Title 4
CIVIL PROCEDURE

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Chapter 4.04 RCW
RULE OF DECISION—FORM OF ACTIONS

Sections

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4.04.010 Extent to which common law prevails. The common law, so far as it is not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States, or of the state of Washington nor incompatible with the institutions and condition of society in this state, shall be the rule of decision in all the courts of this state. [1891 c 17 § 1; Code 1881 § 1; 1877 p 3 § 1; 1862 p 83 § 1; RRS § 143. Formerly RCW 1.12.030.]

Chapter 4.08 RCW
PARTIES TO ACTIONS

Sections

Persons licensed to provide health care or related services, employees, hospitals, clinics, etc.—Professional review committee, society, examining or disciplinary board members, etc.—Immunity from civil suit arising from duties: RCW 4.24.240.

4.08.030 Either spouse or either domestic partner may sue for community—Necessary parties. Either spouse or either domestic partner may sue on behalf of the community: PROVIDED, That

(1) When the action is for personal injuries, the spouse or the domestic partner having sustained personal injuries is a necessary party;

(2) When the action is for compensation for services rendered, the spouse or the domestic partner having rendered the services is a necessary party. [2008 c 6 § 407; 1972 ex.s. c 108 § 1; Code 1881 § 6; 1877 p 4 § 6; 1875 p 4 § 2; 1869 p 4 § 6; 1854 p 131 § 5; RRS § 181.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.08.040 When either spouse or either domestic partner may join, defend. Either spouse or either domestic partner may join in all causes of action arising from injuries to the person or character of either or both of them, or from injuries to the property of either or both of them, or arising out of any contract in favor of either or both of them.

If the spouses or the domestic partners are sued together, either or both spouses or either or both domestic partners may defend, and if one spouse or one domestic partner neglects to defend, the other spouse or other domestic partner may defend for the nonacting spouse or nonacting domestic partner also. Each spouse or each domestic partner may defend in all cases in which he or she is interested, whether that spouse or that domestic partner is sued with the other spouse or other domestic partner or not. [2008 c 6 § 408; 1972 ex.s. c 108 § 2; Code 1881 § 7; 1877 p 4 § 7; 1875 p 4 § 3; 1854 p 219 § 492; RRS § 182.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.08.050 Guardian ad litem for infant. Except as provided under RCW 26.50.020 and 28A.225.035, when an infant is a party he or she shall appear by guardian, or if he or she has no guardian, or in the opinion of the court the guardian is an improper person, the court shall appoint one to act. Said guardian shall be appointed as follows:

(1) When the infant is plaintiff, upon the application of the infant, if he or she be of the age of fourteen years, or if under that age, upon the application of a relative or friend of the infant.

(2) When the infant is defendant, upon the application of the infant, if he or she be of the age of fourteen years, and applies within thirty days after the service of the summons; if he or she be under the age of fourteen, or neglects to apply, then upon the application of any other party to the action, or of a relative or friend of the infant. [1996 c 134 § 7; 1992 c 111 § 9; 1891 c 30 § 1; Code 1881 § 12; 1854 p 132 §§ 6, 7; RRS § 187.]

Findings—1992 c 111: See note following RCW 26.50.030.

4.08.060 Guardian ad litem for incapacitated person. When an incapacitated person is a party to an action in the superior courts he or she shall appear by guardian, or if he or she has no guardian, or in the opinion of the court the guardian is an improper person, the court shall appoint one to act as guardian ad litem. Said guardian shall be appointed as follows:

(1) When the incapacitated person is plaintiff, upon the application of a relative or friend of the incapacitated person.

(2) When the incapacitated person is defendant, upon the application of a relative or friend of such incapacitated person, such application shall be made within thirty days after the service of summons if served in the state of Washington, and if served out of the state or service is made by publication, then such application shall be made within sixty days after the first publication of summons or within sixty days after the service out of the state. If no such application be made within the time above limited, application may be made by any party to the action. [1996 c 249 § 5; 1899 c 91 § 1; RRS § 188.]

Intent—1996 c 249: See note following RCW 2.56.030.

4.08.080 Action on assigned choses in action. Any assignee or assignees of any judgment, bond, specialty, book account, or other chose in action, for the payment of money, by assignment in writing, signed by the person authorized to make the same, may, by virtue of such assignment, sue and maintain an action or actions in his or her name, against the obligor or obligors, debtor or debtors, named in such judgment, bond, specialty, book account, or other chose in action, notwithstanding the assignor may have an interest in the thing assigned: PROVIDED, That any debtor may plead in defense as many defenses, counterclaims and offsets, whether they be such as have heretofore been denominated legal or equitable, or both, if held by him against the original owner, against the debt assigned, save that no counterclaim or offset shall be pleaded against negotiable paper assigned before due, and where the holder thereof has purchased the same in good faith and for value, and is the owner of all interest therein. [1927 c 87 § 1; 1891 c 30 § 2; Code 1881 § 15; 1879 p 122 § 1; 1854 p 131 § 3; RRS § 191.]

4.08.100 Action to recover purchase money on land—Final judgment. In any action brought for the recovery of the purchase money against any person holding a contract for the purchase of lands, the party bound to perform the contract, if not the plaintiff, may be made a party, and the court in a final judgment may order the interest of purchaser to be sold or transferred to the plaintiff upon such terms as may be just, and may also order a specific performance of the contract in favor of the complainant, or the purchaser, in case a sale be ordered. [Code 1881 § 19; 1877 p 6 § 19; 1854 p 219 § 490; RRS § 195.]

4.08.110 Action by public corporations. An action at law may be maintained by any county, incorporated town, school district or other public corporation of like character, in its corporate name, and upon a cause of action accruing to it, in its corporate character and not otherwise, in any of the following cases:

(1) Upon a contract made with such public corporation;

(2) Upon a liability prescribed by law in favor of such public corporation;

(3) To recover a penalty or forfeiture given to such public corporation;

(4) To recover damages for an injury to the corporate rights or property of such public corporation. [1953 c 118 § 1. Prior: Code 1881 § 661; 1869 p 154 § 601; RRS § 950.]

4.08.120 Action against public corporations. An action may be maintained against a county or other of the public corporations mentioned or described in RCW 4.08.110, either upon a contract made by such county, or other public corporation in its corporate character and within the scope of its authority, or for an injury to the rights of the plaintiff arising from some act or omission of such county or other public corporation. [1953 c 118 § 2. Prior: Code 1881 § 662; 1869 p 154 § 602; RRS § 951.]

4.08.140 New party entitled to service of summons. When a new party is introduced into an action as a representative or successor of a former party, such new party is entitled to the same summons to be served in the same manner as required for defendants in the commencement of an action. [1957 c 7 § 1. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 21, 742; 1877 pp 6 and 151 §§ 21, 747; 1873 pp 7 and 176 §§ 21, 682; 1869 pp 6 and 172 §§ 21, 684; 1863 p 194 § 524; 1860 p 99 § 477; 1854 p 219 § 485; RRS § 197.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 3; CR 5.*

4.08.150 Substitution and interpleader. A defendant against whom an action is pending upon a contract, or for specific real or personal property, at any time before answer, upon affidavit that a person not a party to the action, and without collusion with him or her, makes against him or her a demand for the same debt or property, upon due notice to such person and the adverse party, may apply to the court for an order to substitute such person in his or her place, and discharge him or her from liability to either party on his or her depositing in court the amount of the debt, or delivering the property or its value to such person as the court may direct; and the court may make the order. [2011 c 336 § 75; Code 1881 § 22; 1877 p 6 § 22; 1869 p 7 § 22; 1854 p 132 § 12; RRS § 198.]

Rules of court: *Interpleader—CR 22; Substitution—CR 25.*

4.08.160 Action to determine conflicting claims to property. Anyone having in his or her possession, or under his or her control, any property or money, or being indebted, where more than one person claims to be the owner of, entitled to, interested in, or to have a lien on, such property, money, or indebtedness, or any part thereof, may commence an action in the superior court against all or any of such persons, and have their rights, claims, interest, or liens adjudged, determined, and adjusted in such action. [2011 c 336 § 76; 1890 p 93 § 1; RRS § 199.]

4.08.170 Action to determine conflicting claims to property—Disclaimer and deposit in court. In any action commenced under RCW 4.08.160, the plaintiff may disclaim any interest in the money, property, or indebtedness, and deposit with the clerk of the court the full amount of such money or indebtedness, or other property, and he or she shall not be liable for any costs accruing in said action. And the clerks of the various courts shall receive and file such complaint, and all other officers shall execute the necessary processes to carry out the purposes of this section, and RCW 4.08.160 and 4.08.180, free from all charge to said plaintiff, and the court, in its discretion, shall determine the liability for costs of the action. [2011 c 336 § 77; 1890 p 93 § 2; RRS § 200.]

4.08.180 Action to determine conflicting claims to property—Trial of issue. Either of the defendants may set up or show any claim or lien he or she may have to such property, money, or indebtedness, or any part thereof, and the superior right, title, or lien, whether legal or equitable, shall prevail.

The court or judge thereof may make all necessary orders, during the pendency of said action, for the preservation and protection of the rights, interests, or liens of the several parties. [2011 c 336 § 78; 1890 p 94 § 3; RRS § 201.]

Chapter 4.12 RCW
VENUE—JURISDICTION

Sections

Rules of court: *Venue—CR 82.*

Actions against nonresident motorist: RCW 46.64.040.

4.12.010 Actions to be commenced where subject is situated. Actions for the following causes shall be commenced in the county in which the subject of the action, or some part thereof, is situated:

(1) For the recovery of, for the possession of, for the partition of, for the foreclosure of a mortgage on, or for the determination of all questions affecting the title, or for any injuries to real property.

(2) All questions involving the rights to the possession or title to any specific article of personal property, in which last mentioned class of cases, damages may also be awarded for the detention and for injury to such personal property. [Code 1881 § 47; 1877 p 11 § 48; 1869 p 12 § 48; 1860 p 7 § 15; 1854 p 133 § 13; RRS § 204.]

4.12.020 Actions to be tried in county where cause arose. Actions for the following causes shall be tried in the county where the cause, or some part thereof, arose:

(1) For the recovery of a penalty or forfeiture imposed by statute;

(2) Against a public officer, or person specially appointed to execute his or her duties, for an act done by him or her in virtue of his or her office, or against a person who, by his or her command or in his or her aid, shall do anything touching the duties of such officer;

(3) For the recovery of damages for injuries to the person or for injury to personal property, the plaintiff shall have the option of suing either in the county in which the cause of action or some part thereof arose, or in the county in which the defendant resides, or if there be more than one defendant, where some one of the defendants resides, at the time of the commencement of the action. [2001 c 45 § 2; 1941 c 81 § 1; Code 1881 § 48; 1877 p 11 § 49; 1869 p 12 § 49; 1860 p 7 § 16; 1854 p 133 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 205.]

4.12.025 Action to be brought where defendant resides—Optional venue of actions upon unlawful issuance of check or draft—Residence of corporations—Optional venue of actions against corporations. (1) An action may be brought in any county in which the defendant resides, or, if there be more than one defendant, where some one of the defendants resides at the time of the commencement of the action. For the purpose of this section, the residence of a corporation defendant shall be deemed to be in any county where the corporation: (a) Transacts business; (b) has an office for the transaction of business; (c) transacted business at the time the cause of action arose; or (d) where any person resides upon whom process may be served upon the corporation.

(2) An action upon the unlawful issuance of a check or draft may be brought in any county in which the defendant resides or may be brought in any division of the judicial district in which the check was issued or presented as payment.

(3) The venue of any action brought against a corporation, at the option of the plaintiff, shall be: (a) In the county where the tort was committed; (b) in the county where the work was performed for said corporation; (c) in the county where the agreement entered into with the corporation was made; or (d) in the county where the corporation has its residence. [1998 c 56 § 1; 1985 c 68 § 2; 1983 c 31 § 1; 1965 c 53 § 168; 1927 c 173 § 1; RRS § 205-1. Prior: 1909 c 42 § 1; Code 1881 § 49; 1877 p 11 § 50; 1869 p 13 § 50; 1860 p 101 § 488; 1854 p 220 § 494.]

4.12.030 Grounds authorizing change of venue. The court may, on motion, in the following cases, change the place of trial when it appears by affidavit, or other satisfactory proof:

(1) That the county designated in the complaint is not the proper county; or,

(2) That there is reason to believe that an impartial trial cannot be had therein; or,

(3) That the convenience of witnesses or the ends of justice would be forwarded by the change; or,

(4) That from any cause the judge is disqualified; which disqualification exists in either of the following cases: In an action or proceeding to which he or she is a party, or in which he or she is interested; when he or she is related to either party by consanguinity or affinity, within the third degree; when he or she has been of counsel for either party in the action or proceeding. [2011 c 336 § 79; Code 1881 § 51; 1877 p 12 § 52; 1875 p 6 § 8; 1869 p 13 § 52; 1854 p 134 § 16; RRS § 209.]

4.12.040 Disqualification of judge, transfer to another department, visiting judge—Change of venue generally, criminal cases. (1) No judge of a superior court of the state of Washington shall sit to hear or try any action or proceeding if that judge has been disqualified pursuant to RCW 4.12.050. In such case the presiding judge in judicial districts where there is more than one judge shall forthwith transfer the action to another department of the same court, or call in a judge from some other court. In all judicial districts where there is only one judge, a certified copy of the notice of disqualification filed in the cause shall be transmitted by the clerk of the superior court to the clerk of the superior court designated by the chief justice of the supreme court. Upon receipt the clerk of said superior court shall transmit the forwarded notice to the presiding judge who shall direct a visiting judge to hear and try such action as soon as convenient and practical.

(2) The presiding judge in judicial districts where there is more than one judge, or the presiding judge of judicial districts where there is only one judge, may send a case for trial to another court if the convenience of witnesses or the ends of justice will not be interfered with by such a course and the action is of such a character that a change of venue may be ordered: PROVIDED, That in criminal prosecutions the case shall not be sent for trial to any court outside the county unless the accused shall waive his or her right to a trial by a jury of the county in which the offense is alleged to have been committed.

(3) This section does not apply to water right adjudications filed under chapter 90.03 or 90.44 RCW. Disqualification of judges in water right adjudications is governed by RCW 90.03.620. [2017 c 42 § 1; 2009 c 332 § 19; 1989 c 15 § 1; 1961 c 303 § 1; 1927 c 145 § 1; 1911 c 121 § 1; RRS § 209-1.]

Criminal proceedings, venue and jurisdiction: Chapter 10.25 RCW.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.12.050 Notice of disqualification. (1) Any party to or any attorney appearing in any action or proceeding in a superior court may disqualify a judge from hearing the matter, subject to these limitations:

(a) Notice of disqualification must be filed and called to the attention of the judge before the judge has made any discretionary ruling in the case.

(b) In counties with only one resident judge, the notice of disqualification must be filed not later than the day on which the case is called to be set for trial.

(c) A judge who has been disqualified under this section may decide such issues as the parties agree in writing or on the record in open court.

(d) No party or attorney is permitted to disqualify more than one judge in any matter under this section and RCW 4.12.040.

(2) Even though they may involve discretion, the following actions by a judge do not cause the loss of the right to file a notice of disqualification against that judge: Arranging the calendar, setting a date for a hearing or trial, ruling on an agreed continuance, issuing an arrest warrant, presiding over criminal preliminary proceedings under CrR 3.2.1, arraigning the accused, fixing bail, and presiding over juvenile detention and release hearings under JuCR 7.3 and 7.4.

(3) This section does not apply to water right adjudications filed under chapter 90.03 or 90.44 RCW. Disqualification of judges in water right adjudications is governed by

RCW 90.03.620. [2017 c 42 § 2; 2009 c 332 § 20; 1941 c 148 § 1; 1927 c 145 § 2; 1911 c 121 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 209-2.]

Rules of court: *Demurrers abolished—CR 7(c).*

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.12.060 To what county venue may be changed—Limitation on number of changes. If the motion for a change of the place of trial be allowed, the change shall be made to the county where the action ought to have been commenced, if it be for the cause mentioned in RCW 4.12.030(1), and in other cases to the most convenient county where the cause alleged does not exist. Neither party shall be entitled to more than one change of the place of trial, except for causes not in existence when the first change was allowed. [Code 1881 § 52; 1877 p 12 § 53; 1869 p 14 § 53; RRS § 210.]

4.12.070 Change to newly created county. Any party in a civil action pending in the superior court in a county out of whose limits a new county, in whole or in part, has been created, may file with the clerk of such superior court an affidavit setting forth that he or she is a resident of such newly created county, and that the venue of such action is transitory, or that the venue of such action is local, and that it ought properly to be tried in such newly created county; and thereupon the clerk shall make out a transcript of the proceedings already had in such action in such superior court, and certify it under the seal of the court, and transmit such transcript, together with the papers on file in his or her office connected with such action, to the clerk of the superior court of such newly created county, wherein it shall be proceeded with as in other cases. [2011 c 336 § 80; 1891 c 33 § 2; Code 1881 § 53; 1877 p 12 § 54; 1869 p 14 § 54; 1854 p 377 § 2; RRS § 211.]

4.12.080 Change by stipulation. Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 4.12.030 all the parties to the action by stipulation in writing or by consent in open court entered in the records may agree that the place of trial be changed to any county of the state, and thereupon the court must order the change agreed upon. [Code 1881 § 55; 1877 p 13 § 56; RRS § 216.]

4.12.090 Transmission of record on change of venue—Costs, attorney's fee. (1) When an order is made transferring an action or proceeding for trial, the clerk of the court must transmit the pleadings and papers therein to the court to which it is transferred and charge a fee as provided in RCW 36.18.016. The costs and fees thereof and of filing the papers anew must be paid by the party at whose instance the order was made, except in the cases mentioned in RCW 4.12.030(1), in which case the plaintiff shall pay costs of transfer and, in addition thereto, if the court finds that the plaintiff could have determined the county of proper venue with reasonable diligence, it shall order the plaintiff to pay the reasonable attorney's fee of the defendant for the changing of venue to the proper county. The court to which an action or proceeding is transferred has and exercises over the same the like jurisdiction as if it had been originally commenced therein.

(2) In acting on any motion for dismissal without prejudice in a case where a motion for change of venue under subsection (1) of this section has been made, the court shall, if it determines the motion for change of venue proper, determine the amount of attorney's fee properly to be awarded to defendant and, if the action be dismissed, the attorney's fee shall be a setoff against any claim subsequently brought on the same cause of action. [2005 c 457 § 11; 1969 ex.s. c 144 § 1; Code 1881 § 54; 1877 p 12 § 55; 1875 p 7 § 10; 1869 p 14 §§ 55, 56; RRS § 215.]

Intent—2005 c 457: See note following RCW 43.08.250.

4.12.100 Transcript of record entries. The clerk of the court must also transmit with the original papers where an order is made changing the place of trial, a certified transcript of all record entries up to and including the order for such change. [Code 1881 § 58; 1877 p 13 § 59; RRS § 219.]

4.12.110 Effect of neglect of moving party. If such papers be not transmitted to the clerk of the proper court within the time prescribed in the order allowing the change, and the delay be caused by the act or omission of the party procuring the change, the adverse party, on motion to the court or judge thereof, may have the order vacated, and thereafter no other change of the place of trial shall be allowed to such party. [Code 1881 § 56; 1877 p 13 § 57; 1869 p 15 § 57; 1854 p 135 § 21; RRS § 217.]

4.12.120 Change deemed complete, when. Upon the filing of the papers with the clerk of the court to which the cause is transferred, the change of venue shall be deemed complete, and thereafter the action shall proceed as though it had been commenced in that court. [Code 1881 § 57; 1877 p 13 § 58; 1869 p 15 § 58; 1854 p 135 § 22; RRS § 218.]

Chapter 4.14 RCW
REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ACTIONS TO SUPERIOR COURT

Sections

4.14.010 Removal of certain actions from justice court to superior court authorized—Grounds—Joint claims or actions—Exceptions. Whenever the removal of such action to superior court is required in order to acquire jurisdiction over a third party defendant, who is or may be liable to the defendant for all or part of the judgment and resides outside the county wherein the action was commenced, any civil action which could have been brought in superior court may, if commenced in district court, be removed by the defendant or defendants to the superior court for the county where such action is pending if the district court determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a third party may be liable to the plaintiff and issues an order so stating.

Whenever a separate or independent claim or cause of action which would be removable if sued upon alone is joined with one or more otherwise nonremovable claims or causes of action, the entire case may be removed and the superior court may determine all issues therein, or, in its discretion, may remand all matters not otherwise within its original jurisdiction.

This section does not apply to cases originally filed in the small claims department of a district court, or transferred to the small claims department pursuant to RCW 12.40.025, except as set forth in RCW 12.40.027. [1997 c 352 § 6; 1967 ex.s. c 46 § 4.]

4.14.020 Petition for removal—Contents—Filing—Notice. (1) A defendant or defendants desiring to remove any civil action from a justice court as authorized by RCW 4.14.010 shall file in the superior court in the county where such action is pending, a verified petition containing a short and plain statement of the facts which entitle him, her, or them to removal together with a copy of all process, pleadings and orders served upon him, her, or them in such action.

(2) The petition for removal of a civil action or proceeding shall be filed within twenty days after the receipt by the defendant, through service or otherwise, of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based.

If the case stated by the initial pleading is not removable, a petition for removal may be filed within twenty days after receipt by the defendant, through service or otherwise, of a copy of an amended pleading, motion, order, or other paper, including the defendant's answer, from which it may first be ascertained that the case is or has become removable.

(3) Promptly after the filing of such petition the defendant or defendants shall give written notice thereof to all adverse parties and shall file a copy of the petition with the justice court, which shall effect the removal and the justice court shall proceed no further unless and until the case is remanded. [2011 c 336 § 81; 1967 ex.s. c 46 § 5.]

4.14.030 Orders and process upon removal—Remand of cases improvidently removed. In any case removed from justice court under the provisions of this chapter, the superior court may issue all necessary orders and process to bring before it all proper parties whether served by process issued by the justice court or otherwise.

If at any time before final judgment it appears that the case was removed improvidently and without jurisdiction, the superior court shall remand the case, and may order the payment of just costs. A certified copy of the order of remand shall be mailed by the clerk of the superior court to the justice court. The justice court may thereupon proceed with such case. [1967 ex.s. c 46 § 6.]

