest conforming to the requirements of definiteness of sub. (1) (b); or

(c) *Same.* The applicable provisions of sub. (1) (c) to (k) requiring that an instrument remain for a time of record, have not been fully satisfied.

(3) WHEN PRIOR INTEREST NOT BARRED. This section shall not be applied to bar or infringe any prior outstanding interest in real estate:

(a) *Public service corporations, railroads, trustees, governmental units.* While owned, occupied or used by any public service corporation as defined in s. 196.01 or any railroad corporation as defined in s. 195.02, or any trustee or receiver of any such corporation, or any mortgagee or trust deed trustee or receiver thereof; nor any such interest while held by the United States, the state or any political subdivision or municipal corporation thereof; or

(b) *Unplatted, unimproved, unused etc.* Which, at the time such subsequent purchaser's interest arises, is unplatted, vacant and unoccupied, unused, unimproved and uncultivated; except that this paragraph shall not apply to prior interests dependent for validity or priority upon the circumstances described in sub. (1) (a), (b), (j) and (k).

(4) CHAIN OF TITLE: DEFINITION. The term "chain of title" as used in this section includes instruments, actions and proceedings discoverable by reasonable search of the public records and indices affecting real estate in the offices of the register of deeds

and in probate and of clerks of courts of the counties in which the real estate is located; a tract index shall be deemed an index where the same is publicly maintained.

(5) CONSTRUCTION. Nothing in this section shall be construed to raise or support any inference adverse or hostile to marketability of titles.

(6) This section shall take effect and may be invoked by qualified purchasers without notice as defined in sub. (2) whose interests arise on or after July 1, 1968, and by their successors in interest thereafter.

**History:** 1967 c. 274.

**235.50 "Conveyance" and "purchaser" defined.** The term "conveyance," as used in this chapter, shall be construed to embrace every instrument in writing by which any estate or interest in real estate is created, aliened, mortgaged or assigned or by which the title to any real estate may be affected in law or equity, except wills and leases for a term not exceeding three years; and the term "purchaser," as so used, shall be construed to embrace every person to whom any estate or interest in real estate shall be conveyed for a valuable consideration and also every assignee of a mortgage or lease or other conditional estate.

**235.51 When deed not defeated by defeasance.** When a deed purports to be an absolute conveyance in terms, but is made or intended to be made defeasible by force of a deed of defeasance or other instrument for that purpose, the original conveyance shall not be thereby defeated or affected as against any person other than the maker of the defeasance or his heirs or devisees or persons having actual notice thereof, unless the instrument of defeasance shall have been recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county where the lands lie.

**235.52 Assignment of mortgage, not notice.** The recording of an assignment of a mortgage shall not in itself be deemed notice of such assignment to the mortgagor, his heirs or personal representatives so as to invalidate any payment made by them or either of them to the mortgagee.

**235.525 Mortgages, power to sell under.** When a power to sell lands shall be given to the grantee in any mortgage or other conveyance intended to secure the payment of money the power shall be deemed a part of the security and shall vest in and may be executed by any person, who, by assignment or otherwise, shall become entitled to the money so secured to be paid.

**History:** 1965 c. 52.

**235.53 Effect of record of bonds or contracts.** Every bond or contract mentioned in section 235.45, when executed, acknowledged and recorded as provided in said section, shall be notice to and take precedence of any subsequent purchaser, and shall operate as a lien upon the lands therein described according to its import and meaning.

**235.54 Letters of attorney, revocation.** No letter of attorney or other instrument containing a power to convey lands, when executed, acknowledged and recorded as provided in this chapter, shall be deemed to be revoked by any act of the party by whom it was executed unless the instrument containing such revocation be also recorded in the same office in which the instrument containing the power was recorded, and such record shall import notice to all persons, including the agent named in said letter of attorney, of the contents thereof. The death of the party executing such letter of attorney shall not operate as a revocation thereof as to the attorney or agent until he shall have notice of the death, or as to one who without notice of such death in good faith deals with the attorney or agent.

**235.55 Mortgage discharged of record.** Any mortgage which shall have been recorded may be wholly satisfied or satisfied to the extent of any payment thereon by the presentation to the register of deeds in whose custody the record shall be of a certificate executed by the mortgagee, his personal representative or assignee, and acknowledged or proved and certified as hereinbefore prescribed to entitle conveyances to be recorded, specifying therein that such mortgage has been wholly or partially paid or otherwise satisfied and the extent of such satisfaction or discharge if only partial.

**235.56 By foreign executors or administrator.** When an executor or administrator is appointed in any other state or a foreign country on the estate of any person not a resident of this state at the time of his decease and no executor or administrator thereon has been appointed in this state, the foreign executor or administrator, upon recording an authenticated copy of his letters testamentary or of administration in the office of the



register of deeds of any county in which any mortgage held by such estate is recorded, may execute a satisfaction of such mortgage.