4.14.040 Attached property—Custody. Whenever any action is removed from a justice court to a superior court under the provisions of this chapter, any attachment or sequestration of the property of the defendant in such action in the justice court shall remain in the custody of the sheriff to answer the final judgment or decree in the same manner as would have been held to answer had the cause been brought in the superior court originally. [1967 ex.s. c 46 § 7.]

Chapter 4.16 RCW
LIMITATION OF ACTIONS

Sections

Claims against
counties: RCW 36.32.330; chapter 36.45 RCW.
estates: RCW 11.40.051, 11.40.060.
the state: RCW 4.92.050.

Contribution between joint tort feasors: RCW 4.22.050.

Criminal procedure, limitation of actions: RCW 9A.04.080.

Garnishment writ, dismissal after one year: RCW 6.27.310.

Lawyer discipline: Rules of court—RLD 12.10.

Product liability actions: RCW 7.72.060(3).

Tax liability, action by another state, limitation: RCW 4.24.140.

Uniform conflict of laws—Limitations act: Chapter 4.18 RCW.

Usury, business organizations engaged in lending or real estate development cannot bring action: RCW 19.52.080.

4.16.005 Commencement of actions. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, and except when in special cases a different limitation is prescribed by a statute not contained in this chapter, actions can only be commenced within

the periods provided in this chapter after the cause of action has accrued. [1989 c 14 § 1.]

4.16.020 Actions to be commenced within ten years—Exception. The period prescribed for the commencement of actions shall be as follows:

Within ten years:

(1) For actions for the recovery of real property, or for the recovery of the possession thereof; and no action shall be maintained for such recovery unless it appears that the plaintiff, his or her ancestor, predecessor or grantor was seized or possessed of the premises in question within ten years before the commencement of the action.

(2) For an action upon a judgment or decree of any court of the United States, or of any state or territory within the United States, or of any territory or possession of the United States outside the boundaries thereof, or of any extraterritorial court of the United States, unless the period is extended under RCW 6.17.020 or a similar provision in another jurisdiction.

(3) Of the eighteenth birthday of the youngest child named in the order for whom support is ordered for an action to collect past due child support that has accrued under an order entered after July 23, 1989, by any of the above-named courts or that has accrued under an administrative order as defined in RCW 74.20A.020(6), which is issued after July 23, 1989. [2002 c 261 § 2; 1994 c 189 § 2; 1989 c 360 § 1; 1984 c 76 § 1; 1980 c 105 § 1; Code 1881 § 26; 1877 p 7 § 26; 1854 p 363 § 2; RRS § 156.]

Adverse possession
limitation tolled when personal disability: RCW 7.28.090.
recovery of realty, limitation: RCW 7.28.050.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.030 Actions to foreclose special assessments. An action to collect any special assessment for local improvements of any kind against any person, corporation or property whatsoever, or to enforce any lien for any special assessment for local improvements of any kind, whether said action be brought by a municipal corporation or by the holder of any delinquency certificate, or by any other person having the right to bring such an action, shall be commenced within ten years after such assessment shall have become delinquent, or due, or within ten years after the last installment of any such special assessment shall have become delinquent or due when said special assessment is payable in installments. [1907 c 182 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10322C-1.]

Actions brought by code city: RCW 35A.21.200.

Actions to foreclose special assessments in cities or towns: RCW 35.50.050.

4.16.040 Actions limited to six years. The following actions shall be commenced within six years:

(1) An action upon a contract in writing, or liability express or implied arising out of a written agreement, except as provided for in RCW 64.04.007(2).

(2) An action upon an account receivable. For purposes of this section, an account receivable is any obligation for payment incurred in the ordinary course of the claimant's business or profession, whether arising from one or more transactions and whether or not earned by performance.

(3) An action for the rents and profits or for the use and occupation of real estate. [2012 c 185 § 3; 2007 c 124 § 1; 1989 c 38 § 1; 1980 c 105 § 2; 1927 c 137 § 1; Code 1881 § 27; 1854 p 363 § 3; RRS § 157.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.050 Action on irrigation or drainage district warrant. Action to enforce any right arising out of the issuance or ownership of any warrant of an irrigation or drainage district organized under the laws of this state, must be brought within six years from and after the date of the issuance of such warrant. [1931 c 75 § 1; RRS § 157-1.]

Reviser's note: Transitional proviso omitted. The proviso reads: "PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to actions not otherwise barred on warrants heretofore issued, if the same shall be commenced within one year after the taking effect of this act".

4.16.060 Action on irrigation district bonds. No action against any irrigation district organized under the laws of this state, or its officers, to enforce any right or claim arising out of the issuance or ownership of any negotiable bond, payable on a day certain, of the irrigation district, where such district is under contract with the United States, or any department or agency thereof, to sell its lands and its right, title and interest in its distribution canals and pipelines and its water rights, thereby necessitating the discontinuance of the district operation upon fulfillment of the contract, shall be brought after a period of six years from and after the maturity date of such bond. [1939 c 57 § 1; RRS § 157-2.]

Reviser's note: Transitional proviso omitted. The proviso reads: "PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to actions not otherwise barred on such irrigation district bonds heretofore issued, if the same shall be commenced within six (6) months after the taking effect of this act".

4.16.070 Actions limited to five years. No action for the recovery of any real estate sold by an executor or administrator under the laws of this state shall be maintained by any heir or other person claiming under the deceased, unless it is commenced within five years next after the sale, and no action for any estate sold by a guardian shall be maintained by the ward, or by any person claiming under him or her, unless commenced within five years next after the termination of the guardianship, except that minors, and other persons under legal disability to sue at the time when the right of action first accrued, may commence such action at any time within three years after the removal of the disability. [2011 c 336 § 82; 1890 p 81 § 1; RRS § 158. Prior: 1863 p 245 §§ 251, 252; 1860 p 205 §§ 217, 218; 1854 p 290 §§ 137, 138.]

Age of majority: Chapter 26.28 RCW.

Probate
actions by and against executors, etc.: Chapter 11.48 RCW.
guardianship: Chapters 11.88, 11.92 RCW.
sales and mortgages of real estate: Chapter 11.56 RCW; RCW 11.60.010.

Sales not voided by irregularities: RCW 11.56.115.

4.16.080 Actions limited to three years. The following actions shall be commenced within three years:

(1) An action for waste or trespass upon real property;

(2) An action for taking, detaining, or injuring personal property, including an action for the specific recovery thereof, or for any other injury to the person or rights of another not hereinafter enumerated;

(3) Except as provided in RCW 4.16.040(2), an action upon a contract or liability, express or implied, which is not in writing, and does not arise out of any written instrument;

(4) An action for relief upon the ground of fraud, the cause of action in such case not to be deemed to have accrued until the discovery by the aggrieved party of the facts constituting the fraud;

(5) An action against a sheriff, coroner, or constable upon a liability incurred by the doing of an act in his or her official capacity and by virtue of his or her office, or by the omission of an official duty, including the nonpayment of money collected upon an execution; but this subsection shall not apply to action for an escape;

(6) An action against an officer charged with misappropriation or a failure to properly account for public funds intrusted to his or her custody; an action upon a statute for penalty or forfeiture, where an action is given to the party aggrieved, or to such party and the state, except when the statute imposing it prescribed a different limitation: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, The cause of action for such misappropriation, penalty, or forfeiture, whether for acts heretofore or hereafter done, and regardless of lapse of time or existing statutes of limitations, or the bar thereof, even though complete, shall not be deemed to accrue or to have accrued until discovery by the aggrieved party of the act or acts from which such liability has arisen or shall arise, and such liability, whether for acts heretofore or hereafter done, and regardless of lapse of time or existing statute of limitation, or the bar thereof, even though complete, shall exist and be enforceable for three years after discovery by aggrieved party of the act or acts from which such liability has arisen or shall arise. [2011 c 336 § 83; 1989 c 38 § 2; 1937 c 127 § 1; 1923 c 28 § 1; Code 1881 § 28; 1869 p 8 § 28; 1854 p 363 § 4; RRS § 159.]

Reviser's note: Transitional proviso omitted from subsection (6). The proviso reads: "PROVIDED, FURTHER, That no action heretofore barred under the provisions of this paragraph shall be commenced after ninety days from the time this act becomes effective;".

4.16.090 Action to cancel tax deed. Actions to set aside or cancel any deed heretofore or hereafter issued by any county treasurer after and upon the sale of lands for general, state, county or municipal taxes, or upon the sale of lands acquired by any county on foreclosure of general, state, county or municipal taxes, or for the recovery of any lands so sold, must be brought within three years from and after the date of the issuance of such treasurer's deed. [1949 c 74 § 1; 1907 c 173 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 162.]

Reviser's note: Transitional proviso omitted. The proviso reads: "PROVIDED, This act shall not apply to actions not otherwise barred on deeds heretofore issued if the same be commenced within one year after the passage of this act".

4.16.100 Actions limited to two years. Within two years:

(1) An action for libel, slander, assault, assault and battery, or false imprisonment.

(2) An action upon a statute for a forfeiture or penalty to the state. [Code 1881 § 29; 1877 p 8 § 29; 1869 p 9 § 29; 1854 p 363 § 5; RRS § 160.]

Limitation of action for recovery of transportation charges: RCW 81.28.270.

4.16.110 Actions limited to one year. Within one year an action shall be brought against a sheriff, or other officer for the escape of a prisoner arrested or imprisoned on civil process. [1985 c 11 § 2. Prior: 1984 c 149 § 1; Code 1881 § 30; 1877 p 8 § 30; 1869 p 9 § 30; 1854 p 364 § 5; RRS § 161.]

Reviser's note: 1985 c 11 reenacted RCW 4.16.110 and 4.16.370 without amendment.

Purpose—1985 c 11: "The purpose of this act is to make technical corrections to chapter 149, Laws of 1984, and to ensure that the changes made in that chapter meet the constitutional requirements of Article II, section 19 of the state Constitution." [1985 c 11 § 1.]

Sheriff, civil liability: RCW 36.28.150.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.115 Special provisions for action on penalty. An action upon a statute for a penalty given in whole or in part to the person who may prosecute for the same, shall be commenced within three years [one year] after the commission of the offense; and if the action be not commenced within one year by a private party, it may be commenced within two years after the commission of the offense in behalf of the state by the prosecuting attorney of the county, where said offense was committed. [1877 p 9 § 31; 1854 p 364 § 6; RRS § 163. Formerly RCW 4.16.140. Cf. Code 1881 § 31.]

Reviser's note: "one year" appeared in Laws of 1854 and 1877; "three years" appears in Code of 1881.

4.16.130 Action for relief not otherwise provided for. An action for relief not hereinbefore provided for, shall be commenced within two years after the cause of action shall have accrued. [Code 1881 § 33; 1877 p 9 § 32; 1854 p 364 § 7; RRS § 165.]

Limitation of action to recover taxes paid: RCW 84.68.060.

4.16.150 Action on mutual open accounts. In an action brought to recover a balance due upon a mutual open and current account, where there have been reciprocal demands between the parties, the cause of action shall be deemed to have accrued from the time of the last item proved in the account on either side, but whenever a period of more than one year shall have elapsed between any of a series of items or demands, they are not to be deemed such an account. [Code 1881 § 34; 1877 p 9 § 33; 1869 p 10 § 33; 1854 p 364 § 8; RRS § 166.]

4.16.160 Application of limitations to actions by state, counties, municipalities. The limitations prescribed in this chapter shall apply to actions brought in the name or for the benefit of any county or other municipality or quasi-municipality of the state, in the same manner as to actions brought by private parties: PROVIDED, That, except as provided in RCW 4.16.310, there shall be no limitation to actions brought in the name or for the benefit of the state, and no claim of right predicated upon the lapse of time shall ever be asserted against the state: AND FURTHER PROVIDED, That no previously existing statute of limitations shall be interposed as a defense to any action brought in the name or for the benefit of the state, although such statute may have run and become fully operative as a defense prior to February 27, 1903, nor shall any cause of action against the state be predicated upon such a statute. [1986 c 305 § 701; 1955 c 43

§ 2. Prior: 1903 c 24 § 1; Code 1881 § 35; 1873 p 10 §§ 34, 35; 1869 p 10 §§ 34, 35; 1854 p 364 § 9; RRS § 167, part.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.170 Tolling of statute—Actions, when deemed commenced or not commenced. For the purpose of tolling any statute of limitations an action shall be deemed commenced when the complaint is filed or summons is served whichever occurs first. If service has not been had on the defendant prior to the filing of the complaint, the plaintiff shall cause one or more of the defendants to be served personally, or commence service by publication within ninety days from the date of filing the complaint. If the action is commenced by service on one or more of the defendants or by publication, the plaintiff shall file the summons and complaint within ninety days from the date of service. If following service, the complaint is not so filed, or following filing, service is not so made, the action shall be deemed to not have been commenced for purposes of tolling the statute of limitations. [1971 ex.s. c 131 § 1; 1955 c 43 § 3. Prior: 1903 c 24 § 1; Code 1881 § 35; 1873 p 10 § 35; 1869 p 10 § 35; RRS § 167, part.]

4.16.180 Statute tolled by absence from state, concealment, etc. If the cause of action shall accrue against any person who is a nonresident of this state, or who is a resident of this state and shall be out of the state, or concealed therein, such action may be commenced within the terms herein respectively limited after the coming, or return of such person into the state, or after the end of such concealment; and if after such cause of action shall have accrued, such person shall depart from and reside out of this state, or conceal himself or herself, the time of his or her absence or concealment shall not be deemed or taken as any part of the time limit for the commencement of such action. [2011 c 336 § 84; 1927 c 132 § 1; Code 1881 § 36; 1854 p 364 § 10; RRS § 168.]

4.16.190 Statute tolled by personal disability. ***(Effective until January 1, 2022.)*** (1) Unless otherwise provided in this section, if a person entitled to bring an action mentioned in this chapter, except for a penalty or forfeiture, or against a sheriff or other officer, for an escape, be at the time the cause of action accrued either under the age of eighteen years, or incompetent or disabled to such a degree that he or she cannot understand the nature of the proceedings, such incompetency or disability as determined according to *chapter 11.88 RCW, or imprisoned on a criminal charge prior to sentencing, the time of such disability shall not be a part of the time limited for the commencement of action.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section with respect to a person under the age of eighteen years does not apply to the time limited for the commencement of an action under RCW 4.16.350. [2006 c 8 § 303; 1993 c 232 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 74; Code 1881 § 37; 1877 p 9 § 38; 1869 p 10 § 38; 1861 p 61 § 1; 1854 p 364 § 11; RRS § 169.]

Reviser's note: *(1) Chapter 11.88 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2020 c 312 § 904, effective January 1, 2022.

(2) As to the constitutionality of subsection (2) of this section, see *Schroeder v. Weighall*, 179 Wn.2d. 566, 316 P.3d 482 (2014).

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

Purpose—Intent—1977 ex.s. c 80: "It is the purpose of the legislature in enacting this 1977 amendatory act to provide for a comprehensive revision of out-dated and offensive language, procedures and assumptions that have previously been used to identify and categorize mentally, physically, and sensory handicapped citizens. It is legislative intent that language references such as idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded or defective persons be deleted and replaced with more appropriate references to reflect current statute law more recently enacted by the federal government and this legislature. It is legislative belief that use of the undefined term "insanity" be avoided in preference to the use of a process for defining incompetency or disability as fully set forth in chapter 11.88 RCW; that language that has allowed or implied a presumption of incompetency or disability on the basis of an apparent condition or appearance be deleted in favor of a reference to necessary due process allowing a judicial determination of the existence or lack of existence of such incompetency or disability." [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 1.]

Adverse possession, personal disability, limitation tolled: RCW 7.28.090.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.190 Statute tolled by personal disability. ***(Effective January 1, 2022.)*** (1) Unless otherwise provided in this section, if a person entitled to bring an action mentioned in this chapter, except for a penalty or forfeiture, or against a sheriff or other officer, for an escape, be at the time the cause of action accrued either under the age of eighteen years, or incompetent or disabled to such a degree that he or she cannot understand the nature of the proceedings, such incompetency or disability as determined according to chapter 11.130 RCW, or imprisoned on a criminal charge prior to sentencing, the time of such disability shall not be a part of the time limited for the commencement of action.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section with respect to a person under the age of eighteen years does not apply to the time limited for the commencement of an action under RCW 4.16.350. [2020 c 312 § 702; 2006 c 8 § 303; 1993 c 232 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 74; Code 1881 § 37; 1877 p 9 § 38; 1869 p 10 § 38; 1861 p 61 § 1; 1854 p 364 § 11; RRS § 169.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of subsection (2) of this section, see *Schroeder v. Weighall*, 179 Wn.2d. 566, 316 P.3d 482 (2014).

Effective dates—2020 c 312: See note following RCW 11.130.915.

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

Purpose—Intent—1977 ex.s. c 80: "It is the purpose of the legislature in enacting this 1977 amendatory act to provide for a comprehensive revision of out-dated and offensive language, procedures and assumptions that have previously been used to identify and categorize mentally, physically, and sensory handicapped citizens. It is legislative intent that language references such as idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded or defective persons be deleted and replaced with more appropriate references to reflect current statute law more recently enacted by the federal government and this legislature. It is legislative belief that use of the undefined term "insanity" be avoided in preference to the use of a process for defining incompetency or disability as fully set forth in chapter 11.88 RCW; that language that has allowed or implied a presumption of incompetency or disability on the basis of an apparent condition or appearance be deleted in favor of a reference to necessary due process allowing a judicial determination of the existence or lack of existence of such incompetency or disability." [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 1.]

Adverse possession, personal disability, limitation tolled: RCW 7.28.090.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.200 Statute tolled by death. Limitations on actions against a person who dies before the expiration of the time otherwise limited for commencement thereof are as set forth in chapter 11.40 RCW. Subject to the limitations on claims against a deceased person under chapter 11.40 RCW, if a person entitled to bring an action dies before the expira-

tion of the time limited for the commencement thereof, and the cause of action survives, an action may be commenced by his or her representatives after the expiration of the time and within one year from his or her death. [2011 c 336 § 85; 1989 c 333 § 8; Code 1881 § 38; 1877 p 9 § 38; 1854 p 364 § 12; RRS § 170.]

Decedents, claims against, time limits: RCW 11.40.051, 11.40.060.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.210 Statute tolled—By war as to enemy alien. When a person shall be an alien subject or a citizen of a country at war with the United States, the time of the continuance of the war shall not be a part of the period limited for the commencement of the action. [1941 c 174 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 39; 1854 p 365 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 171, part.]

4.16.220 Statute tolled—As to person in military service of United States. When the enforcement of civil liabilities against a person in the military service of the United States has been suspended by operation of law, the period of such suspension shall not be a part of the period limited for the commencement of the action. [1941 c 174 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 39; 1854 p 365 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 171, part.]

Application of federal law: RCW 73.16.070.

4.16.230 Statute tolled by judicial proceedings. When the commencement of an action is stayed by injunction or a statutory prohibition, the time of the continuance of the injunction or prohibition shall not be a part of the time limited for the commencement of the action. [Code 1881 § 40; 1877 p 10 § 41; 1854 p 365 § 14; RRS § 172.]

4.16.240 Effect of reversal of judgment on appeal. If an action shall be commenced within the time prescribed therefor, and a judgment therein for the plaintiff be reversed on error or appeal, the plaintiff, or if he or she dies and the cause of action survives, his or her heirs or representatives may commence a new action within one year after reversal. [2011 c 336 § 86; Code 1881 § 41; 1877 p 10 § 42; 1854 p 365 § 15; RRS § 173.]

4.16.250 Disability must exist when right of action accrued. No person shall avail himself or herself of a disability unless it existed when his or her right of action accrued. [2011 c 336 § 87; Code 1881 § 42; 1877 p 10 § 43; 1854 p 365 § 16; RRS § 174.]

4.16.260 Coexisting disabilities. When two or more disabilities shall coexist at the time the right of action accrues, the limitation shall not attach until they all be removed. [Code 1881 § 43; 1877 p 10 § 44; 1854 p 365 § 17; RRS § 175.]

4.16.270 Effect of partial payment. When any payment has been or shall be made upon any existing contract prior to its applicable limitation period having expired, whether the contract is a bill of exchange, promissory note, bond, or other evidence of indebtedness, if the payment is made after it is due, the limitation period shall restart from the time the most recent payment was made. Any payment on the contract made after the limitation period has expired shall not restart, revive, or extend the limitation period. [2019 c 377 § 1; Code 1881 § 45; 1877 p 10 § 46; 1854 p 365 § 19; RRS § 177.]

4.16.280 New promise must be in writing. No acknowledgment or promise shall be sufficient evidence of a new or continuing contract whereby to take the case out of the operation of this chapter, unless it is contained in some writing signed by the party to be charged thereby; except, an acknowledgment or promise made after the limitation period has expired shall not restart, revive, or extend the limitation period. This section shall not alter the effect of any payment of principal or interest. [2019 c 377 § 2; Code 1881 § 44; 1877 p 10 § 45; 1854 p 365 § 18; RRS § 176.]

4.16.290 Foreign statutes of limitation, how applied. When the cause of action has arisen in another state, territory or country between nonresidents of this state, and by the laws of the state, territory or country where the action arose, an action cannot be maintained thereon by reason of the lapse of time, no action shall be maintained thereon in this state. [Code 1881 § 46; 1877 p 10 § 47; 1854 p 365 § 20; RRS § 178.]