**235.57 By heirs or legatees.** Any heir or legatee of such deceased person, residing within or without the state, upon recording in the office of the register of deeds proper proof of his ownership of such mortgage may, in like manner and with the like effect, satisfy or release such mortgage.

**235.58 By foreign guardian.** Any guardian appointed in any other state or foreign country of a minor holding and owning such mortgage, upon filing in the county court of such county an authenticated copy of his appointment as guardian and proof of ownership of such mortgage, may, in like manner and with like effect, satisfy or release such mortgage.

**235.59 Discharge after foreclosure.** Wherever a mortgage shall have been foreclosed by an action in any court and the judgment and costs in such action shall have been paid and satisfaction thereof entered upon the docket the register of deeds, upon presentation to him of the certificate of the clerk of the court, certifying to the facts aforesaid, shall note on the margin of the record of such mortgage the following: "This mortgage foreclosed in circuit court (or other court, giving the title of the same), judgment docketed therein, and has been fully paid and satisfaction entered;" and such entry shall have the same effect as the record of a discharge by a mortgagee duly executed and acknowledged.

**Cross Reference:** For redemption from mortgage foreclosure, prior to sale, see 278.13.

**235.60 Discharge of mortgage or lien by court.** The circuit court of any county or the county court of any county having a population of less than 500,000, in which a mortgage, lien or charge is recorded may make an order discharging such mortgage, lien or charge of record on proof being made to the satisfaction of the court that the mortgage, lien or charge has been fully paid or satisfied and that the mortgagee or the owner of the lien or charge or his assignee is a corporation which has ceased to exist or which has no officer or agent in the state of Wisconsin competent to discharge the same of record or that the mortgagee or the owner of the lien or charge or his assignee is a nonresident of the county where such mortgage, lien or charge is recorded, or is deceased, and in such case, that there is no administrator on his estate under the authority of this state. The register of deeds shall record such order or a copy thereof, certified by the clerk under the seal of the court, and such record shall have the same effect as the record of discharge by a mortgagee or owner of a lien or charge duly executed and acknowledged.

**235.61 Satisfaction of state mortgages.** In any case where the records of the offices of the state treasurer and secretary of state fail to show any payments made upon any mortgage of real estate to the state or territory of Wisconsin since January 1, 1865, it shall be the duty of the state treasurer, on demand, to execute, acknowledge and deliver to the owner of all or any portion of the land conveyed by any such mortgage a satisfaction in due form of law acknowledging the satisfaction and discharge of such mortgage, and such satisfaction when so executed shall be conclusive evidence of the payment and discharge of such mortgage and the satisfaction of the lien thereby secured.

**235.62 Discharges, entry of.** Every discharge of a mortgage shall be entered by the register entering or recording the same in the general index and be subject to all the provisions of law as the other entries in such index; and in every case when such discharge is not made by an entry on the margin of the record of such mortgage the register shall record the same with the acknowledgment or proof thereof and enter a minute of the discharge of such mortgage upon the margin of the record thereof with a reference to the book and page containing the record of the discharge of the same.

**235.63 Mortgage to railroad.** Whenever any mortgage executed to a railroad corporation shall have been duly recorded and such mortgage shall have been transferred by such corporation, and there shall be no record of such transfer, and such corporation shall have ceased to exist or shall have no officers or agents competent to discharge the same of record, such register shall, on presentation to him of any such mortgage, together with the note or bond secured thereby, if there be any, and an affidavit showing that the person presenting the same is the lawful holder thereof and that the same has been paid or satisfied in full, file such affidavit and enter in due form, on the margin of the record of such mortgage, a satisfaction thereof.

**235.64 Penalty for failure to discharge.** If any mortgagee, his assignee or the personal representative of either, after a full or partial performance of the conditions of the mortgage, whether before or after a breach thereof, shall, for the space of seven days after being thereto requested, and a satisfaction piece in due form being to him or them

tendered for execution, after tender of legal charges, refuse or neglect to wholly or partially discharge the same as provided in this chapter, or to execute and acknowledge a certificate of discharge or release thereof in accordance with the fact, or to record all assignments transferring such mortgage to such assignee or personal representative, he shall be liable to the mortgagor, his heirs or assigns, in the sum of one hundred dollars damages, and also for actual damages occasioned by such neglect or refusal, to be recovered in an action.

**235.65 Correction of description in conveyance.** The circuit court or county court of any county in which a conveyance of real estate has been recorded may make an order correcting the description in such conveyances on proof being made to the satisfaction of the court that such conveyance contains an erroneous description, not intended by the parties thereto; or when the description is ambiguous and does not clearly or fully describe the premises intended to be conveyed, if the grantor therein is dead, a non-resident of the state, a corporation which has ceased to exist or an administrator, executor, guardian, trustee or other person authorized to convey and has been discharged from his trust and the person to whom it was made, his heirs, legal representatives or assigns have been in the quiet, undisturbed and peaceable possession of the premises intended to be conveyed from the date of such conveyance; but this section shall not prevent an action for the reformation of any conveyance, and if in any doubt, the court shall direct such action to be brought.