4.16.300 Actions or claims arising from construction, alteration, repair, design, planning, survey, engineering, etc., of improvements upon real property. RCW 4.16.300 through 4.16.320 shall apply to all claims or causes of action of any kind against any person, arising from such person having constructed, altered or repaired any improvement upon real property, or having performed or furnished any design, planning, surveying, architectural or construction or engineering services, or supervision or observation of construction, or administration of construction contracts for any construction, alteration or repair of any improvement upon real property. This section is specifically intended to benefit persons having performed work for which the persons must be registered or licensed under RCW 18.08.310, 18.27.020, 18.43.040, 18.96.020, or 19.28.041, and shall not apply to claims or causes of action against persons not required to be so registered or licensed. [2004 c 257 § 1; 1986 c 305 § 703; 1967 c 75 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.310 Actions or claims arising from construction, alteration, repair, design, planning, survey, engineering, etc., of improvements upon real property—Accrual and limitations of actions or claims. All claims or causes of action as set forth in RCW 4.16.300 shall accrue, and the applicable statute of limitation shall begin to run only during the period within six years after substantial completion of construction, or during the period within six years after the termination of the services enumerated in RCW 4.16.300, whichever is later. The phrase "substantial completion of construction" shall mean the state of completion reached when an improvement upon real property may be used or occupied for its intended use. Any cause of action which has not accrued within six years after such substantial completion of construction, or within six years after such termination of services, whichever is later, shall be barred: PROVIDED, That this limitation shall not be asserted as a defense by any

owner, tenant or other person in possession and control of the improvement at the time such cause of action accrues. The limitations prescribed in this section apply to all claims or causes of action as set forth in RCW 4.16.300 brought in the name or for the benefit of the state which are made or commenced after June 11, 1986.

If a written notice is filed under RCW 64.50.020 within the time prescribed for the filing of an action under this chapter, the period of time during which the filing of an action is barred under RCW 64.50.020 plus sixty days shall not be a part of the period limited for the commencement of an action, nor for the application of this section. [2002 c 323 § 9; 1986 c 305 § 702; 1967 c 75 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.320 Actions or claims arising from construction, alteration, repair, design, planning, survey, engineering, etc., of improvements upon real property—Construction. Nothing in RCW 4.16.300 through 4.16.320 shall be construed as extending the period now permitted by law for bringing any kind of action. [1967 c 75 § 3.]

4.16.325 Actions or claims arising from construction defect claims—Statute tolled. If a written notice of claim is served under RCW 64.50.020 within the time prescribed for the filing of an action under this chapter, the statutes of limitations for construction-related claims are tolled until sixty days after the period of time during which the filing of an action is barred under RCW 64.50.020. [2002 c 323 § 8.]

4.16.326 Actions or claims for construction defect claims—Comparative fault. (1) Persons engaged in any activity defined in RCW 4.16.300 may be excused, in whole or in part, from any obligation, damage, loss, or liability for those defined activities under the principles of comparative fault for the following affirmative defenses:

(a) To the extent it is caused by an unforeseen act of nature that caused, prevented, or precluded the activities defined in RCW 4.16.300 from meeting the applicable building codes, regulations, and ordinances in effect at the commencement of construction. For purposes of this section an "unforeseen act of nature" means any weather condition, earthquake, or man-made event such as war, terrorism, or vandalism;

(b) To the extent it is caused by a homeowner's unreasonable failure to minimize or prevent those damages in a timely manner, including the failure of the homeowner to allow reasonable and timely access for inspections and repairs under this section. This includes the failure to give timely notice to the builder after discovery of a violation, but does not include damages due to the untimely or inadequate response of a builder to the homeowner's claim;

(c) To the extent it is caused by the homeowner or his or her agent, employee, subcontractor, independent contractor, or consultant by virtue of their failure to follow the builder's or manufacturer's maintenance recommendations, or commonly accepted homeowner maintenance obligations. In order to rely upon this defense as it relates to a builder's recommended maintenance schedule, the builder shall show that the homeowner had written notice of the schedule, the schedule was reasonable at the time it was issued, and the homeowner failed to substantially comply with the written schedule;

(d) To the extent it is caused by the homeowner or his or her agent's or an independent third party's alterations, ordinary wear and tear, misuse, abuse, or neglect, or by the structure's use for something other than its intended purpose;

(e) As to a particular violation for which the builder has obtained a valid release;

(f) To the extent that the builder's repair corrected the alleged violation or defect;

(g) To the extent that a cause of action does not accrue within the statute of repose pursuant to RCW 4.16.310 or that an actionable cause as set forth in RCW 4.16.300 is not filed within the applicable statute of limitations. In contract actions the applicable contract statute of limitations expires, regardless of discovery, six years after substantial completion of construction, or during the period within six years after the termination of the services enumerated in RCW 4.16.300, whichever is later;

(h) As to any causes of action to which this section does not apply, all applicable affirmative defenses are preserved.

(2) This section does not apply to any civil action in tort alleging personal injury or wrongful death to a person or persons resulting from a construction defect. [2003 c 80 § 1.]

4.16.327 Actions or claims for construction defects—Emergency repairs. Any person, including but not limited to contractors, builders, tradespeople, and other providers of construction, remodel, or repair services, who, without compensation or the expectation of compensation, renders emergency repairs to any structure at the scene of any accident, disaster, or emergency that has caused or resulted in damage to the structure is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such emergency repairs, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. Any person rendering emergency repairs during the course of regular employment and receiving compensation or expecting to receive compensation for rendering such repairs is excluded from the protection of this section.

For the purposes of this section, "accident, disaster, or emergency" includes an earthquake, windstorm, hurricane, landslide, flood, volcanic eruption, explosion, fire, or any similar occurrence. [2003 c 11 § 1.]

4.16.340 Actions based on childhood sexual abuse. (1) All claims or causes of action based on intentional conduct brought by any person for recovery of damages for injury suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse shall be commenced within the later of the following periods:

(a) Within three years of the act alleged to have caused the injury or condition;

(b) Within three years of the time the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that the injury or condition was caused by said act; or

(c) Within three years of the time the victim discovered that the act caused the injury for which the claim is brought:

PROVIDED, That the time limit for commencement of an action under this section is tolled for a child until the child reaches the age of eighteen years.

(2) The victim need not establish which act in a series of continuing sexual abuse or exploitation incidents caused the injury complained of, but may compute the date of discovery from the date of discovery of the last act by the same perpetrator which is part of a common scheme or plan of sexual abuse or exploitation.

(3) The knowledge of a custodial parent or guardian shall not be imputed to a person under the age of eighteen years.

(4) For purposes of this section, "child" means a person under the age of eighteen years.

(5) As used in this section, "childhood sexual abuse" means any act committed by the defendant against a complainant who was less than eighteen years of age at the time of the act and which act would have been a violation of chapter 9A.44 RCW or RCW 9.68A.040 or prior laws of similar effect at the time the act was committed. [1991 c 212 § 2; 1989 c 317 § 2; 1988 c 144 § 1.]

Finding—Intent—1991 c 212: "The legislature finds that:

(1) Childhood sexual abuse is a pervasive problem that affects the safety and well-being of many of our citizens.

(2) Childhood sexual abuse is a traumatic experience for the victim causing long-lasting damage.

(3) The victim of childhood sexual abuse may repress the memory of the abuse or be unable to connect the abuse to any injury until after the statute of limitations has run.

(4) The victim of childhood sexual abuse may be unable to understand or make the connection between childhood sexual abuse and emotional harm or damage until many years after the abuse occurs.

(5) Even though victims may be aware of injuries related to the childhood sexual abuse, more serious injuries may be discovered many years later.

(6) The legislature enacted RCW 4.16.340 to clarify the application of the discovery rule to childhood sexual abuse cases. At that time the legislature intended to reverse the Washington supreme court decision in *Tyson v. Tyson,* 107 Wn.2d 72, 727 P.2d 226 (1986).

It is still the legislature's intention that *Tyson v. Tyson,* 107 Wn.2d 72, 727 P.2d 226 (1986) be reversed, as well as the line of cases that state that discovery of any injury whatsoever caused by an act of childhood sexual abuse commences the statute of limitations. The legislature intends that the earlier discovery of less serious injuries should not affect the statute of limitations for injuries that are discovered later." [1991 c 212 § 1.]

Intent—1989 c 317: "(1) The legislature finds that possible confusion may exist in interpreting the statute of limitations provisions for child sexual abuse civil actions in RCW 4.16.190 and 4.16.340 regarding the accrual of a cause of action for a person under age eighteen. The legislature finds that amending RCW 4.16.340 will clarify that the time limit for commencement of an action under RCW 4.16.340 is tolled until the child reaches age eighteen. The 1989 amendment to RCW 4.16.340 is intended as a clarification of existing law and is not intended to be a change in the law.

(2) The legislature further finds that the enactment of chapter 145, Laws of 1988, which deleted specific reference to RCW 9A.44.070, 9A.44.080, and 9A.44.100(1)(b) from RCW 9A.04.080 and also deleted those specific referenced provisions from the laws of Washington, did not intend to change the statute of limitations governing those offenses from seven to three years." [1989 c 317 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.350 Action for injuries resulting from health care or related services—Physicians, dentists, nurses, etc.—Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, etc. Any civil action for damages for injury occurring as a result of health care which is provided after June 25, 1976, against:

(1) A person licensed by this state to provide health care or related services, including, but not limited to, a physician, osteopathic physician, dentist, nurse, optometrist, podiatric physician and surgeon, chiropractor, physical therapist, psychologist, pharmacist, optician, physician's assistant, osteopathic physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or physician's trained mobile intensive care paramedic, including, in the event such person is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative;

(2) An employee or agent of a person described in subsection (1) of this section, acting in the course and scope of his or her employment, including, in the event such employee or agent is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative; or

(3) An entity, whether or not incorporated, facility, or institution employing one or more persons described in subsection (1) of this section, including, but not limited to, a hospital, clinic, health maintenance organization, or nursing home; or an officer, director, employee, or agent thereof acting in the course and scope of his or her employment, including, in the event such officer, director, employee, or agent is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative; based upon alleged professional negligence shall be commenced within three years of the act or omission alleged to have caused the injury or condition, or one year of the time the patient or his or her representative discovered or reasonably should have discovered that the injury or condition was caused by said act or omission, whichever period expires later, except that in no event shall an action be commenced more than eight years after said act or omission: PROVIDED, That the time for commencement of an action is tolled upon proof of fraud, intentional concealment, or the presence of a foreign body not intended to have a therapeutic or diagnostic purpose or effect, until the date the patient or the patient's representative has actual knowledge of the act of fraud or concealment, or of the presence of the foreign body; the patient or the patient's representative has one year from the date of the actual knowledge in which to commence a civil action for damages.

For purposes of this section, notwithstanding RCW 4.16.190, the knowledge of a custodial parent or guardian shall be imputed to a person under the age of eighteen years, and such imputed knowledge shall operate to bar the claim of such minor to the same extent that the claim of an adult would be barred under this section. Any action not commenced in accordance with this section shall be barred.

For purposes of this section, with respect to care provided after June 25, 1976, and before August 1, 1986, the knowledge of a custodial parent or guardian shall be imputed as of April 29, 1987, to persons under the age of eighteen years.

This section does not apply to a civil action based on intentional conduct brought against those individuals or entities specified in this section by a person for recovery of damages for injury occurring as a result of childhood sexual abuse as defined in RCW 4.16.340(5). [2011 c 336 § 88; 2006 c 8 § 302. Prior: 1998 c 147 § 1; 1988 c 144 § 2; 1987 c 212 § 1401; 1986 c 305 § 502; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 1; 1971 c 80 § 1.]

Purpose—Findings—Intent—2006 c 8 §§ 301 and 302: "The purpose of this section and section 302, chapter 8, Laws of 2006 is to respond to the court's decision in *DeYoung v. Providence Medical Center*, 136 Wn.2d 136 (1998), by expressly stating the legislature's rationale for the eight-year statute of repose in RCW 4.16.350.

The legislature recognizes that the eight-year statute of repose alone may not solve the crisis in the medical insurance industry. However, to the extent that the eight-year statute of repose has an effect on medical malprac-

tice insurance, that effect will tend to reduce rather than increase the cost of malpractice insurance.

Whether or not the statute of repose has the actual effect of reducing insurance costs, the legislature finds it will provide protection against claims, however few, that are stale, based on untrustworthy evidence, or that place undue burdens on defendants.

In accordance with the court's opinion in *DeYoung*, the legislature further finds that compelling even one defendant to answer a stale claim is a substantial wrong, and setting an outer limit to the operation of the discovery rule is an appropriate aim.

The legislature further finds that an eight-year statute of repose is a reasonable time period in light of the need to balance the interests of injured plaintiffs and the health care industry.

The legislature intends to reenact RCW 4.16.350 with respect to the eight-year statute of repose and specifically set forth for the court the legislature's legitimate rationale for adopting the eight-year statute of repose. The legislature further intends that the eight-year statute of repose reenacted by section 302, chapter 8, Laws of 2006 be applied to actions commenced on or after June 7, 2006." [2006 c 8 § 301.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

Actions for injuries resulting from health care: Chapter 7.70 RCW.

Complaint in personal injury actions not to include statement of damages: RCW 4.28.360.

Evidence of furnishing or offering to pay medical expenses inadmissible to prove liability in personal injury actions for medical negligence: Chapter 5.64 RCW.

Immunity of members of professional review committees, societies, examining, licensing or disciplinary boards from civil suit: RCW 4.24.240.

Proof and evidence required in actions against hospitals, personnel and members of healing arts: RCW 4.24.290.

Verdict or award of future economic damages in personal injury or property damage action may provide for periodic payments: RCW 4.56.260.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.360 Application of chapter to parentage action. This chapter does not limit the time in which an action for determination of parentage may be brought under chapter 26.26A or 26.26B RCW. [2019 c 46 § 5001; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 13.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.16.370 Actions against personal representative or trustee for breach of fiduciary duties—Statute of limitations. The statute of limitations for actions against a personal representative or trustee for breach of fiduciary duties is as set forth in RCW 11.96A.070. [1999 c 42 § 602; 1985 c 11 § 3. Prior: 1984 c 149 § 2.]

Purpose—Severability—1985 c 11: See notes following RCW 4.16.110.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 4.18 RCW
UNIFORM CONFLICT OF LAWS—LIMITATIONS ACT

Sections

Limitation of actions generally: Chapter 4.16 RCW.

4.18.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(1) "Claim" means a right of action that may be asserted in a civil action or proceeding and includes a right of action created by statute.

(2) "State" means a state, commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a foreign country, or a political subdivision of any of them. [1983 c 152 § 1.]

4.18.020 Conflict of laws—Limitation periods. (1) Except as provided by RCW 4.18.040, if a claim is substantively based:

(a) Upon the law of one other state, the limitation period of that state applies; or

(b) Upon the law of more than one state, the limitation period of one of those states, chosen by the law of conflict of laws of this state, applies.

(2) The limitation period of this state applies to all other claims. [1983 c 152 § 2.]

4.18.030 Rules of law applicable to computation of limitation period. If the statute of limitations of another state applies to the assertion of a claim in this state, the other state's relevant statutes and other rules of law governing tolling and accrual apply in computing the limitation period, but its statutes and other rules of law governing conflict of laws do not apply. [1983 c 152 § 3.]

4.18.040 Application of limitation period of other state—Unfairness. If the court determines that the limitation period of another state applicable under RCW 4.18.020 and 4.18.030 is substantially different from the limitation period of this state and has not afforded a fair opportunity to sue upon, or imposes an unfair burden in defending against, the claim, the limitation period of this state applies. [1983 c 152 § 4.]

4.18.900 Short title. This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Conflict of Laws—Limitations Act. [1983 c 152 § 7.]

4.18.901 Application of chapter—Existing and future claims. This chapter applies to claims:

(1) Accruing after July 24, 1983; or

(2) Asserted in a civil action or proceeding more than one year after July 24, 1983, but it does not revive a claim barred before July 24, 1983. [1983 c 152 § 5.]

4.18.902 Uniformity of application and construction of chapter. This chapter shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this chapter among states enacting it. [1983 c 152 § 6.]

Chapter 4.20 RCW
SURVIVAL OF ACTIONS

Sections

Action for injury or death of a child: RCW 4.24.010.

Actions by and against executors: Chapter 11.48 RCW.

Imputation of contributory fault of decedent in wrongful death actions: RCW 4.22.020.

4.20.005 Wrongful death—Application of terms. Words in RCW 4.20.010, 4.20.020, and 4.20.030 denoting the singular shall be understood as belonging to a plurality of persons or things. The masculine shall apply also to the feminine, and the word person shall also apply to bodies politic and corporate. [1917 c 123 § 3; RRS § 183-2. Formerly RCW 4.20.010, part.]

4.20.010 Wrongful death—Right of action. (1) When the death of a person is caused by the wrongful act, neglect, or default of another person, his or her personal representative may maintain an action against the person causing the death for the economic and noneconomic damages sustained by the beneficiaries listed in RCW 4.20.020 as a result of the decedent's death, in such amounts as determined by a trier of fact to be just under all the circumstances of the case.

(2) This section applies regardless of whether or not the death was caused under such circumstances as amount, in law, to a felony. [2019 c 159 § 1; 2011 c 336 § 89; 1917 c 123 § 1; RRS § 183. FORMER PARTS OF SECTION: 1917 c 123 § 3 now codified as RCW 4.20.005. Prior: 1909 c 129 § 1; Code 1881 § 8; 1875 p 4 § 4; 1854 p 220 § 496.]

Retroactive application—2019 c 159: "This act is remedial and retroactive and applies to all claims that are not time barred, as well as any claims pending in any court on July 28, 2019." [2019 c 159 § 6.]

4.20.020 Wrongful death—Beneficiaries of action. Every action under RCW 4.20.010 shall be for the benefit of the spouse, state registered domestic partner, child or children, including stepchildren, of the person whose death shall have been so caused. If there is no spouse, state registered domestic partner, or such child or children, such action may be maintained for the benefit of the parents or siblings of the deceased.

In every such action the trier of fact may give such damages as, under all circumstances of the case, may to them seem just. [2019 c 159 § 2; 2011 c 336 § 90; 2007 c 156 § 29; 1985 c 139 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 2; 1917 c 123 § 2; RRS § 183-1.]

Retroactive application—2019 c 159: See note following RCW 4.20.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.20.030 Workers' compensation act not affected. RCW 4.20.005, 4.20.010, and 4.20.020 shall not repeal or supersede chapter 74 of the Laws of 1911 [Title 51 RCW] and acts amendatory thereof, or any part thereof. [1917 c 123 § 5; RRS § 183-3.]

4.20.046 Survival of actions. (1) All causes of action by a person or persons against another person or persons shall survive to the personal representatives of the former and against the personal representatives of the latter, whether such actions arise on contract or otherwise, and whether or not such actions would have survived at the common law or prior to the date of enactment of this section.

(2) In addition to recovering economic losses on behalf of the decedent's estate, the personal representative is only entitled to recover noneconomic damages for pain and suffering, anxiety, emotional distress, or humiliation personal to and suffered by the deceased on behalf of those beneficiaries enumerated in RCW 4.20.020 in such amounts as determined by a trier of fact to be just under all the circumstances of the case. Damages under this section are recoverable regardless of whether or not the death was occasioned by the injury that is the basis for the action.

(3) The liability of property of spouses or domestic partners held by them as community property and subject to execution in satisfaction of a claim enforceable against such property so held shall not be affected by the death of either or both spouses or either or both domestic partners; and a cause of action shall remain an asset as though both claiming spouses or both claiming domestic partners continued to live despite the death of either or both claiming spouses or both claiming domestic partners.

(4) Where death or an injury to person or property, resulting from a wrongful act, neglect or default, occurs simultaneously with or after the death of a person who would have been liable therefor if his or her death had not occurred simultaneously with such death or injury or had not intervened between the wrongful act, neglect or default and the resulting death or injury, an action to recover damages for such death or injury may be maintained against the personal representative of such person. [2019 c 159 § 3; 2008 c 6 § 409; 1993 c 44 § 1; 1961 c 137 § 1.]

Retroactive application—2019 c 159: See note following RCW 4.20.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.20.050 Action not abated by death or disability if it survives—Substitution. No action shall abate by the death, marriage, or other disability of the party, or by the transfer of any interest therein, if the cause of action survives or continues; but the court may at any time within one year thereafter, on motion, allow the action to be continued by or against his or her representatives or successors in interest. [2011 c 336 § 91; Code 1881 § 17; 1877 p 6 § 17; 1869 p 6 § 17; 1854 p 132 § 11; RRS § 193.]

Rules of court: *Cf. RAP 3.2, 18.22.*

4.20.060 Action for personal injury survives. (1) No action for a personal injury to any person occasioning death shall abate, nor shall such right of action terminate, by reason of such death, if such person has a surviving spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child living, including stepchildren, or if leaving no surviving spouse, state registered domestic partner, or children, the person has surviving parents or siblings.

(2) An action under this section shall be brought by the personal representative of the deceased, in favor of the surviving spouse or state registered domestic partner, or in favor of the surviving spouse or state registered domestic partner and children, or if no surviving spouse or state registered domestic partner, in favor of the child or children, or if no

surviving spouse, state registered domestic partner, or a child or children, then in favor of the decedent's parents or siblings.

(3) In addition to recovering the decedent's economic losses under this section, the persons listed in subsection (1) of this section are entitled to recover damages for the decedent's pain and suffering, anxiety, emotional distress, or humiliation, in such amounts as determined by a trier of fact to be just under all the circumstances of the case. [2019 c 159 § 4; 2007 c 156 § 30; 1985 c 139 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 3; 1927 c 156 § 1; 1909 c 144 § 1; Code 1881 § 18; 1854 p 220 § 495; RRS § 194.]

Retroactive application—2019 c 159: See note following RCW 4.20.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 4.22 RCW

CONTRIBUTORY FAULT—EFFECT—IMPUTATION—CONTRIBUTION—SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

Sections

Product liability actions: Chapter 7.72 RCW.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.22.005 Effect of contributory fault. In an action based on fault seeking to recover damages for injury or death to person or harm to property, any contributory fault chargeable to the claimant diminishes proportionately the amount awarded as compensatory damages for an injury attributable to the claimant's contributory fault, but does not bar recovery. This rule applies whether or not under prior law the claimant's contributory fault constituted a defense or was disregarded under applicable legal doctrines, such as last clear chance. [1981 c 27 § 8.]

4.22.015 "Fault" defined. "Fault" includes acts or omissions, including misuse of a product, that are in any measure negligent or reckless toward the person or property of the actor or others, or that subject a person to strict tort liability or liability on a product liability claim. The term also includes breach of warranty, unreasonable assumption of risk, and unreasonable failure to avoid an injury or to mitigate damages. Legal requirements of causal relation apply both to fault as the basis for liability and to contributory fault.

A comparison of fault for any purpose under RCW 4.22.005 through 4.22.060 shall involve consideration of both the nature of the conduct of the parties to the action and the extent of the causal relation between such conduct and the damages. [1981 c 27 § 9.]

4.22.020 Imputation of contributory fault—Spouse, domestic partner, or minor child of spouse or domestic partner—Wrongful death actions. The contributory fault of one spouse or one domestic partner shall not be imputed to the other spouse or other domestic partner or the minor child of the spouse or domestic partner to diminish recovery in an action by the other spouse or other domestic partner or the minor child of the spouse or other domestic partner, or his or her legal representative, to recover damages caused by fault resulting in death or in injury to the person or property, whether separate or community, of the spouse or domestic partner. In an action brought for wrongful death or loss of consortium, the contributory fault of the decedent or injured person shall be imputed to the claimant in that action. [2008 c 6 § 401; 1987 c 212 § 801; 1981 c 27 § 10; 1973 1st ex.s. c 138 § 2.]

Wrongful death actions: Chapter 4.20 RCW.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.22.030 Nature of liability. Except as otherwise provided in RCW 4.22.070, if more than one person is liable to a claimant on an indivisible claim for the same injury, death or harm, the liability of such persons shall be joint and several. [1986 c 305 § 402; 1981 c 27 § 11.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.22.040 Right of contribution—Indemnity. (1) A right of contribution exists between or among two or more persons who are jointly and severally liable upon the same indivisible claim for the same injury, death or harm, whether or not judgment has been recovered against all or any of them. It may be enforced either in the original action or by a separate action brought for that purpose. The basis for contribution among liable persons is the comparative fault of each such person. However, the court may determine that two or more persons are to be treated as a single person for purposes of contribution.

(2) Contribution is available to a person who enters into a settlement with a claimant only (a) if the liability of the person against whom contribution is sought has been extinguished by the settlement and (b) to the extent that the amount paid in settlement was reasonable at the time of the settlement.

(3) The common law right of indemnity between active and passive tort feasors is abolished: PROVIDED, That the common law right of indemnity between active and passive tort feasors is not abolished in those cases to which a right of contribution by virtue of RCW 4.22.920(2) does not apply. [1982 c 100 § 1; 1981 c 27 § 12.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.22.050 Enforcement of contribution. (1) If the comparative fault of the parties to a claim for contribution has been established previously by the court in the original action, a party paying more than that party's equitable share of the obligation, upon motion, may recover judgment for contribution.

(2) If the comparative fault of the parties to the claim for contribution has not been established by the court in the original action, contribution may be enforced in a separate action, whether or not a judgment has been rendered against either

the person seeking contribution or the person from whom contribution is being sought.

(3) If a judgment has been rendered, the action for contribution must be commenced within one year after the judgment becomes final. If no judgment has been rendered, the person bringing the action for contribution either must have (a) discharged by payment the common liability within the period of the statute of limitations applicable to the claimant's right of action against him or her and commenced the action for contribution within one year after payment, or (b) agreed while the action was pending to discharge the common liability and, within one year after the agreement, have paid the liability and commenced an action for contribution. [2011 c 336 § 92; 1981 c 27 § 13.]

4.22.060 Effect of settlement agreement. (1) A party prior to entering into a release, covenant not to sue, covenant not to enforce judgment, or similar agreement with a claimant shall give five days' written notice of such intent to all other parties and the court. The court may for good cause authorize a shorter notice period. The notice shall contain a copy of the proposed agreement. A hearing shall be held on the issue of the reasonableness of the amount to be paid with all parties afforded an opportunity to present evidence. A determination by the court that the amount to be paid is reasonable must be secured. If an agreement was entered into prior to the filing of the action, a hearing on the issue of the reasonableness of the amount paid at the time it was entered into may be held at any time prior to final judgment upon motion of a party.

The burden of proof regarding the reasonableness of the settlement offer shall be on the party requesting the settlement.

(2) A release, covenant not to sue, covenant not to enforce judgment, or similar agreement entered into by a claimant and a person liable discharges that person from all liability for contribution, but it does not discharge any other persons liable upon the same claim unless it so provides. However, the claim of the releasing person against other persons is reduced by the amount paid pursuant to the agreement unless the amount paid was unreasonable at the time of the agreement in which case the claim shall be reduced by an amount determined by the court to be reasonable.

(3) A determination that the amount paid for a release, covenant not to sue, covenant not to enforce judgment, or similar agreement was unreasonable shall not affect the validity of the agreement between the released and releasing persons nor shall any adjustment be made in the amount paid between the parties to the agreement. [1987 c 212 § 1901; 1981 c 27 § 14.]

4.22.070 Percentage of fault—Determination—Exception—Limitations. (1) In all actions involving fault of more than one entity, the trier of fact shall determine the percentage of the total fault which is attributable to every entity which caused the claimant's damages except entities immune from liability to the claimant under Title 51 RCW. The sum of the percentages of the total fault attributed to at-fault entities shall equal one hundred percent. The entities whose fault shall be determined include the claimant or person suffering personal injury or incurring property damage, defendants, third-party defendants, entities released by the claimant, entities with any other individual defense against the claimant, and entities immune from liability to the claimant, but shall not include those entities immune from liability to the claimant under Title 51 RCW. Judgment shall be entered against each defendant except those who have been released by the claimant or are immune from liability to the claimant or have prevailed on any other individual defense against the claimant in an amount which represents that party's proportionate share of the claimant's total damages. The liability of each defendant shall be several only and shall not be joint except:

(a) A party shall be responsible for the fault of another person or for payment of the proportionate share of another party where both were acting in concert or when a person was acting as an agent or servant of the party.

(b) If the trier of fact determines that the claimant or party suffering bodily injury or incurring property damages was not at fault, the defendants against whom judgment is entered shall be jointly and severally liable for the sum of their proportionate shares of the claimants [claimant's] total damages.

(2) If a defendant is jointly and severally liable under one of the exceptions listed in subsections (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this section, such defendant's rights to contribution against another jointly and severally liable defendant, and the effect of settlement by either such defendant, shall be determined under RCW 4.22.040, 4.22.050, and 4.22.060.

(3)(a) Nothing in this section affects any cause of action relating to hazardous wastes or substances or solid waste disposal sites.

(b) Nothing in this section shall affect a cause of action arising from the tortious interference with contracts or business relations.

(c) Nothing in this section shall affect any cause of action arising from the manufacture or marketing of a fungible product in a generic form which contains no clearly identifiable shape, color, or marking. [1993 c 496 § 1; 1986 c 305 § 401.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.22.900 Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 138. This act takes effect as of 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 1974. [1973 1st ex.s. c 138 § 3.]

4.22.920 Applicability—1981 c 27. (1) Chapter 27, Laws of 1981 shall apply to all claims arising on or after July 26, 1981.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, RCW 4.22.040, 4.22.050, and 4.22.060 shall also apply to all actions in which trial on the underlying action has not taken place prior to July 26, 1981, except that there is no right of contribution in favor of or against any party who has, prior to July 26, 1981, entered into a release, covenant not to sue, covenant not to enforce judgment, or similar agreement with the claimant. [1982 c 100 § 2; 1981 c 27 § 15.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.22.925 Applicability—1981 c 27 § 17. In accordance with section 15(1), chapter 27, Laws of 1981, the repeal of RCW 4.22.010 by section 17, chapter 27, Laws of 1981 applies only to claims arising on or after July 26, 1981. RCW

4.22.010 shall continue to apply to claims arising prior to July 26, 1981. [1982 c 100 § 3.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 4.24 RCW
SPECIAL RIGHTS OF ACTION AND SPECIAL IMMUNITIES

Sections

Action for money damages due to gambling violations: RCW 9.46.200.

Arson reporting immunity act: Chapter 48.50 RCW.

Consent to treatment of minor for sexually transmitted disease, liability: RCW 70.24.110.

Food donation and distribution, limitation of liability: Chapter 69.80 RCW.

Hazardous materials incidents, rendering emergency aid, liability: RCW 70.136.050.

Injuries resulting from health care, special actions: Chapter 7.70 RCW.

Malpractice insurance for retired physicians providing health care services: RCW 43.70.460.

Mine rescue or recovery work, liability: RCW 38.52.198.

Physician or hospital rendering emergency care, liability: RCW 18.71.220.

Physician's trained advanced emergency medical technician and paramedic, liability: RCW 18.71.210.

Public benefit hospital entity joint self-insurance program filings and publications, civil immunity: RCW 48.190.120.

Special proceedings and actions: Title 7 RCW.

4.24.005 Tort actions—Attorneys' fees—Determination of reasonableness. Any party charged with the payment of attorney's fees in any tort action may petition the court not later than forty-five days of receipt of a final billing or accounting for a determination of the reasonableness of that party's attorneys' fees. The court shall make such a determination and shall take into consideration the following:

(1) The time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly;

(2) The likelihood, if apparent to the client, that the acceptance of the particular employment will preclude other employment by the lawyer;

(3) The fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services;

(4) The amount involved and the results obtained;

(5) The time limitations imposed by the client or by the circumstances;

(6) The nature and length of the professional relationship with the client;

(7) The experience, reputation, and ability of the lawyer or lawyers performing the services;

(8) Whether the fee is fixed or contingent;

(9) Whether the fixed or contingent fee agreement was in writing and whether the client was aware of his or her right to petition the court under this section;

(10) The terms of the fee agreement. [1987 c 212 § 1601; 1986 c 305 § 201.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.010 Action for injury or death of child. (1) A parent or legal guardian who has regularly contributed to the support of his or her minor child, and a parent or legal guardian who has had significant involvement in the life of an adult child, may maintain or join as a party an action as plaintiff for the injury or death of the child. For purposes of this section, "significant involvement" means demonstrated support of an emotional, psychological, or financial nature within the parent-child relationship, at or reasonably near the time of death, or at or reasonably near the time of the incident causing death, including either giving or receiving emotional, psychological, or financial support to or from the child.

(2) In addition to recovering damages for the child's health care expenses, loss of the child's services, loss of the child's financial support, and other economic losses, damages may be also recovered under this section for the loss of love and companionship of the child, loss of the child's emotional support, and for injury to or destruction of the parent-child relationship, in such amounts as determined by a trier of fact to be just under all the circumstances of the case.

(3) An action may be maintained by a parent or legal guardian under this section, regardless of whether or not the child has attained the age of majority, only if the child has no spouse, state registered domestic partner, or children.

(4) Each parent is entitled to recover for his or her own loss separately from the other parent regardless of marital status, even though this section creates only one cause of action.

(5) If one parent brings an action under this section and the other parent is not named as a plaintiff, notice of the institution of the suit, together with a copy of the complaint, shall be served upon the other parent: PROVIDED, That notice shall be required only if parentage has been duly established.

Such notice shall be in compliance with the statutory requirements for a summons. Such notice shall state that the other parent must join as a party to the suit within twenty days or the right to recover damages under this section shall be barred. Failure of the other parent to timely appear shall bar such parent's action to recover any part of an award made to the party instituting the suit. [2019 c 159 § 5; 1998 c 237 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 81 § 1; 1927 c 191 § 1; Code 1881 § 9; 1877 p 5 § 9; 1873 p 5 § 10; 1869 p 4 § 9; RRS § 184.]

Retroactive application—2019 c 159: See note following RCW 4.20.010.

Intent—1998 c 237: "It is the intent of this act to address the constitutional issue of equal protection addressed by the Washington state supreme court in *Guard v. Jackson*, 132 Wn.2d 660 (1997). The legislature intends to provide a civil cause of action for wrongful injury or death of a minor child to a mother or father, or both, if the mother or father has had significant involvement in the child's life, including but not limited to, emotional, psychological, or financial support." [1998 c 237 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.020 Action by parent for seduction of child. A father or mother, may maintain an action as plaintiff for the seduction of a child, and the guardian for the seduction of a ward, though the child or the ward be not living with or in the service of the plaintiff at the time of the seduction or afterwards, and there be no loss of service. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 5; Code 1881 § 10; 1877 p 5 § 10; 1869 p 4 § 10; RRS § 185.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.040 Action for negligently permitting fire to spread. Except as provided in RCW 76.04.760, if any person shall for any lawful purpose kindle a fire upon his or her own land, he or she shall do it at such time and in such manner, and shall take such care of it to prevent it from spreading and doing damage to other persons' property, as a prudent and careful person would do, and if he or she fails so to do he or she shall be liable in an action on the case to any person suffering damage thereby to the full amount of such damage. [2014 c 81 § 2; 2009 c 549 § 1001; Code 1881 § 1226; 1877 p 300 § 3; RRS § 5647.]

Reviser's note: The words "on the case" appear in the 1877 law and in the 1881 enrolled bill but were inadvertently omitted from the printed Code of 1881. See also *Pettigrew v. McCoy-Loggie Timber Co.*, 138 Wash. 619, 245 P. 22 (1926).

Authority of chapter—Application—2014 c 81: See notes following RCW 76.04.760.

Arson, reckless burning, and malicious mischief: Chapter 9A.48 RCW.

4.24.050 Kindling of fires by persons driving lumber. Persons engaged in driving lumber upon any waters or streams of this state, may kindle fires when necessary for the purposes in which they are engaged, but shall be bound to use the utmost caution to prevent the same from spreading and doing damage; and if they fail so to do, they shall be subject to all liabilities and penalties of RCW 4.24.040, 4.24.050, and 4.24.060, in the same manner as if the privilege granted by this section had not been allowed. [1983 c 3 § 4; Code 1881 § 1228; 1877 p 300 § 5; RRS § 5648.]

4.24.060 Application of common law. The common law right to an action for damages done by fires, is not taken away or diminished by RCW 4.24.040, 4.24.050, and 4.24.060. However:

(1) Any person availing himself or herself of the provisions of RCW 4.24.040, shall be barred of his or her action at common law for the damage so sued for;

(2) No action shall be brought at common law for kindling fires in the manner described in RCW 4.24.050. However, if any such fires shall spread and do damage, the person who kindled the fire and any person present and concerned in driving the lumber, by whose act or neglect the fire is suffered to spread and do damage shall be liable in an action on the case for the amount of damages thereby sustained; and

(3) A civil action for property damage to public or private forested lands, including real and personal property on those lands, resulting from a fire that started on or spread from public or private forested lands may be brought only under RCW 76.04.760. [2014 c 81 § 3; 2011 c 336 § 93; 1983 c 3 § 5; Code 1881 § 1229; 1877 p 300 § 6; RRS § 5649.]

Authority of chapter—Application—2014 c 81: See notes following RCW 76.04.760.

4.24.070 Recovery of money lost at gambling. All persons losing money or anything of value at or on any illegal gambling games shall have a cause of action to recover from the dealer or player winning, or from the proprietor for whose benefit such game was played or dealt, or such money or things of value won, the amount of the money or the value of the thing so lost. [1957 c 7 § 2; Code 1881 § 1255; 1879 p 98 § 3; RRS § 5851.]

Gambling: Chapter 9.46 RCW.

4.24.080 Action to recover leased premises used for gambling. It shall be lawful for any person letting or renting any house, room, shop, or other building whatsoever, or any boat, booth, garden, or other place, which shall, at any time, be used by the lessee or occupant thereof, or any other person, with his or her knowledge or consent, for gambling purposes, upon discovery thereof, to avoid and terminate such lease, or contract of occupancy, and to recover immediate possession of the premises by an action at law for that purpose. [2011 c 336 § 94; 1957 c 7 § 3; Code 1881 § 1257; 1879 p 98 § 5; RRS § 5852.]

4.24.090 Validity of evidence of gambling debt. All notes, bills, bonds, mortgages, or other securities, or other conveyances, the consideration for which shall be money, or other things of value, won by playing at any unlawful game, shall be void and of no effect, as between the parties thereto and all other persons, except holders in good faith, without notice of the illegality of such contract or conveyance. [1957 c 7 § 4; Code 1881 § 1254; 1879 p 98 § 2; RRS § 5853.]

4.24.115 Validity of agreement to indemnify against liability for negligence relative to construction, alteration, improvement, etc., of structure or improvement attached to real estate or relative to a motor carrier transportation contract. (1) A covenant, promise, agreement, or understanding in, or in connection with or collateral to, a contract or agreement relative to the construction, alteration, repair, addition to, subtraction from, improvement to, or maintenance of, any building, highway, road, railroad, excavation, or other structure, project, development, or improvement attached to real estate, including moving and demolition in connection therewith, a contract or agreement for architectural, landscape architectural, engineering, or land surveying services, or a motor carrier transportation contract, purporting to indemnify, including the duty and cost to defend, against liability for damages arising out of such services or out of bodily injury to persons or damage to property:

(a) Caused by or resulting from the sole negligence of the indemnitee, his or her agents or employees is against public policy and is void and unenforceable;

(b) Caused by or resulting from the concurrent negligence of (i) the indemnitee or the indemnitee's agents or employees, and (ii) the indemnitor or the indemnitor's agents or employees, is valid and enforceable only to the extent of the indemnitor's negligence and only if the agreement specifically and expressly provides therefor, and may waive the indemnitor's immunity under industrial insurance, Title 51

RCW, only if the agreement specifically and expressly provides therefor and the waiver was mutually negotiated by the parties. This subsection applies to agreements entered into after June 11, 1986.

(2) As used in this section, a "motor carrier transportation contract" means a contract, agreement, or understanding covering: (a) The transportation of property for compensation or hire by the motor carrier; (b) entrance on property by the motor carrier for the purpose of loading, unloading, or transporting property for compensation or hire; or (c) a service incidental to activity described in (a) or (b) of this subsection, including, but not limited to, storage of property, moving equipment or trailers, loading or unloading, or monitoring loading or unloading. "Motor carrier transportation contract" shall not include agreements providing for the interchange, use, or possession of intermodal chassis, containers, or other intermodal equipment. [2012 c 160 § 1; 2011 c 336 § 95; 2010 c 120 § 1; 1986 c 305 § 601; 1967 ex.s. c 46 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.130 Action for change of name—Fees. (1) Any person desiring a change of his or her name or that of his or her child or ward, may apply therefor to the district court of the judicial district in which he or she resides, by petition setting forth the reasons for such change; thereupon such court in its discretion may order a change of the name and thenceforth the new name shall be in place of the former.

(2) An offender under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections who applies to change his or her name under subsection (1) of this section shall submit a copy of the application to the department of corrections not fewer than five days before the entry of an order granting the name change. No offender under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections at the time of application shall be granted an order changing his or her name if the court finds that doing so will interfere with legitimate penological interests, except that no order shall be denied when the name change is requested for religious or legitimate cultural reasons or in recognition of marriage or dissolution of marriage. An offender under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections who receives an order changing his or her name shall submit a copy of the order to the department of corrections within five days of the entry of the order. Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(3) A sex offender subject to registration under RCW 9A.44.130 who applies to change his or her name under subsection (1) of this section shall follow the procedures set forth in *RCW 9A.44.130(6).

(4) The district court shall collect the fees authorized by RCW 36.18.010 for filing and recording a name change order, and transmit the fee and the order to the county auditor. The court may collect a reasonable fee to cover the cost of transmitting the order to the county auditor.

(5) Name change petitions may be filed and shall be heard in superior court when the person desiring a change of his or her name or that of his or her child or ward is a victim of domestic violence as defined in **RCW 26.50.010(1) and the person seeks to have the name change file sealed due to reasonable fear for his or her safety or that of his or her child or ward. Upon granting the name change, the superior court shall seal the file if the court finds that the safety of the person seeking the name change or his or her child or ward warrants sealing the file. In all cases filed under this subsection, whether or not the name change petition is granted, there shall be no public access to any court record of the name change filing, proceeding, or order, unless the name change is granted but the file is not sealed. [1998 c 220 § 5; 1995 sp.s. c 19 § 14; 1995 c 246 § 34; 1992 c 30 § 1; 1991 c 33 § 5; Code 1881 § 635; 1877 p 132 § 638; RRS § 998.]

Reviser's note: *(1) RCW 9A.44.130 was amended by 2015 c 261 § 3, changing subsection (6) to subsection (7).

**(2) RCW 26.50.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (1) to subsection (3).

Findings—Purpose—Short title—Severability—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 19: See notes following RCW 72.09.450.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.140 Action by another state to enforce tax liability. The courts of the state shall recognize and enforce the liability for taxes lawfully imposed by the laws of any other state which extends a like comity in respect to the liability for taxes lawfully imposed by the laws of this state and the officials of such state are hereby authorized to bring an action in all the courts of this state for the collection of such taxes: PROVIDED, That the courts of this state shall not recognize claims for such taxes against this state or any of its political subdivisions: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the time limitations upon the bringing of such actions which may be imposed by the laws of such other state shall not be tolled by the absence from such state of the person from whom the taxes are sought. The certificate of the secretary of state of such other state to the effect that such officials have the authority to collect the taxes sought to be recovered by such action shall be conclusive proof of that authority. [1951 c 166 § 1. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1951 c 166 § 2 now codified as RCW 4.24.141.]

Limitation of actions: Chapter 4.16 RCW.

4.24.141 Action by another state to enforce tax liability—"Taxes" defined. The term "taxes" as used in RCW 4.24.140 shall include:

(1) Any and all tax assessments lawfully made whether they be based upon a return or other disclosure of the taxpayer, upon information and belief of the taxing authority, or otherwise;

(2) Any and all penalties lawfully imposed pursuant to a tax statute;

(3) Interest charges lawfully added to the tax liability which constitutes the subject of the action. [1951 c 166 § 2. Formerly RCW 4.24.140, part.]

4.24.150 Action for fines or forfeitures. Fines and forfeitures may be recovered by an action at law in the name of the officer or person to whom they are by law given, or in the name of the officer or person who by law is authorized to prosecute for them. [Code 1881 § 657; 1869 p 153 § 597; RRS § 963.]

Limitation of actions: Chapter 4.16 RCW.

4.24.160 Action for penalty—Amount of recovery. When an action shall be commenced for a penalty, which by law is not to exceed a certain amount, the action may be com-

menced for that amount, and if judgment be given for the plaintiff, it may be for such amount or less, in the discretion of the court, in proportion to the offense. [Code 1881 § 658; 1869 p 153 § 598; RRS § 964.]