**History:** 1965 c. 24.

**235.66 Patent to heirs of purchaser.** Whenever patents for lands belonging to this state shall have been issued, in pursuance of any law, to a person who shall have died before the date of such patent the title to the land designated therein shall inure to and become vested in the heirs, devisees or assignees of such patentee as if the patent had issued to such deceased person during his lifetime.

**235.67 Deeds of church pews recordable.** Deeds of pews or slips in any church may be recorded by the clerk of the town in which such church is situated or by the clerk of the society or proprietors, if incorporated or legally organized; and such clerk shall receive the same fees as the register of deeds is entitled to for similar purposes.

**235.68 Defective conveyances of farm or homestead property to satisfy indebtedness cured.** Any deed, contract or other instrument previously given by a debtor to satisfy or compromise in whole or in part any prior indebtedness or obligation upon land contract or real estate mortgage on a farm or homestead property, except deeds given through mediation as provided in ss. 281.20 to 281.23 [Stats. 1933], which has been executed, witnessed, acknowledged and recorded according to law, but in respect to which the grantee therein at the time of such recording failed to record an affidavit signed by the grantor as required in s. 235.68 of the statutes for 1937, shall have the same force and effect as evidence and for all other legal purposes as though such affidavit had been originally executed, witnessed and recorded as provided by s. 235.68 of the statutes for 1937.

**235.69 Variance in names of parties.** Title to real property shall not be unmerchantable because of any variances heretofore or hereafter appearing in the spelling, or variant forms of names, or use of initials as between grantees and grantors in deeds or leases or powers of attorney or other instruments by or through which title to real estate is conveyed, or in mortgages or assignments or releases thereof, or between grantees in deeds and persons from or through whom the title passes by will or descent, where such variance shall have appeared in the public records of the county where the lands are located, for more than 20 years; provided, however, that any persons, including infants or persons under disability, having any right of action on June 4, 1937 to recover real property or enforce a mortgage in a case involving such variances in names shall not be barred until one year from said date.

**235.70 Priority of certain mortgages.** Whenever any mortgage executed to a federal savings and loan association organized and existing under the laws of the United States or to the Wisconsin department of veterans' affairs under section 45.352 (5) shall have been duly recorded, such mortgage shall have priority over all liens upon the mortgaged premises and the buildings and improvements thereon, except tax and special assessment liens, which shall be filed subsequent to the recording of such mortgage.

**Cross Reference:** See 215.21 (4) for similar provision as to priority of mortgages to state savings and loan associations.

**235.701 Building loans; trust funds.** The proceeds of any such mortgage referred to in ss. 215.21 and 235.70, shall, when paid out by such state savings and loan association

or such federal savings and loan association or of any other mortgage from any other source and received by the owner of the premises or by any contractor or subcontractor performing the work and labor forthwith constitute a trust fund in the hands of such owner or contractor or subcontractor for the payment pro rata of all claims due and to become due or owing from such contractor or subcontractor for lienable labor and materials until all such claims have been paid. The use of any of such moneys by any owner, contractor or subcontractor for any other purpose until all claims, except those which are the subject of a bona fide dispute, have been paid in full, or pro rata in cases of a deficiency, shall constitute theft of any moneys so misappropriated. The district attorney of the county where the premises are situated shall on the complaint of any aggrieved party prosecute such owner, contractor or subcontractor misappropriating such moneys for such theft.

**History:** 1963 c. 315.

An intent to convert must be proved; 943.20 (1) (b) must be considered. *State v. Halverson*, 32 W (2d) 503, 145 NW (2d) 739.

**235.72 Uniform vendor and purchaser risk act.** (1) RISK OF LOSS AS BETWEEN VENDOR AND PURCHASER OF LAND. Any contract hereafter made in this state for the purchase and sale of realty shall be interpreted as including an agreement that the parties shall have the following rights and duties, unless the contract expressly provides otherwise:

(a) If, when neither the legal title nor the possession of the subject matter of the contract has been transferred, all or a material part thereof is destroyed without fault of the purchaser or is taken by eminent domain, the vendor cannot enforce the contract, and the purchaser is entitled to recover any portion of the price that he has paid.

(b) If, when either the legal title or the possession of the subject matter of the contract has been transferred, all or any part thereof is destroyed without fault of the vendor or is taken by eminent domain, the purchaser is not thereby relieved from a duty to pay the price, nor is he entitled to recover any portion thereof that he has paid.

(2) UNIFORMITY OF INTERPRETATION. This section shall be so construed as to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

(3) SHORT TITLE. This section may be cited as the Uniform Vendor and Purchaser Risk Act.

**235.73 Purchase money mortgage defined.** A purchase money mortgage is one given as part of the transaction of purchase to the vendor of real estate for all or a part of the purchase money or to a third person who advances all or a part of the purchase money.