4.24.170 Judgment for penalty or forfeiture—Effect of collusion. A recovery of a judgment for a penalty or forfeiture by collusion between the plaintiff and defendant, with intent to save the defendant wholly or partially from the consequences contemplated by law, in case when the penalty or forfeiture is given wholly or partly to the person who prosecutes, shall not bar the recovery of the same by another person. [Code 1881 § 659; 1869 p 153 § 599; RRS § 965.]

4.24.180 Disposition of fines, fees, penalties and forfeitures—Venue. Fines and forfeitures not specially granted or otherwise appropriated by law, when recovered, shall be paid into the school fund of the proper county: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. Whenever, by the provisions of law, any property real or personal shall be forfeited to the state, or to any officer for its use, the action for the recovery of such property may be commenced in any county where the defendant may be found or where such property may be. [1987 c 202 § 115; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 9; Code 1881 § 660; 1869 p 153 § 600; RRS § 966.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Disposition of fines, fees, costs, penalties and forfeitures: RCW 10.82.070.

4.24.190 Action against parent for willful injury to person or property by minor—Monetary limitation—Common law liability preserved. The parent or parents of any minor child under the age of eighteen years who is living with the parent or parents and who shall willfully or maliciously destroy or deface property, real or personal or mixed, or who shall willfully and maliciously inflict personal injury on another person, shall be liable to the owner of such property or to the person injured in a civil action at law for damages in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars. This section shall in no way limit the amount of recovery against the parent or parents for their own common law negligence. [1996 c 35 § 2; 1992 c 205 § 116; 1977 ex.s. c 145 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 46 § 1; 1961 c 99 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.200 Liability of owners or others in possession of land and water areas for injuries to recreation users—Purpose. The purpose of RCW 4.24.200 and 4.24.210 is to encourage owners or others in lawful possession and control of land and water areas or channels to make them available to the public for recreational purposes by limiting their liability toward persons entering thereon and toward persons who may be injured or otherwise damaged by the acts or omissions of persons entering thereon. [1969 ex.s. c 24 § 1; 1967 c 216 § 1.]

4.24.210 Liability of owners or others in possession of land and water areas for injuries to recreation users—Known dangerous artificial latent conditions—Other limitations. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, any public or private landowners, hydroelectric project owners, or others in lawful possession and control of any lands whether designated resource, rural, or urban, or water areas or channels and lands adjacent to such areas or channels, who allow members of the public to use them for the purposes of outdoor recreation, which term includes, but is not limited to, the cutting, gathering, and removing of firewood by private persons for their personal use without purchasing the firewood from the landowner, hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, skateboarding or other nonmotorized wheel-based activities, aviation activities including, but not limited to, the operation of airplanes, ultra-light airplanes, hang gliders, parachutes, and paragliders, rock climbing, the riding of horses or other animals, clam digging, pleasure driving of off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, and other vehicles, boating, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, nature study, winter or water sports, viewing or enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites, without charging a fee of any kind therefor, shall not be liable for unintentional injuries to such users.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, any public or private landowner or others in lawful possession and control of any lands whether rural or urban, or water areas or channels and lands adjacent to such areas or channels, who offer or allow such land to be used for purposes of a fish or wildlife cooperative project, or allow access to such land for cleanup of litter or other solid waste, shall not be liable for unintentional injuries to any volunteer group or to any other users.

(3) Any public or private landowner, or others in lawful possession and control of the land, may charge an administrative fee of up to twenty-five dollars for the cutting, gathering, and removing of firewood from the land.

(4)(a) Nothing in this section shall prevent the liability of a landowner or others in lawful possession and control for injuries sustained to users by reason of a known dangerous artificial latent condition for which warning signs have not been conspicuously posted.

(i) A fixed anchor used in rock climbing and put in place by someone other than a landowner is not a known dangerous artificial latent condition and a landowner under subsection (1) of this section shall not be liable for unintentional injuries resulting from the condition or use of such an anchor.

(ii) Releasing water or flows and making waterways or channels available for kayaking, canoeing, or rafting purposes pursuant to and in substantial compliance with a hydroelectric license issued by the federal energy regulatory commission, and making adjacent lands available for purposes of allowing viewing of such activities, does not create a known dangerous artificial latent condition and hydroelectric project owners under subsection (1) of this section shall not be liable for unintentional injuries to the recreational users and observers resulting from such releases and activities.

(b) Nothing in RCW 4.24.200 and this section limits or expands in any way the doctrine of attractive nuisance.

(c) Usage by members of the public, volunteer groups, or other users is permissive and does not support any claim of adverse possession.

(5) For purposes of this section, the following are not fees:

(a) A license or permit issued for statewide use under authority of chapter 79A.05 RCW or Title 77 RCW;

(b) A pass or permit issued under RCW 79A.80.020, 79A.80.030, or 79A.80.040;

(c) A daily charge not to exceed twenty dollars per person, per day, for access to a publicly owned ORV sports park, as defined in RCW 46.09.310, or other public facility accessed by a highway, street, or nonhighway road for the purposes of off-road vehicle use; and

(d) Payments to landowners for public access from state, local, or nonprofit organizations established under department of fish and wildlife cooperative public access agreements if the landowner does not charge a fee to access the land subject to the cooperative agreement. [2017 c 245 § 1; 2012 c 15 § 1. Prior: 2011 c 320 § 11; 2011 c 171 § 2; 2011 c 53 § 1; 2006 c 212 § 6; prior: 2003 c 39 § 2; 2003 c 16 § 2; 1997 c 26 § 1; 1992 c 52 § 1; prior: 1991 c 69 § 1; 1991 c 50 § 1; 1980 c 111 § 1; 1979 c 53 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 153 § 17; 1969 ex.s. c 24 § 2; 1967 c 216 § 2.]

Findings—Intent—2011 c 320: See RCW 79A.80.005.

Effective date—2011 c 320: See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

Intent—2011 c 171: "This act is intended to reconcile and conform amendments made in chapter 161, Laws of 2010 with other legislation passed during the 2010 legislative sessions, as well as provide technical amendments to codified sections affected by chapter 161, Laws of 2010. Any statutory changes made by this act should be interpreted as technical in nature and not be interpreted to have any substantive policy or legal implications." [2011 c 171 § 1.]

Effective date—2011 c 171: "Except for section 129 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2011." [2011 c 171 § 142.]

Finding—2003 c 16: "The legislature finds that some property owners in Washington are concerned about the possibility of liability arising when individuals are permitted to engage in potentially dangerous outdoor recreational activities, such as rock climbing. Although RCW 4.24.210 provides property owners with immunity from legal claims for any unintentional injuries suffered by certain individuals recreating on their land, the legislature finds that it is important to the promotion of rock climbing opportunities to specifically include rock climbing as one of the recreational activities that are included in RCW 4.24.210. By including rock climbing in RCW 4.24.210, the legislature intends merely to provide assurance to the owners of property suitable for this type of recreation, and does not intend to limit the application of RCW 4.24.210 to other types of recreation. By providing that a landowner shall not be liable for any unintentional injuries resulting from the condition or use of a fixed anchor used in rock climbing, the legislature recognizes that such fixed anchors are recreational equipment used by climbers for which a landowner has no duty of care." [2003 c 16 § 1.].

Purpose—1972 ex.s. c 153: See RCW 79A.35.070.

Off-road and nonhighway vehicles: Chapter 46.09 RCW.

Snowmobiles: Chapter 46.10 RCW.

4.24.220 Action for being detained on mercantile establishment premises for investigation—"Reasonable grounds" as defense. In any civil action brought by reason of any person having been detained on or in the immediate vicinity of the premises of a mercantile establishment for the purpose of investigation or questioning as to the ownership of any merchandise, it shall be a defense of such action that the person was detained in a reasonable manner and for not more than a reasonable time to permit such investigation or questioning by a peace officer or by the owner of the mercantile establishment, his or her authorized employee or agent, and that such peace officer, owner, employee, or agent had reasonable grounds to believe that the person so detained was committing or attempting to commit larceny or shoplifting on such premises of such merchandise. As used in this section, "reasonable grounds" shall include, but not be limited to, knowledge that a person has concealed possession of unpurchased merchandise of a mercantile establishment, and a "reasonable time" shall mean the time necessary to permit the person detained to make a statement or to refuse to make a statement, and the time necessary to examine employees and records of the mercantile establishment relative to the ownership of the merchandise. [2011 c 336 § 96; 1967 c 76 § 3.]

Theft and robbery: Chapter 9A.56 RCW.

4.24.230 Liability for conversion of goods or merchandise from store or mercantile establishment, leaving restaurant or hotel or motel without paying—Adults, minors—Parents, guardians—Notice. (1) An adult or emancipated minor who takes possession of any goods, wares, or merchandise displayed or offered for sale by any wholesale or retail store or other mercantile establishment without the consent of the owner or seller, and with the intention of converting such goods, wares, or merchandise to his or her own use without having paid the purchase price thereof is liable in addition to actual damages, for a penalty to the owner or seller in the amount of the retail value thereof not to exceed two thousand eight hundred fifty dollars, plus an additional penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than six hundred fifty dollars, plus all reasonable attorney's fees and court costs expended by the owner or seller. A customer who orders a meal in a restaurant or other eating establishment, receives at least a portion thereof, and then leaves without paying, is subject to liability under this section. A person who shall receive any food, money, credit, lodging, or accommodation at any hotel, motel, boarding house, or lodging house, and then leaves without paying the proprietor, manager, or authorized employee thereof, is subject to liability under this section.

(2) The parent or legal guardian having the custody of an unemancipated minor who takes possession of any goods, wares, or merchandise displayed or offered for sale by any wholesale or retail store or other mercantile establishment without the consent of the owner or seller and with the intention of converting such goods, wares, or merchandise to his or her own use without having paid the purchase price thereof, is liable as a penalty to the owner or seller for the retail value of such goods, wares, or merchandise not to exceed one thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars plus an additional penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than six hundred fifty dollars, plus all reasonable attorney's fees and court costs expended by the owner or seller. The parent or legal guardian having the custody of an unemancipated minor, who orders a meal in a restaurant or other eating establishment, receives at least a portion thereof, and then leaves without paying, is subject to liability under this section. The parent or legal guardian having the custody of an unemancipated minor, who receives any food, money, credit, lodging, or accommodation at any hotel, motel, boarding house, or lodging house, and then leaves without paying the proprietor, manager, or authorized employee thereof, is subject to liability under this section. For the purposes of this

subsection, liability shall not be imposed upon any governmental entity, private agency, or foster parent assigned responsibility for the minor child pursuant to court order or action of the department of social and health services.

(3) Judgments and claims arising under this section may be assigned.

(4) A conviction for violation of chapter 9A.56 RCW shall not be a condition precedent to maintenance of a civil action authorized by this section.

(5) An owner or seller demanding payment of a penalty under subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall give written notice to the person or persons from whom the penalty is sought. The notice shall state:

"IMPORTANT NOTICE: The payment of any penalty demanded of you does not prevent criminal prosecution under a related criminal provision."

This notice shall be boldly and conspicuously displayed, in at least the same size type as is used in the demand, and shall be sent with the demand for payment of a penalty described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section. [2009 c 431 § 3; 1994 c 9 § 1; 1987 c 353 § 1; 1981 c 126 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 134 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 59 § 1.]

Obtaining food from restaurant without paying: RCW 19.48.110.

Property crime database, liability: RCW 4.24.340.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.235 Physicians—Immunity from liability regarding safety belts. A licensed physician shall not be liable for civil damages resulting directly or indirectly from providing, or refusing to provide, a written verification that a person under that physician's care us [is] unable to wear an automotive safety belt. [1986 c 152 § 2.]

Safety belts, use required: RCW 46.61.688.

4.24.240 Persons licensed to provide health care or related services, employees, hospitals, clinics, etc.—Professional review committee, society, examining, licensing or disciplinary board members, etc.—Immunity from civil suit. (1)(a) A person licensed by this state to provide health care or related services including, but not limited to, an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner, a physician, osteopathic physician, dentist, nurse, optometrist, podiatric physician and surgeon, chiropractor, physical therapist, psychologist, pharmacist, optician, physician assistant, osteopathic physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, including, in the event such person is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative;

(b) An employee or agent of a person described in subparagraph (a) of this subsection, acting in the course and scope of his or her employment, including, in the event such employee or agent is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative; or

(c) An entity, whether or not incorporated, facility, or institution employing one or more persons described in subparagraph (a) of this subsection, including, but not limited to, a hospital, clinic, health maintenance organization, or nursing home; or an officer, director, trustee, employee, or agent thereof acting in the course and scope of his or her employment, including in the event such officer, director, employee, or agent is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative;

shall be immune from civil action for damages arising out of the good faith performance of their duties on such committees, where such actions are being brought by or on behalf of the person who is being evaluated.

(2) No member, employee, staff person, or investigator of a professional review committee shall be liable in a civil action as a result of acts or omissions made in good faith on behalf of the committee; nor shall any person be so liable for filing charges with or supplying information or testimony in good faith to any professional review committee; nor shall a member, employee, staff person, or investigator of a professional society, of a professional examining or licensing board, of a professional disciplinary board, of a governing board of any institution, or of any employer of professionals be so liable for good faith acts or omissions made in full or partial reliance on recommendations or decisions of a professional review committee or examining board. [2019 c 308 § 14; 2010 c 286 § 11; 1995 c 323 § 1; 1985 c 326 § 25; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 114 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 157 § 1.]

Findings—2019 c 308: See note following RCW 18.06.010.

Intent—2010 c 286: See RCW 18.06.005.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.250 Health care provider filing charges or presenting evidence—Immunity—Information sharing. (1) Any health care provider as defined in RCW 7.70.020 (1) and (2) who, in good faith, files charges or presents evidence against another member of their profession based on the claimed incompetency or gross misconduct of such person before a regularly constituted review committee or board of a professional society or hospital whose duty it is to evaluate the competency and qualifications of members of the profession, including limiting the extent of practice of such person in a hospital or similar institution, or before a regularly constituted committee or board of a hospital whose duty it is to review and evaluate the quality of patient care and any person or entity who, in good faith, shares any information or documents with one or more other committees, boards, or programs under subsection (2) of this section, shall be immune from civil action for damages arising out of such activities. For the purposes of this section, sharing information is presumed to be in good faith. However, the presumption may be rebutted upon a showing of clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the information shared was knowingly false or deliberately misleading. The proceedings, reports, and written records of such committees or boards, or of a member, employee, staff person, or investigator of such a committee or board, are not subject to review or disclosure, or subpoena or discovery proceedings in any civil action, except actions arising out of the recommendations of such committees or boards involving the restriction or revocation of the clinical or staff privileges of a health care provider as defined in RCW 7.70.020 (1) and (2).

(2) A coordinated quality improvement program maintained in accordance with RCW 43.70.510 or 70.41.200, a quality assurance committee maintained in accordance with RCW 18.20.390 or 74.42.640, or any committee or board under subsection (1) of this section may share information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a

coordinated quality improvement committee or committees or boards under subsection (1) of this section, with one or more other coordinated quality improvement programs or committees or boards under subsection (1) of this section for the improvement of the quality of health care services rendered to patients and the identification and prevention of medical malpractice. The privacy protections of chapter 70.02 RCW and the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 and its implementing regulations apply to the sharing of individually identifiable patient information held by a coordinated quality improvement program. Any rules necessary to implement this section shall meet the requirements of applicable federal and state privacy laws. Information and documents disclosed by one coordinated quality improvement program or committee or board under subsection (1) of this section to another coordinated quality improvement program or committee or board under subsection (1) of this section and any information and documents created or maintained as a result of the sharing of information and documents shall not be subject to the discovery process and confidentiality shall be respected as required by subsection (1) of this section and by RCW 43.70.510(4), 70.41.200(3), 18.20.390 (6) and (8), and 74.42.640 (7) and (9). [2005 c 291 § 1; 2005 c 33 § 5; 2004 c 145 § 1; 1981 c 181 § 1; 1979 c 17 § 1; 1977 c 68 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 114 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 144 § 1.]

Reviser's note: This section was amended by 2005 c 33 § 5 and by 2005 c 291 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Findings—2005 c 33: See note following RCW 18.20.390.

4.24.260 Health professionals making reports, filing charges, or presenting evidence—Immunity. Any member of a health profession listed under RCW 18.130.040 who, in good faith, makes a report, files charges, or presents evidence against another member of a health profession based on the claimed unprofessional conduct as provided in RCW 18.130.180 or inability to practice with reasonable skill and safety to consumers by reason of any physical or mental condition as provided in RCW 18.130.170 of such person before the agency, board, or commission responsible for disciplinary activities for the person's profession under chapter 18.130 RCW, shall be immune from civil action for damages arising out of such activities. A person prevailing upon the good faith defense provided for in this section is entitled to recover expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in establishing the defense. [2006 c 8 § 102; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 701; 1975 1st ex.s. c 114 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 144 § 2.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.264 Boards of directors or officers of nonprofit corporations—Liability—Limitations. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a member of the board of directors or an officer of any nonprofit corporation is not individually liable for any discretionary decision or failure to make a discretionary decision within his or her official capacity as director or officer unless the decision or failure to decide constitutes gross negligence.

(2) Nothing in this section shall limit or modify in any manner the duties or liabilities of a director or officer of a corporation to the corporation or the corporation's members. [1987 c 212 § 1101; 1986 c 305 § 903.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.290 Action for damages based on professional negligence of hospitals or members of healing arts—Standard of proof—Evidence—Exception. In any civil action for damages based on professional negligence against a hospital which is licensed by the state of Washington or against the personnel of any such hospital, or against a member of the healing arts including, but not limited to, an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW, a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, a chiropractor licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW, a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW, a podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, or a nurse licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, the plaintiff in order to prevail shall be required to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant or defendants failed to exercise that degree of skill, care, and learning possessed at that time by other persons in the same profession, and that as a proximate result of such failure the plaintiff suffered damages, but in no event shall the provisions of this section apply to an action based on the failure to obtain the informed consent of a patient. [2019 c 308 § 15; 2010 c 286 § 12; 1995 c 323 § 2; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 702; 1985 c 326 § 26; 1983 c 149 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 35 § 1.]

Findings—2019 c 308: See note following RCW 18.06.010.

Intent—2010 c 286: See RCW 18.06.005.

Limitations of actions for injuries resulting from health care or related services: RCW 4.16.350.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.300 Immunity from liability for certain types of medical care. (1) Any person, including but not limited to a volunteer provider of emergency or medical services, who without compensation or the expectation of compensation renders emergency care at the scene of an emergency or who participates in transporting, not for compensation, therefrom an injured person or persons for emergency medical treatment shall not be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such emergency care or in transporting such persons, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. Any person rendering emergency care during the course of regular employment and receiving compensation or expecting to receive compensation for rendering such care is excluded from the protection of this subsection.

(2) Any licensed health care provider regulated by a disciplining authority under RCW 18.130.040 in the state of Washington who, without compensation or the expectation of compensation, provides health care services at a community health care setting is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such care, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(3) For purposes of subsection (2) of this section, "community health care setting" means an entity that provides health care services and:

(a) Is a clinic operated by a public entity or private tax exempt corporation, except a clinic that is owned, operated, or controlled by a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW unless the hospital-based clinic either:

(i) Maintains and holds itself out to the public as having established hours on a regular basis for providing free health care services to members of the public to the extent that care is provided without compensation or expectation of compensation during those established hours; or

(ii) Is participating, through a written agreement, in a community-based program to provide access to health care services for uninsured persons, to the extent that:

(A) Care is provided without compensation or expectation of compensation to individuals who have been referred for care through that community-based program; and

(B) The health care provider's participation in the community-based program is conditioned upon his or her agreement to provide health services without expectation of compensation;

(b) Is a for-profit corporation that maintains and holds itself out to the public as having established hours on a regular basis for providing free health care services to members of the public to the extent that care is provided without compensation or expectation of compensation during those established hours; or

(c) Is a for-profit corporation that is participating, through a written agreement, in a community-based program to provide access to health care services for uninsured persons, to the extent that:

(i) Care is provided without compensation or expectation of compensation to individuals who have been referred for care through that community-based program; and

(ii) The health care provider's participation in the community-based program is conditioned upon his or her agreement to provide health services without expectation of compensation.

(4) Any school district employee not licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW who renders emergency care at the scene of an emergency during an officially designated school activity or who participates in transporting therefrom an injured person or persons for emergency medical treatment shall not be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such emergency care or in transporting such persons, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. [2014 c 204 § 3; 2004 c 87 § 1; 2003 c 256 § 1; 1985 c 443 § 19; 1975 c 58 § 1.]

Citizen's immunity if aiding police officer: RCW 9.01.055.

Infectious disease testing availability: RCW 70.05.180.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.310 Persons rendering emergency care or transportation—Definitions. For the purposes of RCW 4.24.300 the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Compensation" has its ordinary meaning but does not include: Nominal payments, reimbursement for expenses, or pension benefits; payments made to volunteer part-time and volunteer on-call personnel of fire departments, fire districts, ambulance districts, police departments, or any emergency response organizations; or any payment to a person employed as a transit operator who is paid for his or her regular work, which work does not routinely include providing emergency care or emergency transportation.

(2) "Emergency care" means care, first aid, treatment, or assistance rendered to the injured person in need of immediate medical attention and includes providing or arranging for further medical treatment or care for the injured person. Except with respect to the injured person or persons being transported for further medical treatment or care, the immunity granted by RCW 4.24.300 does not apply to the negligent operation of any motor vehicle.

(3) "Scene of an emergency" means the scene of an accident or other sudden or unexpected event or combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action. [1989 c 223 § 1; 1987 c 212 § 501; 1985 c 443 § 20; 1975 c 58 § 2.]

Infectious disease testing availability: RCW 70.05.180.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.314 Person causing hazardous materials incident—Responsibility for incident clean-up—Liability. (1) Any person transporting hazardous materials shall clean up any hazardous materials incident that occurs during transportation, and shall take such additional action as may be reasonably necessary after consultation with the designated incident command agency in order to achieve compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Any person transporting hazardous materials that is responsible for causing a hazardous materials incident, as defined in RCW 70.136.020, other than the operating employees of a transportation company, is liable to the state or any political subdivision thereof for extraordinary costs incurred by the state or the political subdivision in the course of protecting the public from actual or threatened harm resulting from the hazardous materials incident.

(2) Any person, other than a person transporting hazardous materials or an operating employee of a company, responsible for causing a hazardous materials incident, as defined in RCW 70.136.020, is liable to a municipal fire department or fire district for extraordinary costs incurred by the municipal fire department or fire district, in the course of protecting the public from actual or threatened harm resulting from the hazardous materials incident, until the incident oversight is assumed by the department of ecology.

(3) "Extraordinary costs" as used in this section means those reasonable and necessary costs incurred by a governmental entity in the course of protecting life and property that exceed the normal and usual expenses anticipated for police and fire protection, emergency services, and public works. These shall include, but not be limited to, overtime for public employees, unusual fuel consumption requirements, any loss or damage to publicly owned equipment, and the purchase or lease of any special equipment or services required to protect the public during the hazardous materials incident. [1989 c 406 § 1; 1984 c 165 § 3.]

4.24.320 Action by person damaged by malicious mischief to livestock or by owner damaged by theft of livestock—Treble damages, attorney's fees. Any person

whose livestock is damaged as a result of actions described in RCW 16.52.205 or any owner of livestock who suffers damage as a result of a willful, unauthorized act described in RCW 9A.56.080, 9A.56.083, or 16.52.320 may bring an action against the person or persons committing the act in a court of competent jurisdiction for exemplary damages up to three times the actual damages sustained, plus attorney's fees. As used in this section, "livestock" means the animals specified in RCW 9A.56.080 and 16.52.011. [2011 c 67 § 2; 2005 c 419 § 2; 2003 c 53 § 4; 1979 c 145 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 174 § 3.]

Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53: See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

4.24.330 Action for damages caused by criminal street gang tagging and graffiti. (1) An adult or emancipated minor who commits criminal street gang tagging and graffiti under RCW 9A.48.105 by causing physical damage to the property of another is liable in addition to actual damages, for a penalty to the owner in the amount of the value of the damaged property not to exceed one thousand dollars, plus an additional penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred dollars, plus all reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs expended by the owner.

(2) A conviction for violation of RCW 9A.48.105 is not a condition precedent to maintenance of a civil action authorized by this section.

(3) An owner demanding payment of a penalty under subsection (1) of this section shall give written notice to the person or persons from whom the penalty is sought. [2008 c 276 § 307.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.340 Liability of merchants and other parties for creating a property crime database—Information sharing. Merchants and other parties who create a database of individuals who have been: Apprehended in the process of committing a property crime; assessed a civil fine or penalty for committing a property crime; or convicted of a property crime are not subject to civil fines or penalties for sharing information from the database with other merchants, law enforcement officials, or legal professionals. [2009 c 431 § 19.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.350 Actions for damages that are false, unfounded, malicious, without probable cause, or part of conspiracy—Action, claim, or counterclaim by judicial officer, prosecuting authority, or law enforcement officer for malicious prosecution—Damages and costs—Attorneys' fees—Definitions. (1) In any action for damages, whether based on tort or contract or otherwise, a claim or counterclaim for damages may be litigated in the principal action for malicious prosecution on the ground that the action was instituted with knowledge that the same was false, and unfounded, malicious and without probable cause in the filing of such action, or that the same was filed as a part of a conspiracy to misuse judicial process by filing an action known to be false and unfounded.

(2) In any action, claim, or counterclaim brought by a judicial officer, prosecuting authority, or law enforcement officer for malicious prosecution arising out of the performance or purported performance of the public duty of such officer, an arrest or seizure of property need not be an element of the claim, nor do special damages need to be proved. A judicial officer, prosecuting authority, or law enforcement officer prevailing in such an action may be allowed an amount up to one thousand dollars as liquidated damages, together with a reasonable attorneys' fee, and other costs of suit. A government entity which has provided legal services to the prevailing judicial officer, prosecuting authority, or law enforcement officer has reimbursement rights to any award for reasonable attorneys' fees and other costs, but shall have no such rights to any liquidated damages allowed.

(3) No action may be brought against an attorney under this section solely because of that attorney's representation of a party in a lawsuit.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) "Judicial officer" means a justice, judge, magistrate, or other judicial officer of the state or a city, town, or county.

(b) "Prosecuting authority" means any officer or employee of the state or a city, town, or county who is authorized by law to initiate a criminal or civil proceeding on behalf of the public.

(c) "Law enforcement officer" means a member of the state patrol, a sheriff or deputy sheriff, or a member of the police force of a city, town, university, state college, or port district, or a fish and wildlife officer or ex officio fish and wildlife officer as defined in RCW 77.08.010. [2001 c 253 § 1; 1997 c 206 § 1; 1984 c 133 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 158 § 1.]

Legislative findings—1984 c 133: "The legislature finds that a growing number of unfounded lawsuits, claims, and liens are filed against law enforcement officers, prosecuting authorities, and judges, and against their property, having the purpose and effect of deterring those officers in the exercise of their discretion and inhibiting the performance of their public duties.

The legislature also finds that the cost of defending against such unfounded suits, claims and liens is severely burdensome to such officers, and also to the state and the various cities and counties of the state. The purpose of section 2 of this 1984 act is to provide a remedy to those public officers and to the public." [1984 c 133 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.355 Action by person removed from premises pursuant to RCW 9A.52.105—Damages, costs, attorneys' fees. All persons removed from premises pursuant to RCW 9A.52.105 on the basis of false statements made by a declarant pursuant to RCW 9A.52.115 shall have a cause of action to recover from the declarant for actual damages, together with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. [2017 c 284 § 3.]

4.24.360 Construction contract provision waiving, releasing, etc., rights of contractor, etc., to damages or adjustment for unreasonable delay caused by contractee, etc.—Declared void and unenforceable—Exceptions. Any clause in a construction contract, as defined in RCW 4.24.370, which purports to waive, release, or extinguish the rights of a contractor, subcontractor, or supplier to damages or an equitable adjustment arising out of unreasonable delay in performance which delay is caused by the acts or omissions of the contractee or persons acting for the contractee is against public policy and is void and unenforceable.

This section shall not be construed to void any provision in a construction contract, as defined in RCW 4.24.370, which (1) requires notice of delays, (2) provides for arbitra-

tion or other procedure for settlement, or (3) provides for reasonable liquidated damages. [1979 ex.s. c 264 § 1.]

4.24.370 Construction contract provision waiving, releasing, etc., rights of contractor, etc., to damages or adjustment for unreasonable delay caused by contractee, etc.—"Construction contract" defined. "Construction contract" for purposes of RCW 4.24.360 means any contract or agreement for the construction, alteration, repair, addition to, subtraction from, improvement to, or maintenance of, any building, highway, road, railroad, excavation, or other structure, project, development, or improvement attached to real estate, including moving and demolition in connection therewith. [1979 ex.s. c 264 § 2.]

4.24.380 Construction contract provision waiving, releasing, etc., rights of contractor, etc., to damages or adjustment for unreasonable delay caused by contractee, etc.—Prospective application of RCW 4.24.360. The provisions of RCW 4.24.360 shall apply to contracts or agreements entered into after September 1, 1979. [1979 ex.s. c 264 § 3.]

4.24.400 Building warden assisting others to evacuate building or attempting to control hazard—Immunity from liability. No building warden, who acts in good faith, with or without compensation, shall be personally liable for civil damages arising from his or her negligent acts or omissions during the course of assigned duties in assisting others to evacuate industrial, commercial, governmental or multiunit residential buildings or in attempting to control or alleviate a hazard to the building or its occupants caused by fire, earthquake or other threat to life or limb. The term "building warden" means an individual who is assigned to take charge of the occupants on a floor or in an area of a building during an emergency in accordance with a predetermined fire safety or evacuation plan; and/or an individual selected by a municipal fire chief or the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, after an emergency is in progress to assist in evacuating the occupants of such a building or providing for their safety. This section shall not apply to any acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or wilful or wanton misconduct. [1995 c 369 § 2; 1986 c 266 § 79; 1981 c 320 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.410 Dog handler using dog in line of duty—Immunity. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Police dog" means a dog used by a law enforcement agency specially trained for law enforcement work and under the control of a dog handler.

(b) "Accelerant detection dog" means a dog used exclusively for accelerant detection by the state fire marshal or a fire department and under the control of the state fire marshal or his or her designee or a fire department handler.

(c) "Dog handler" means a law enforcement officer who has successfully completed training as prescribed by the Washington state criminal justice training commission in police dog handling, or in the case of an accelerant detection dog, the state fire marshal's designee or an employee of the fire department authorized by the fire chief to be the dog's handler.

(2) Any dog handler who uses a police dog in the line of duty in good faith is immune from civil action for damages arising out of such use of the police dog or accelerant detection dog. [1993 c 180 § 1; 1989 c 26 § 1; 1982 c 22 § 1.]

4.24.420 Action by person committing a felony—Defense—Actions under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1983. It is a complete defense to any action for damages for personal injury or wrongful death that the person injured or killed was engaged in the commission of a felony at the time of the occurrence causing the injury or death and the felony was a proximate cause of the injury or death. However, nothing in this section shall affect a right of action under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1983. [1987 c 212 § 901; 1986 c 305 § 501.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.430 Actions by persons serving criminal sentence—Waiver of filing fees—Effect of previous claims dismissed on grounds claim was frivolous or malicious. If a person serving a criminal sentence in a federal, state, local, or privately operated correctional facility seeks leave to proceed in state court without payment of filing fees in any civil action or appeal against the state, a state or local governmental agency or entity, or a state or local official, employee, or volunteer acting in such capacity, except an action that, if successful, would affect the duration of the person's confinement, the court shall deny the request for waiver of the court filing fees if the person has, on three or more occasions while incarcerated or detained in any such facility, brought an action or appeal that was dismissed by a state or federal court on grounds that it was frivolous or malicious. One of the three previous dismissals must have involved an action or appeal commenced after July 22, 2011. A court may permit the person to commence the action or appeal without payment of filing fees if the court determines the person is in imminent danger of serious physical injury. [2011 c 220 § 1.]

4.24.450 Liability of operators for nuclear incidents—Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise the following definitions apply throughout RCW 4.24.460:

(1) "Nuclear incident" means any occurrence within this state causing, within or without this state, bodily injury, sickness, disease or death; loss or damage to property; or loss of use of property arising out of the resultant radioactive, toxic, explosive, or other hazardous properties of radioactive wastes being stored in or being transported to or from a waste repository in this state.

(2) "Operator" means the entity or entities that have been given responsibility for constructing, operating, or monitoring waste repositories or transporting radioactive waste and may include the United States and its federal agencies.

(3) "Radioactive waste" includes, but is not limited to, high-level radioactive waste, low-level radioactive waste, transuranic radioactive waste, spent nuclear fuel, and radioactive defense waste. It does not include de minimis radioactive waste.

(4) "Spent nuclear fuel" means fuel that has been withdrawn from a nuclear reactor following irradiation, the con-

stituent elements of which have not been separated by reprocessing.

(5) "Waste repository" means any system which is intended or may be used for the disposal or storage of radioactive waste including permanent disposal systems, interim storage systems, monitored retrievable storage systems, defense waste storage systems, test and evaluation facilities, or similar systems. [1985 c 275 § 1.]

4.24.460 Liability of operators for nuclear incidents—Presumption of operator negligence—Rebuttal—Recovery for negligence or against other parties not limited by section. (1) Operators are liable for failure to exercise ordinary and reasonable care to protect persons and property subject to injury in nuclear incidents. In addition, operators are liable for operational expenses and emergency purchases incurred by local or state governments in responding to nuclear incidents.

(2) If a nuclear incident occurs, there is a presumption that the operator of a waste repository was negligent in constructing, operating, or monitoring the waste repository, or in transporting radioactive waste, and that the operator was an actual cause of the nuclear incident. The presumption may be rebutted by a clear and convincing showing by the operator that the nuclear incident was not the result of the operator's negligence and that the operator's negligence was not an actual cause of the nuclear incident.

(3) This section does not limit the recovery of parties injured by a nuclear incident against the operators of a waste repository under theories of negligence in selecting contractors, failure to retain adequate controls over the waste repository, vicarious liability for contractors, failure to take reasonable precautionary measures with respect to inherently dangerous activities, and other negligence theories. This section does not limit the recovery of parties injured by a nuclear incident against parties other than operators of a waste facility. [1985 c 275 § 2.]

4.24.470 Liability of officials and members of governing body of public agency—Definitions. (1) An appointed or elected official or member of the governing body of a public agency is immune from civil liability for damages for any discretionary decision or failure to make a discretionary decision within his or her official capacity, but liability shall remain on the public agency for the tortious conduct of its officials or members of the governing body.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Public agency" means any state agency, board, commission, department, institution of higher education, school district, political subdivision, or unit of local government of this state including but not limited to municipal corporations, quasi-municipal corporations, special purpose districts, and local service districts.

(b) "Governing body" means the policy-making body of a public agency. [1987 c 212 § 401.]

Actions against local government for tortious conduct: Chapter 4.96 RCW.

4.24.480 Liability of members of state hazardous materials planning committee and local emergency planning committees. Any person who is appointed by the state emergency response commission under the authority of Sec. 301(c) of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11001) to serve on the state hazardous materials planning committee or a local emergency planning committee who, in good faith, assists in the development or review of local plans to respond to hazardous materials incidents is not liable for civil damages as a result of any act or omission in the development, review, or implementation of such plans unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence or wilful misconduct. [1988 c 42 § 15.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.490 Indemnification of state employees. (1) The state shall indemnify and hold harmless its employees in the amount of any judgment obtained or fine levied against an employee in any state or federal court, or in the amount of the settlement of a claim, or shall pay the judgment, fine, or settlement, if the act or omission that gave rise to the civil or criminal liability was in good faith and occurred while the employee was acting within the scope of his or her employment or duties and the employee is being represented in accordance with RCW 4.92.070.

(2) For purposes of this section "state employee" means a member of the civil service or an exempt person under chapter 41.06 RCW, or *higher education personnel under chapter 28B.16 RCW. [1989 c 413 § 3.]

***Reviser's note:** Chapter 28B.16 RCW was repealed by 1993 c 281, with the exception of RCW 28B.16.015 and 28B.16.240, which was recodified as RCW 41.06.382. The powers, duties, and functions of the state higher education personnel board were transferred to the Washington personnel resources board. RCW 28B.16.015 and 41.06.382 were subsequently repealed by 2002 c 354 § 403, effective July 1, 2005.

4.24.495 Liability of public employers for deducting or receiving agency or fair share fees from public employees—Findings and declaration—Definitions. (1) The legislature finds and declares application of this section to pending claims and actions clarifies existing state law rather than changes it. Public employees who paid agency or fair share fees as a condition of public employment in accordance with state law and supreme court precedent before June 27, 2018, had no legitimate expectation of receiving that money under any available cause of action. Public employers and employee organizations who relied on, and abided by, state law and supreme court precedent in deducting and accepting those fees were not liable to refund them. Agency or fair share fees paid for collective bargaining representation that employee organizations were obligated by state law to provide to public employees. Application of this section to pending claims will preserve, rather than interfere with, important reliance interests.

(2) Public employers and an employee organization, or any of their employees or agents, are not liable for, and have a complete defense to, any claims or actions under the law of this state for requiring, deducting, receiving, or retaining agency or fair share fees from public employees, and current or former public employees do not have standing to pursue these claims or actions, if the fees were permitted at the time under the laws of this state then in force and paid, through payroll deduction or otherwise, before June 27, 2018.

(a) This section applies to all claims and actions pending on July 28, 2019, and to claims and actions filed on or after July 28, 2019.

(b) This section may not be interpreted to infer that any relief made unavailable by this section would otherwise be available.

(3) This section is necessary to provide certainty to public employers and employee organizations that relied on state law, and to avoid disruption of public employee labor relations, after the supreme court's decision in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31* (2018) 138 S.Ct. 2448.

(4) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Employee organization" means any organization that functioned as an exclusive collective bargaining representative for public employees under any statute, ordinance, regulation, or other state or local law, and any labor organization with which it was affiliated.

(b) "Public employer" means any public employer including, but not limited to, the state, a court, a city, a county, a city and county, a school district, a community college district, an institution of higher education and its board or regents, a transit district, any public authority, any public agency, any other political subdivision or public corporation, or any other entity considered a public employer for purposes of the labor relations statutes of Washington. [2019 c 230 § 1.]

4.24.500 Good faith communication to government agency—Legislative findings—Purpose. Information provided by citizens concerning potential wrongdoing is vital to effective law enforcement and the efficient operation of government. The legislature finds that the threat of a civil action for damages can act as a deterrent to citizens who wish to report information to federal, state, or local agencies. The costs of defending against such suits can be severely burdensome. The purpose of RCW 4.24.500 through 4.24.520 is to protect individuals who make good-faith reports to appropriate governmental bodies. [1989 c 234 § 1.]

4.24.510 Communication to government agency or self-regulatory organization—Immunity from civil liability. A person who communicates a complaint or information to any branch or agency of federal, state, or local government, or to any self-regulatory organization that regulates persons involved in the securities or futures business and that has been delegated authority by a federal, state, or local government agency and is subject to oversight by the delegating agency, is immune from civil liability for claims based upon the communication to the agency or organization regarding any matter reasonably of concern to that agency or organization. A person prevailing upon the defense provided for in this section is entitled to recover expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in establishing the defense and in addition shall receive statutory damages of ten thousand dollars. Statutory damages may be denied if the court finds that the complaint or information was communicated in bad faith. [2002 c 232 § 2; 1999 c 54 § 1; 1989 c 234 § 2.]

Intent—2002 c 232: "Strategic lawsuits against public participation, or SLAPP suits, involve communications made to influence a government action or outcome which results in a civil complaint or counterclaim filed against individuals or organizations on a substantive issue of some public interest or social significance. SLAPP suits are designed to intimidate the exercise of First Amendment rights and rights under Article I, section 5 of the Washington state Constitution.

Although Washington state adopted the first modern anti-SLAPP law in 1989, that law has, in practice, failed to set forth clear rules for early dismissal review. Since that time, the United States supreme court has made it clear that, as long as the petitioning is aimed at procuring favorable government action, result, product, or outcome, it is protected and the case should be dismissed. Chapter 232, Laws of 2002 amends Washington law to bring it in line with these court decisions which recognizes that the United States Constitution protects advocacy to government, regardless of content or motive, so long as it is designed to have some effect on government decision making." [2002 c 232 § 1.]

4.24.520 Good faith communication to government agency—When agency or attorney general may defend against lawsuit—Costs and fees. In order to protect the free flow of information from citizens to their government, an agency receiving a complaint or information under RCW 4.24.510 may intervene in and defend against any suit precipitated by the communication to the agency. In the event that a local governmental agency does not intervene in and defend against a suit arising from any communication protected under chapter 234, Laws of 1989, the office of the attorney general may intervene in and defend against the suit. An agency prevailing upon the defense provided for in RCW 4.24.510 shall be entitled to recover costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in establishing the defense. If the agency fails to establish the defense provided for in RCW 4.24.510, the party bringing the action shall be entitled to recover from the agency costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in proving the defense inapplicable or invalid. [1989 c 234 § 4.]

4.24.525 Public participation lawsuits—Special motion to strike claim—Damages, costs, attorneys' fees, other relief—Definitions. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Claim" includes any lawsuit, cause of action, claim, cross-claim, counterclaim, or other judicial pleading or filing requesting relief;

(b) "Government" includes a branch, department, agency, instrumentality, official, employee, agent, or other person acting under color of law of the United States, a state, or subdivision of a state or other public authority;

(c) "Moving party" means a person on whose behalf the motion described in subsection (4) of this section is filed seeking dismissal of a claim;

(d) "Other governmental proceeding authorized by law" means a proceeding conducted by any board, commission, agency, or other entity created by state, county, or local statute or rule, including any self-regulatory organization that regulates persons involved in the securities or futures business and that has been delegated authority by a federal, state, or local government agency and is subject to oversight by the delegating agency.

(e) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, or any other legal or commercial entity;

(f) "Responding party" means a person against whom the motion described in subsection (4) of this section is filed.

(2) This section applies to any claim, however characterized, that is based on an action involving public participation

and petition. As used in this section, an "action involving public participation and petition" includes:

(a) Any oral statement made, or written statement or other document submitted, in a legislative, executive, or judicial proceeding or other governmental proceeding authorized by law;

(b) Any oral statement made, or written statement or other document submitted, in connection with an issue under consideration or review by a legislative, executive, or judicial proceeding or other governmental proceeding authorized by law;

(c) Any oral statement made, or written statement or other document submitted, that is reasonably likely to encourage or to enlist public participation in an effort to effect consideration or review of an issue in a legislative, executive, or judicial proceeding or other governmental proceeding authorized by law;

(d) Any oral statement made, or written statement or other document submitted, in a place open to the public or a public forum in connection with an issue of public concern; or

(e) Any other lawful conduct in furtherance of the exercise of the constitutional right of free speech in connection with an issue of public concern, or in furtherance of the exercise of the constitutional right of petition.

(3) This section does not apply to any action brought by the attorney general, prosecuting attorney, or city attorney, acting as a public prosecutor, to enforce laws aimed at public protection.

(4)(a) A party may bring a special motion to strike any claim that is based on an action involving public participation and petition, as defined in subsection (2) of this section.

(b) A moving party bringing a special motion to strike a claim under this subsection has the initial burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence that the claim is based on an action involving public participation and petition. If the moving party meets this burden, the burden shifts to the responding party to establish by clear and convincing evidence a probability of prevailing on the claim. If the responding party meets this burden, the court shall deny the motion.

(c) In making a determination under (b) of this subsection, the court shall consider pleadings and supporting and opposing affidavits stating the facts upon which the liability or defense is based.

(d) If the court determines that the responding party has established a probability of prevailing on the claim:

(i) The fact that the determination has been made and the substance of the determination may not be admitted into evidence at any later stage of the case; and

(ii) The determination does not affect the burden of proof or standard of proof that is applied in the underlying proceeding.

(e) The attorney general's office or any government body to which the moving party's acts were directed may intervene to defend or otherwise support the moving party.

(5)(a) The special motion to strike may be filed within sixty days of the service of the most recent complaint or, in the court's discretion, at any later time upon terms it deems proper. A hearing shall be held on the motion not later than thirty days after the service of the motion unless the docket conditions of the court require a later hearing. Notwithstanding this subsection, the court is directed to hold a hearing with all due speed and such hearings should receive priority.

(b) The court shall render its decision as soon as possible but no later than seven days after the hearing is held.

(c) All discovery and any pending hearings or motions in the action shall be stayed upon the filing of a special motion to strike under subsection (4) of this section. The stay of discovery shall remain in effect until the entry of the order ruling on the motion. Notwithstanding the stay imposed by this subsection, the court, on motion and for good cause shown, may order that specified discovery or other hearings or motions be conducted.

(d) Every party has a right of expedited appeal from a trial court order on the special motion or from a trial court's failure to rule on the motion in a timely fashion.

(6)(a) The court shall award to a moving party who prevails, in part or in whole, on a special motion to strike made under subsection (4) of this section, without regard to any limits under state law:

(i) Costs of litigation and any reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in connection with each motion on which the moving party prevailed;

(ii) An amount of ten thousand dollars, not including the costs of litigation and attorney fees; and

(iii) Such additional relief, including sanctions upon the responding party and its attorneys or law firms, as the court determines to be necessary to deter repetition of the conduct and comparable conduct by others similarly situated.

(b) If the court finds that the special motion to strike is frivolous or is solely intended to cause unnecessary delay, the court shall award to a responding party who prevails, in part or in whole, without regard to any limits under state law:

(i) Costs of litigation and any reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in connection with each motion on which the responding party prevailed;

(ii) An amount of ten thousand dollars, not including the costs of litigation and attorneys' fees; and

(iii) Such additional relief, including sanctions upon the moving party and its attorneys or law firms, as the court determines to be necessary to deter repetition of the conduct and comparable conduct by others similarly situated.

(7) Nothing in this section limits or precludes any rights the moving party may have under any other constitutional, statutory, case or common law, or rule provisions. [2010 c 118 § 2.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Davis v. Cox*, 183 Wn.2d 269, 351 P.3d 862 (2015).

Findings—Purpose—2010 c 118: "(1) The legislature finds and declares that:

(a) It is concerned about lawsuits brought primarily to chill the valid exercise of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and petition for the redress of grievances;

(b) Such lawsuits, called "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" or "SLAPPs," are typically dismissed as groundless or unconstitutional, but often not before the defendants are put to great expense, harassment, and interruption of their productive activities;

(c) The costs associated with defending such suits can deter individuals and entities from fully exercising their constitutional rights to petition the government and to speak out on public issues;

(d) It is in the public interest for citizens to participate in matters of public concern and provide information to public entities and other citizens on public issues that affect them without fear of reprisal through abuse of the judicial process; and

(e) An expedited judicial review would avoid the potential for abuse in these cases.

(2) The purposes of this act are to:

(a) Strike a balance between the rights of persons to file lawsuits and to trial by jury and the rights of persons to participate in matters of public concern;

(b) Establish an efficient, uniform, and comprehensive method for speedy adjudication of strategic lawsuits against public participation; and

(c) Provide for attorneys' fees, costs, and additional relief where appropriate." [2010 c 118 § 1.]

Application—Construction—2010 c 118: "This act shall be applied and construed liberally to effectuate its general purpose of protecting participants in public controversies from an abusive use of the courts." [2010 c 118 § 3.]

Short title—2010 c 118: "This act may be cited as the Washington Act Limiting Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation." [2010 c 118 § 4.]

4.24.530 Limitations on liability for equine activities—Definitions. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definitions in this section apply to RCW 4.24.530, 4.24.540, and section 3, chapter 292, Laws of 1989.

(1) "Equine" means a horse, pony, mule, donkey, or hinny.

(2) "Equine activity" means: (a) Equine shows, fairs, competitions, performances, or parades that involve any or all breeds of equines and any of the equine disciplines, including, but not limited to, dressage, hunter and jumper horse shows, grand prix jumping, three-day events, combined training, rodeos, driving, pulling, cutting, polo, steeplechasing, endurance trail riding and western games, and hunting; (b) equine training and/or teaching activities; (c) boarding equines; (d) riding, inspecting, or evaluating an equine belonging to another whether or not the owner has received some monetary consideration or other thing of value for the use of the equine or is permitting a prospective purchaser of the equine to ride, inspect, or evaluate the equine; and (e) rides, trips, hunts, or other equine activities of any type however informal or impromptu that are sponsored by an equine activity sponsor.

(3) "Equine activity sponsor" means an individual, group or club, partnership, or corporation, whether or not the sponsor is operating for profit or nonprofit, which sponsors, organizes, or provides the facilities for, an equine activity including but not limited to: Pony clubs, 4-H clubs, hunt clubs, riding clubs, school and college sponsored classes and programs, therapeutic riding programs, and, operators, instructors, and promoters of equine facilities, including but not limited to stables, clubhouses, ponyride strings, fairs, and arenas at which the activity is held.

(4) "Participant" means any person, whether amateur or professional, who directly engages in an equine activity, whether or not a fee is paid to participate in the equine activity.

(5) "Engages in an equine activity" means a person who rides, trains, drives, or is a passenger upon an equine, whether mounted or unmounted, and does not mean a spectator at an equine activity or a person who participates in the equine activity but does not ride, train, drive, or ride as a passenger upon an equine.

(6) "Equine professional" means a person engaged for compensation (a) in instructing a participant or renting to a participant an equine for the purpose of riding, driving, or being a passenger upon the equine, or, (b) in renting equipment or tack to a participant. [1989 c 292 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.540 Limitations on liability for equine activities—Exceptions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional shall not be liable for an injury to or the death of a participant engaged in an equine activity, and, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no participant nor participant's representative may maintain an action against or recover from an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional for an injury to or the death of a participant engaged in an equine activity.

(2)(a) RCW 4.24.530 and 4.24.540 do not apply to the horse racing industry as regulated in chapter 67.16 RCW.

(b) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall prevent or limit the liability of an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional:

(i) If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional:

(A) Provided the equipment or tack and the equipment or tack caused the injury; or

(B) Provided the equine and failed to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to engage safely in the equine activity, determine the ability of the equine to behave safely with the participant, and determine the ability of the participant to safely manage the particular equine;

(ii) If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional owns, leases, rents, or otherwise is in lawful possession and control of the land or facilities upon which the participant sustained injuries because of a dangerous latent condition which was known to or should have been known to the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional and for which warning signs have not been conspicuously posted;

(iii) If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant and that act or omission caused the injury;

(iv) If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional intentionally injures the participant;

(v) Under liability provisions as set forth in the products liability laws; or

(vi) Under liability provisions in chapter 16.04, *16.13, or *16.16 RCW. [1989 c 292 § 2.]

***Reviser's note:** Chapters 16.13 and 16.16 RCW were each recodified and/or repealed in their entirety by 1989 c 286. For disposition of chapters 16.13 and 16.16 RCW, see Table of Disposition of Former RCW Sections.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.545 Electronic monitoring or 24/7 sobriety program participation—Limitation on liability. Local governments, their subdivisions and employees, the department of corrections and its employees, and the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs and its employees are immune from civil liability for damages arising from incidents involving offenders who are placed on electronic monitoring or who are participating in the 24/7 sobriety program, unless it is shown that an employee acted with gross negligence or bad faith. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 § 33; 2006 c 130 § 3.]

4.24.550 Sex offenders and kidnapping offenders—Release of information to public—Web site. (1) In addition to the disclosure under subsection (5) of this section, public agencies are authorized to release information to the public regarding sex offenders and kidnapping offenders when the agency determines that disclosure of the information is relevant and necessary to protect the public and counteract the danger created by the particular offender. This authorization applies to information regarding: (a) Any person adjudicated or convicted of a sex offense as defined in RCW 9A.44.128 or a kidnapping offense as defined by RCW 9A.44.128; (b) any person under the jurisdiction of the indeterminate sentence review board as the result of a sex offense or kidnapping offense; (c) any person committed as a sexually violent predator under chapter 71.09 RCW or as a sexual psychopath under chapter 71.06 RCW; (d) any person found not guilty of a sex offense or kidnapping offense by reason of insanity under chapter 10.77 RCW; and (e) any person found incompetent to stand trial for a sex offense or kidnapping offense and subsequently committed under chapter 71.05 or 71.34 RCW.

(2) Except for the information specifically required under subsection (5) of this section, the extent of the public disclosure of relevant and necessary information shall be rationally related to: (a) The level of risk posed by the offender to the community; (b) the locations where the offender resides, expects to reside, or is regularly found; and (c) the needs of the affected community members for information to enhance their individual and collective safety.

(3) Except for the information specifically required under subsection (5) of this section, local law enforcement agencies shall consider the following guidelines in determining the extent of a public disclosure made under this section: (a) For offenders classified as risk level I, the agency shall share information with other appropriate law enforcement agencies and, if the offender is a student, the public or private school regulated under Title 28A RCW or chapter 72.40 RCW which the offender is attending, or planning to attend. The agency may disclose, upon request, relevant, necessary, and accurate information to any victim or witness to the offense, any individual community member who lives near the residence where the offender resides, expects to reside, or is regularly found, and any individual who requests information regarding a specific offender; (b) for offenders classified as risk level II, the agency may also disclose relevant, necessary, and accurate information to public and private schools, child day care centers, family day care providers, public libraries, businesses and organizations that serve primarily children, women, or vulnerable adults, and neighbors and community groups near the residence where the offender resides, expects to reside, or is regularly found; (c) for offenders classified as risk level III, the agency may also disclose relevant, necessary, and accurate information to the public at large; and (d) because more localized notification is not feasible and homeless and transient offenders may present unique risks to the community, the agency may also disclose relevant, necessary, and accurate information to the public at large for offenders registered as homeless or transient.

(4) The county sheriff with whom an offender classified as risk level III is registered shall release a sex offender community notification that conforms to the guidelines established under RCW 4.24.5501.

(5)(a) When funded by federal grants or other sources, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall create and maintain a statewide registered kidnapping and sex offender web site, which shall be available to the public. The web site shall post all level III and level II registered sex offenders, level I registered sex offenders only during the time they are out of compliance with registration requirements under RCW 9A.44.130 or if lacking a fixed residence as provided in RCW 9A.44.130, and all registered kidnapping offenders in the state of Washington.

(i) For level III offenders, the web site shall contain, but is not limited to, the registered sex offender's name, relevant criminal convictions, address by hundred block, physical description, and photograph. The web site shall provide mapping capabilities that display the sex offender's address by hundred block on a map. The web site shall allow citizens to search for registered sex offenders within the state of Washington by county, city, zip code, last name, and address by hundred block.

(ii) For level II offenders, and level I sex offenders during the time they are out of compliance with registration requirements under RCW 9A.44.130, the web site shall contain, but is not limited to, the same information and functionality as described in (a)(i) of this subsection, provided that it is permissible under state and federal law. If it is not permissible, the web site shall be limited to the information and functionality that is permissible under state and federal law.

(iii) For kidnapping offenders, the web site shall contain, but is not limited to, the same information and functionality as described in (a)(i) of this subsection, provided that it is permissible under state and federal law. If it is not permissible, the web site shall be limited to the information and functionality that is permissible under state and federal law.

(b) Law enforcement agencies must provide information requested by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs to administer the statewide registered kidnapping and sex offender web site.

(c)(i) Within five business days of the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs receiving any public record request under chapter 42.56 RCW for sex offender and kidnapping offender information, records or web site data it holds or maintains pursuant to this section or a unified sex offender registry, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall refer the requester in writing to the appropriate law enforcement agency or agencies for submission of such a request. The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall have no further obligation under chapter 42.56 RCW for responding to such a request.

(ii) This subparagraph (c) of this section is remedial and applies retroactively.

(6)(a) Law enforcement agencies responsible for the registration and dissemination of information regarding offenders required to register under RCW 9A.44.130 shall assign a risk level classification to all offenders after consideration of: (i) Any available risk level classifications provided by the department of corrections, the department of social and health services, and the indeterminate sentence review board; (ii) the agency's own application of a sex offender risk assessment tool; and (iii) other information and aggravating or mit-

igating factors known to the agency and deemed rationally related to the risk posed by the offender to the community at large.

(b) A sex offender shall be classified as a risk level I if his or her risk assessment and other information or factors deemed relevant by the law enforcement agency indicate he or she is at a low risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large. A sex offender shall be classified as a risk level II if his or her risk assessment and other information or factors deemed relevant by the law enforcement agency indicate he or she is at a moderate risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large. A sex offender shall be classified as a risk level III if his or her risk assessment and other information or factors deemed relevant by the law enforcement agency indicate he or she is at a high risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large.

(c) The agency shall make a good faith effort to notify the public and residents within a reasonable period of time after the offender registers with the agency.

(d) Agencies may develop a process to allow an offender to petition for review of the offender's assigned risk level classification. The timing, frequency, and process for review are at the sole discretion of the agency.

(7) An appointed or elected public official, public employee, or public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470, or units of local government and its employees, as provided in RCW 36.28A.010, are immune from civil liability for damages for any discretionary risk level classification decisions or release of relevant and necessary information, unless it is shown that the official, employee, or agency acted with gross negligence or in bad faith. The immunity in this section applies to risk level classification decisions and the release of relevant and necessary information regarding any individual for whom disclosure is authorized. The decision of a law enforcement agency or official to classify an offender to a risk level other than the one assigned by the department of corrections, the department of social and health services, or the indeterminate sentence review board, or the release of any relevant and necessary information based on that different classification shall not, by itself, be considered gross negligence or bad faith. The immunity provided under this section applies to the release of relevant and necessary information to other public officials, public employees, or public agencies, and to the general public.

(8) Except as may otherwise be provided by law, nothing in this section shall impose any liability upon a public official, public employee, or public agency for failing to release information authorized under this section.

(9) Nothing in this section implies that information regarding persons designated in subsection (1) of this section is confidential except as may otherwise be provided by law.

(10) When a law enforcement agency or official classifies an offender differently than the offender is classified by the end of sentence review committee at the time of the offender's release from confinement, the law enforcement agency or official shall notify the end of sentence review committee and the Washington state patrol and submit its reasons supporting the change in classification.

(11) As used in this section, "law enforcement agency" means a general authority Washington law enforcement agency as defined in RCW 10.93.020. [2015 c 261 § 1; 2011 c 337 § 1; 2008 c 98 § 1. Prior: 2005 c 380 § 2; 2005 c 228 § 1; 2005 c 99 § 1; 2003 c 217 § 1; 2002 c 118 § 1; prior: 2001 c 283 § 2; 2001 c 169 § 2; 1998 c 220 § 6; prior: 1997 c 364 § 1; 1997 c 113 § 2; 1996 c 215 § 1; 1994 c 129 § 2; 1990 c 3 § 117.]

Findings—1997 c 113: "The legislature finds that offenders who commit kidnapping offenses against minor children pose a substantial threat to the well-being of our communities. Child victims are especially vulnerable and unable to protect themselves. The legislature further finds that requiring sex offenders to register has assisted law enforcement agencies in protecting their communities. Similar registration requirements for offenders who have kidnapped or unlawfully imprisoned a child would also assist law enforcement agencies in protecting the children in their communities from further victimization." [1997 c 113 § 1.]

Findings—Intent—1994 c 129: "The legislature finds that members of the public may be alarmed when law enforcement officers notify them that a sex offender who is about to be released from custody will live in or near their neighborhood. The legislature also finds that if the public is provided adequate notice and information, the community can develop constructive plans to prepare themselves and their children for the offender's release. A sufficient time period allows communities to meet with law enforcement to discuss and prepare for the release, to establish block watches, to obtain information about the rights and responsibilities of the community and the offender, and to provide education and counseling to their children. Therefore, the legislature intends that when law enforcement officials decide to notify the public about a sex offender's pending release that notice be given at least fourteen days before the offender's release whenever possible." [1994 c 129 § 1.]

Finding—Policy—1990 c 3 § 117: "The legislature finds that sex offenders pose a high risk of engaging in sex offenses even after being released from incarceration or commitment and that protection of the public from sex offenders is a paramount governmental interest. The legislature further finds that the penal and mental health components of our justice system are largely hidden from public view and that lack of information from either may result in failure of both systems to meet this paramount concern of public safety. Overly restrictive confidentiality and liability laws governing the release of information about sexual predators have reduced willingness to release information that could be appropriately released under the public disclosure laws, and have increased risks to public safety. Persons found to have committed a sex offense have a reduced expectation of privacy because of the public's interest in public safety and in the effective operation of government. Release of information about sexual predators to public agencies and under limited circumstances, the general public, will further the governmental interests of public safety and public scrutiny of the criminal and mental health systems so long as the information released is rationally related to the furtherance of those goals.

Therefore, this state's policy as expressed in RCW 4.24.550 is to require the exchange of relevant information about sexual predators among public agencies and officials and to authorize the release of necessary and relevant information about sexual predators to members of the general public." [1990 c 3 § 116.]

Release of information regarding
convicted sex offenders: RCW 9.94A.846.
juveniles found to have committed sex offenses: RCW 13.40.217.
persons in custody of department of social and health services: RCW 10.77.207, 71.06.135, 71.09.120.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.5501 Sex offenders—Model policy—Work group. (1) When funded, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall convene a sex offender model policy work group to develop a model policy for law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice personnel. The model policy shall provide guidelines for sex offender registration, community notification, and strategies for sex offender management.

(2) In developing the policy, the association shall consult with representatives of the following agencies and professions: (a) The department of corrections; (b) the department of social and health services; (c) the indeterminate sentence

review board; (d) the Washington state council of police officers; (e) local correctional agencies; (f) the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys; (g) the Washington public defender association; (h) the Washington association for the treatment of sexual abusers; (i) the office of the superintendent of public instruction; (j) the criminal justice training commission; (k) the Washington association of criminal defense lawyers; (l) the association of Washington cities; (m) the Washington coalition of sexual assault programs; and (n) victim advocates.

The sex offender model policy work group, once convened, shall first conduct a series of community meetings around the state to assess the practices and needs of communities, identify best practices on sex offender registration, community notification, and strategies for sex offender management. Once the sex offender model policy work group has received input from stakeholders on a final draft of the model policy, the policy shall be presented to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs for adoption or rejection. Following the adoption of a model policy, the sex offender model policy work group shall conduct a series of meetings around the state with local law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice personnel to review the model policy and conduct training as needed. The sex offender model policy work group shall then be dissolved, and, when funded, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall be responsible for the continued promotion of the model policy, including annual or biennial regional workshops with local law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice personnel to encourage sex offender registration, community notification, and strategies for sex offender management policies and practices that best fit the needs, characteristics, and risks of each community.

(3) The model policy shall, at a minimum, include recommendations to address the following issues: (a) Procedures for local agencies or officials to accomplish the notifications required under RCW 4.24.550(10), including the identification of best practices for community notification, as they relate to the specific needs and characteristics to each community and the risk posed to that community; (b) contents and form of community notification documents, including procedures for ensuring the accuracy of factual information contained in the notification documents, and ways of protecting the privacy of victims of the offenders' crimes; (c) methods of distributing community notification documents, including distribution to schools; (d) methods of providing follow-up notifications to community residents at specified intervals and of disclosing information about offenders to law enforcement agencies in other jurisdictions if necessary to protect the public; (e) methods of educating community residents at public meetings on how they can use the information in the notification document in a reasonable manner to enhance their individual and collective safety; (f) procedures for educating community members regarding the right of sex offenders not to be the subject of harassment or criminal acts as a result of the notification process; (g) procedures and documents for local law enforcement agencies to provide appropriate notification when a sex offender risk level is reclassified, including strategies to monitor the reclassification of sex offender risk levels by local law enforcement agencies; (h) formulas and instructions on standard sex offender risk assessment instruments; (i) strategies for sex offender management; and (j) other matters the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs deems necessary as it relates to sex offender registration, community notification, and management. [2006 c 137 § 1; 1997 c 364 § 6.]

4.24.551 Law enforcement response to secure community transition facility—Limitation on liability. (1) Law enforcement shall respond to a call regarding a resident of a secure community transition facility as a high priority call.

(2) No law enforcement officer responding reasonably and in good faith to a call regarding a resident of a secure community transition facility shall be held liable nor shall the city or county employing the officer be held liable, in any cause of action for civil damages based on the acts of the resident or the actions of the officer during the response. [2002 c 68 § 3.]

Purpose—Severability—Effective date—2002 c 68: See notes following RCW 36.70A.200.

4.24.555 Release of information not restricted by pending appeal, petition, or writ. An offender's pending appeal, petition for personal restraint, or writ of habeas corpus shall not restrict the agency's, official's, or employee's authority to release relevant information concerning an offender's prior criminal history. However, the agency must release the latest dispositions of the charges as provided in chapter 10.97 RCW, the Washington state criminal records privacy act. [1990 c 3 § 118.]

4.24.556 Sex offender treatment providers—Affiliate sex offender treatment providers—Limited liability—Responsibilities. (1) A certified sex offender treatment provider, or a certified affiliate sex offender treatment provider who has completed at least fifty percent of the required hours under the supervision of a certified sex offender treatment provider, acting in the course of his or her duties, providing treatment to a person who has been released to a less restrictive alternative under chapter 71.09 RCW or to a level III sex offender on community custody as a court, department, or board ordered condition of sentence is not negligent because he or she treats a high risk offender; sex offenders are known to have a risk of reoffense. The treatment provider is not liable for civil damages resulting from the reoffense of a client unless the treatment provider's acts or omissions constituted gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. This limited liability provision does not eliminate the treatment provider's duty to warn of and protect from a client's threatened violent behavior if the client communicates a serious threat of physical violence against a reasonably ascertainable victim or victims. In addition to any other requirements to report violations, the sex offender treatment provider is obligated to report an offender's expressions of intent to harm or other predatory behavior, whether or not there is an ascertainable victim, in progress reports and other established processes that enable courts and supervising entities to assess and address the progress and appropriateness of treatment. This limited liability provision applies only to the conduct of certified sex offender treatment providers, and certified affiliate sex offender treatment providers who have completed at least

fifty percent of the required hours under the supervision of a certified sex offender treatment provider, and not the conduct of the state.

(2) Sex offender treatment providers who provide services to the department of corrections by identifying risk factors and notifying the department of risks for the subset of high risk offenders who are not amenable to treatment and who are under court order for treatment or supervision are practicing within the scope of their profession. [2008 c 231 § 39; 2004 c 38 § 1; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 12 § 403.]

Intent—Application—Application of repealers—Effective date—2008 c 231: See notes following RCW 9.94A.701.

Intent—Severability—Effective dates—2001 2nd sp.s. c 12: See notes following RCW 71.09.250.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.558 Limitations on liability for information sharing regarding persons under court orders for supervision or treatment. Information shared and actions taken without gross negligence and in good faith compliance with RCW 71.05.445, 72.09.585, 71.05.157, or 72.09.315 are not a basis for any private civil cause of action. [2016 sp.s. c 29 § 401; 2004 c 166 § 21.]

Effective dates—2016 sp.s. c 29: See note following RCW 71.05.760.

Short title—Right of action—2016 sp.s. c 29: See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.560 Defense to action for injury caused by indoor air pollutants. It is a defense in a civil action brought for damages for injury caused by indoor air pollutants in a residential structure on which construction was begun on or after July 1, 1991, that the builder or design professional complied in good faith, without negligence or misconduct, with:

(1) Building product safety standards, including labeling;

(2) Restrictions on the use of building materials known or believed to contain substances that contribute to indoor air pollution; and

(3) The ventilation and radon resistive construction requirements adopted under RCW 19.27.190. [1992 c 132 § 2; 1990 c 2 § 8.]

Findings—Severability—1990 c 2: See notes following RCW 19.27A.015.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.570 Acts against animals in research or educational facilities. (1) Joint and several liability for damages shall apply to persons and organizations that commit an intentional tort by (a) taking, releasing, destroying, contaminating, or damaging any animal or animals kept in a research or educational facility, where the animal or animals are used or to be used for medical research or other research purposes, or for educational purposes; or (b) destroying or damaging any records, equipment, research product, or other thing pertaining to such animal or animals.

(2) Any person or organization that plans or assists in the development of a plan to commit an intentional tort covered by subsection (1) of this section is liable for damages to the same extent as a person who has committed the tort. However, a person or organization that assists in the development of a plan is not liable under this subsection, if, at the time of providing the assistance the person or organization does not know, or have reason to know, that the assistance is promoting the commission of the tort. Membership in a liable organization does not in itself establish the member's liability under this subsection. The common law defense of prior renunciation is allowed in actions brought under this subsection.

(3) In any case where damages are awarded under this section, the court shall award to the plaintiff all costs of the litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees, investigation costs, and court costs, and shall impose on any liable party a civil fine of not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars to be paid to the plaintiff. [1991 c 325 § 3.]

Criminal acts against animal facilities: RCW 9.08.080, 9.08.090.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.575 Acts against animals kept for agricultural or veterinary purposes. (1) Joint and several liability for damages shall apply to persons and organizations that commit an intentional tort by taking, releasing, destroying or damaging any animal or animals kept by a person for agricultural production purposes or by a veterinarian for veterinary purposes; or by destroying or damaging any farm or veterinary equipment or supplies pertaining to such animal or animals.

(2) Any person or organization that plans or assists in the development of a plan to commit an intentional tort covered by subsection (1) of this section is liable for damages to the same extent as a person who has committed the tort. However, a person or organization that assists in the development of a plan is not liable under this subsection, if, at the time of providing the assistance the person or organization does not know, or have reason to know, that the assistance is promoting the commission of the tort. Membership in a liable organization does not in itself establish the member's liability under this subsection. The common law defense of prior renunciation is allowed in actions brought under this subsection.

(3) In any case where damages are awarded under this section, the court shall award to the plaintiff all costs of the litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees, investigation costs, and court costs, and shall impose on any liable party a civil fine of not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars to be paid to the plaintiff.

(4) "Agricultural production," for purposes of this section, means all activities associated with the raising of animals for agricultural purposes, including but not limited to animals raised for wool or fur. Agricultural production also includes the exhibiting or marketing of live animals raised for agricultural purposes. [1991 c 325 § 4.]

Criminal acts against animal facilities: RCW 9.08.080, 9.08.090.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.580 Acts against animal facilities—Injunction. Any individual having reason to believe that he or she may be injured by the commission of an intentional tort under RCW 4.24.570 or 4.24.575 may apply for injunctive relief to prevent the occurrence of the tort. Any individual who owns or is employed at a research or educational facility or an agricul-

tural production facility where animals are used for research, educational, or agricultural purposes who is harassed, or believes that he or she is about to be harassed, by an organization, person, or persons whose intent is to stop or modify the facility's use or uses of an animal or animals, may apply for injunctive relief to prevent the harassment.

For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Agricultural production" means all activities associated with the raising of animals for agricultural purposes, including but not limited to animals raised for wool or fur. Agricultural production also includes the exhibiting or marketing of live animals raised for agricultural purposes; and

(2) "Harassment" means any threat, without lawful authority, that the recipient has good reason to fear will be carried out, that is knowingly made for the purpose of stopping or modifying the use of animals, and that either (a) would cause injury to the person or property of the recipient, or result in the recipient's physical confinement or restraint, or (b) is a malicious threat to do any other act intended to substantially cause harm to the recipient's mental health or safety. [1991 c 325 § 5.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.590 Liability of foster parents. In actions for personal injury or property damage commenced by foster children or their parents against foster parents licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW, the liability of foster parents for the care and supervision of foster children shall be the same as the liability of biological and adoptive parents for the care and supervision of their children. [1991 c 283 § 3.]

Findings—Effective date—1991 c 283: See notes following RCW 74.14B.080.

4.24.595 Liability immunity—Emergent placement investigations of child abuse or neglect—Shelter care and other dependency orders. (1) Governmental entities, and their officers, agents, employees, and volunteers, are not liable in tort for any of their acts or omissions in emergent placement investigations of child abuse or neglect under chapter 26.44 RCW including, but not limited to, any determination to leave a child with a parent, custodian, or guardian, or to return a child to a parent, custodian, or guardian, unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence. Emergent placement investigations are those conducted prior to a shelter care hearing under RCW 13.34.065.

(2) The department of children, youth, and families and its employees shall comply with the orders of the court, including shelter care and other dependency orders, and are not liable for acts performed to comply with such court orders. In providing reports and recommendations to the court, employees of the department of children, youth, and families are entitled to the same witness immunity as would be provided to any other witness. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 301; 2012 c 259 § 13.]

Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 §§ 102, 104-115, 201-227, 301-337, 401-419, 501-513, 801-803, and 805-822: See note following RCW 43.216.025.

Conflict with federal requirements—2017 3rd sp.s. c 6: See RCW 43.216.908.

4.24.601 Hazards to the public—Information—Legislative findings, policy, intent. The legislature finds that public health and safety is promoted when the public has knowledge that enables members of the public to make informed choices about risks to their health and safety. Therefore, the legislature declares as a matter of public policy that the public has a right to information necessary to protect members of the public from harm caused by alleged hazards to the public. The legislature also recognizes that protection of trade secrets, other confidential research, development, or commercial information concerning products or business methods promotes business activity and prevents unfair competition. Therefore, the legislature declares it a matter of public policy that the confidentiality of such information be protected and its unnecessary disclosure be prevented. [1994 c 42 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.611 Product liability/hazardous substance claims—Public right to information—Confidentiality—Damages, costs, attorneys' fees—Repeal. As used in RCW 4.24.601 and this section:

(1)(a) "Product liability/hazardous substance claim" means a claim for damages for personal injury, wrongful death, or property damage caused by a product or hazardous or toxic substances, that is an alleged hazard to the public and that presents an alleged risk of similar injury to other members of the public.

(b) "Confidentiality provision" means any terms in a court order or a private agreement settling, concluding, or terminating a product liability/hazardous substance claim, that limit the possession, disclosure, or dissemination of information about an alleged hazard to the public, whether those terms are integrated in the order or private agreement or written separately.

(c) "Members of the public" includes any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, or association.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, members of the public have a right to information necessary for a lay member of the public to understand the nature, source, and extent of the risk from alleged hazards to the public.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, members of the public have a right to the protection of trade secrets as defined in RCW 19.108.010, other confidential research, development, or commercial information concerning products or business methods.

(4)(a) Nothing in this chapter shall limit the issuance of any protective or discovery orders during the course of litigation pursuant to court rules.

(b) Confidentiality provisions may be entered into or ordered or enforced by the court only if the court finds, based on the evidence, that the confidentiality provision is in the public interest. In determining the public interest, the court shall balance the right of the public to information regarding the alleged risk to the public from the product or substance as provided in subsection (2) of this section against the right of the public to protect the confidentiality of information as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(5)(a) Any confidentiality provisions that are not adopted consistent with the provisions of this section are voidable by the court.

(b) Any confidentiality provisions that are determined to be void are severable from the remainder of the order or agreement notwithstanding any provision to the contrary and the remainder of the order or agreement shall remain in force.

(c) Nothing in RCW 4.24.601 and this section prevents the court from denying the request for confidentiality provisions under other law nor limits the scope of discovery pursuant to applicable court rules.

(6) In cases of third party actions challenging confidentiality provisions in orders or agreements, the court has discretion to award to the prevailing party actual damages, costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, and such other terms as the court deems just.

(7) The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed on May 1, 1994:

(a) RCW 4.24.600 and 1993 c 17 s 1;

(b) RCW 4.24.610 and 1993 c 17 s 2;

(c) RCW 4.24.620 and 1993 c 17 s 3;

(d) RCW 4.16.380 and 1993 c 17 s 5; and

(e) 1993 c 17 s 4 (uncodified). [1994 c 42 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.630 Liability for damage to land and property—Damages—Costs—Attorneys' fees—Exceptions. (1) Every person who goes onto the land of another and who removes timber, crops, minerals, or other similar valuable property from the land, or wrongfully causes waste or injury to the land, or wrongfully injures personal property or improvements to real estate on the land, is liable to the injured party for treble the amount of the damages caused by the removal, waste, or injury. For purposes of this section, a person acts "wrongfully" if the person intentionally and unreasonably commits the act or acts while knowing, or having reason to know, that he or she lacks authorization to so act. Damages recoverable under this section include, but are not limited to, damages for the market value of the property removed or injured, and for injury to the land, including the costs of restoration. In addition, the person is liable for reimbursing the injured party for the party's reasonable costs, including but not limited to investigative costs and reasonable attorneys' fees and other litigation-related costs.

(2) This section does not apply in any case where liability for damages is provided under RCW 64.12.030, *79.01.756, 79.01.760, 79.40.070, or where there is immunity from liability under RCW 64.12.035. [1999 c 248 § 2; 1994 c 280 § 1.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 79.01.756, 79.01.760, and 79.40.070 were recodified as RCW 79.02.320, 79.02.300, and 79.02.340, respectively, pursuant to 2003 c 334 § 554. RCW 79.02.340 was subsequently repealed by 2009 c 349 § 5.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.640 Firearm safety program liability. No person who owns, operates, is employed by, or volunteers at a program approved under RCW 77.32.155 shall be liable for any injury that occurs while the person who suffered the injury is participating in the course, unless the injury is the result of gross negligence. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 513.]

Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7: See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

4.24.660 Liability of school districts under contracts with youth programs. (1) A school district shall not be liable for an injury to or the death of a person due to action or inaction of persons employed by, or under contract with, a youth program if:

(a) The action or inaction takes place on school property and during the delivery of services of the youth program;

(b) The private nonprofit group provides proof of being insured, under an accident and liability policy issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in this state, that covers any injury or damage arising from delivery of its services. Coverage for a policy meeting the requirements of this section must be at least fifty thousand dollars due to bodily injury or death of one person, or at least one hundred thousand dollars due to bodily injury or death of two or more persons in any incident. The private nonprofit shall also provide a statement of compliance with the policies for the management of concussion and head injury in youth sports as set forth in RCW 28A.600.190 and a statement of compliance with the policies for sudden cardiac arrest awareness as set forth in RCW 28A.600.195; and

(c) The group provides proof of such insurance before the first use of the school facilities. The immunity granted shall last only as long as the insurance remains in effect.

(2) Immunity under this section does not apply to any school district before January 1, 2000.

(3) As used in this section, "youth programs" means any program or service, offered by a private nonprofit group, that is operated primarily to provide persons under the age of eighteen with opportunities to participate in services or programs.

(4) This section does not impair or change the ability of any person to recover damages for harm done by: (a) Any contractor or employee of a school district acting in his or her capacity as a contractor or employee; or (b) the existence of unsafe facilities or structures or programs of any school district. [2015 c 26 § 2; 2009 c 475 § 1; 1999 c 316 § 3.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2015 c 26: See notes following RCW 28A.600.195.

Intent—Effective date—1999 c 316: See notes following RCW 28A.335.155.

4.24.670 Liability of volunteers of nonprofit or governmental entities. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a volunteer of a nonprofit organization or governmental entity shall not be personally liable for harm caused by an act or omission of the volunteer on behalf of the organization or entity if:

(a) The volunteer was acting within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities in the nonprofit organization or governmental entity at the time of the act or omission;

(b) If appropriate or required, the volunteer was properly licensed, certified, or authorized by the appropriate authorities for the activities or practice, where the activities were or practice was undertaken within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities in the nonprofit organization or governmental entity;

(c) The harm was not caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of the individual harmed by the volunteer;

(d) The harm was not caused by the volunteer operating a motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other vehicle for which the state requires the operator or the owner of the vehicle, craft, or vessel to either possess an operator's license or maintain insurance; and

(e) The nonprofit organization carries public liability insurance covering the organization's liability for harm caused to others for which it is directly or vicariously liable of not less than the following amounts:

(i) For organizations with gross revenues of less than twenty-five thousand dollars, at least fifty thousand dollars due to the bodily injury or death of one person or at least one hundred thousand dollars due to the bodily injury or death of two or more persons;

(ii) For organizations with gross revenues of twenty-five thousand dollars or more but less than one hundred thousand dollars, at least one hundred thousand dollars due to the bodily injury or death of one person or at least two hundred thousand dollars due to the bodily injury or death of two or more persons;

(iii) For organizations with gross revenues of one hundred thousand dollars or more, at least five hundred thousand dollars due to bodily injury or death.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any civil action brought by any nonprofit organization or any governmental entity against any volunteer of the organization or entity.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the liability, or vicarious liability, of any nonprofit organization or governmental entity with respect to harm caused to any person, including harm caused by the negligence of a volunteer.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the emergency workers registered in accordance with chapter 38.52 RCW nor to the related volunteer organizations to which they may belong.

(5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Economic loss" means any pecuniary loss resulting from harm, including the loss of earnings or other benefits related to employment, medical expense loss, replacement services loss, loss due to death, burial costs, and loss of business or employment opportunities.

(b) "Harm" includes physical, nonphysical, economic, and noneconomic losses.

(c) "Noneconomic loss" means loss for physical and emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, physical impairment, mental anguish, disfigurement, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of society and companionship, loss of consortium other than loss of domestic service, hedonic damages, injury to reputation, and all other nonpecuniary losses of any kind or nature.

(d) "Nonprofit organization" means: (i) Any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the internal revenue code; (ii) any not-for-profit organization that is organized and conducted for public benefit and operated primarily for charitable, civic, educational, religious, welfare, or health purposes; or (iii) any organization described in section 501(c)(14)(A) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(14)(A)) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the internal revenue code.

(e) "Volunteer" means an individual performing services for a nonprofit organization or a governmental entity who does not receive compensation, other than reasonable reimbursement or allowance for expenses actually incurred, or any other thing of value, in excess of five hundred dollars per year. "Volunteer" includes a volunteer serving as a director, officer, trustee, or direct service volunteer. [2001 c 209 § 1.]

4.24.680 Unlawful release of court and law enforcement employee information—Exception. (1) A person shall not knowingly make available on the world wide web the personal information of a peace officer, corrections person, justice, judge, commissioner, public defender, or prosecutor if the dissemination of the personal information poses an imminent and serious threat to the peace officer's, corrections person's, justice's, judge's, commissioner's, public defender's, or prosecutor's safety or the safety of that person's immediate family and the threat is reasonably apparent to the person making the information available on the world wide web to be serious and imminent.

(2) It is not a violation of this section if an employee of a county auditor or county assessor publishes personal information, in good faith, on the web site of the county auditor or county assessor in the ordinary course of carrying out public functions.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Commissioner" means a commissioner of the superior court, court of appeals, or supreme court.

(b) "Corrections person" means any employee or volunteer who by state, county, municipal, or combination thereof, statute has the responsibility for the confinement, care, management, training, treatment, education, supervision, or counseling of those whose civil rights have been limited in some way by legal sanction.

(c) "Immediate family" means a peace officer's, corrections person's, justice's, judge's, commissioner's, public defender's, or prosecutor's spouse, child, or parent and any other adult who lives in the same residence as the person.

(d) "Judge" means a judge of the United States district court, the United States court of appeals, the United States magistrate, the United States bankruptcy court, and the Washington court of appeals, superior court, district court, or municipal court.

(e) "Justice" means a justice of the United States supreme court or Washington supreme court.

(f) "Personal information" means a peace officer's, corrections person's, justice's, judge's, commissioner's, public defender's, or prosecutor's home address, home telephone number, pager number, social security number, home email address, directions to the person's home, or photographs of the person's home or vehicle.

(g) "Prosecutor" means a county prosecuting attorney, a city attorney, the attorney general, or a United States attorney and their assistants or deputies.

(h) "Public defender" means a federal public defender, or other public defender, and his or her assistants or deputies. [2006 c 355 § 2; 2002 c 336 § 1.]

Finding—2006 c 355: "The legislature finds that the dissemination of personally identifying information as proscribed in RCW 4.24.680 is not in the public interest." [2006 c 355 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.24.690 Unlawful release of court and law enforcement employee information—Court action to prevent. (1) Whenever it appears that any person or organization is engaged in or about to engage in any act that constitutes or will constitute a violation of RCW 4.24.680, the prosecuting attorney or any person harmed by an alleged violation of RCW 4.24.680 may initiate a civil proceeding in superior court to enjoin such violation, and may petition the court to issue an order for the discontinuance of the dissemination of information in violation of RCW 4.24.680.

(2) An action under this section shall be brought in the county in which the violation is alleged to have taken place, and shall be commenced by the filing of a verified complaint, or shall be accompanied by an affidavit.

(3) If it is shown to the satisfaction of the court, either by verified complaint or affidavit, that a person or organization is engaged in or about to engage in any act that constitutes a violation of RCW 4.24.680, the court may issue a temporary restraining order to abate and prevent the continuance or recurrence of the act.

(4) The court may issue a permanent injunction to restrain, abate, or prevent the continuance or recurrence of the violation of RCW 4.24.680. The court may grant declaratory relief, mandatory orders, or any other relief deemed necessary to accomplish the purposes of the injunction. The court may retain jurisdiction of the case for the purpose of enforcing its orders. [2002 c 336 § 2.]

4.24.700 Unlawful release of court and law enforcement employee information—Damages, fees, and costs. Any person whose personal information is made available on the world wide web as described in RCW 4.24.680(1) who suffers damages as a result of such conduct may bring an action against the person or organization who makes such information available, for actual damages sustained plus damages in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars for each day the personal information was made available on the world wide web, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. [2006 c 355 § 3; 2002 c 336 § 3.]

Finding—Severability—2006 c 355: See notes following RCW 4.24.680.

4.24.710 Outdoor music festival, campground—Detention. (1) In a civil action brought against the detainer by reason of a person having been detained on or in the immediate vicinity of the premises of an outdoor music festival or related campground for the purpose of investigation or questioning as to the lawfulness of the consumption or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, it is a defense that the detained person was detained in a reasonable manner and for not more than a reasonable time to permit the investigation or questioning by a law enforcement officer, and that a peace officer, owner, operator, employee, or agent of the outdoor music festival had reasonable grounds to believe that the person so detained was unlawfully consuming or attempting to unlawfully consume or possess, alcohol or illegal drugs on the premises.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Illegal drug" means a controlled substance under chapter 69.50 RCW for which the person detained does not have a valid prescription or that is not being consumed in accordance with the prescription directions and warnings, or a legend drug under chapter 69.41 RCW for which the person does not have a valid prescription or that is not being consumed in accordance with the prescription directions and warnings.

(b) "Outdoor music festival" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.108.020, except that no minimum time limit is required.

(c) "Reasonable grounds" include, but are not limited to:

(i) Exhibiting the effects of having consumed liquor, which means that a person has the odor of liquor on his or her breath, or that by speech, manner, appearance, behavior, lack of coordination, or otherwise exhibits that he or she has consumed liquor, and either:

(A) Is in possession of or in close proximity to a container that has or recently had liquor in it; or

(B) Is shown by other evidence to have recently consumed liquor; or

(ii) Exhibiting the effects of having consumed an illegal drug, which means that a person by speech, manner, appearance, behavior, lack of coordination, or otherwise exhibits that he or she has consumed an illegal drug, and either:

(A) Is in possession of an illegal drug; or

(B) Is shown by other evidence to have recently consumed an illegal drug.

(d) "Reasonable time" means the time necessary to permit the person detained to make a statement or to refuse to make a statement, and the time necessary to allow a law enforcement officer to determine the lawfulness of the consumption or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs. "Reasonable time" may not exceed one hour. [2003 c 219 § 2.]

4.24.720 Liability immunity—Amber alerts. No cause of action shall be maintained for civil damages in any court of this state against any radio or television broadcasting station or cable television system, or the employees, officers, directors, managers, or agents of the radio or television broadcasting station or cable television system, based on the broadcast of information including, but not limited to, the name or description of an abducted child, the name or description of a suspected abductor, and the circumstances of an abduction supplied by law enforcement officials pursuant to the voluntary broadcast notification system commonly known as the "Amber alert," or as the same system may otherwise be known in this state, which is used to notify the public of missing or abducted children. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict in any way any immunity or privilege a radio or television broadcasting station or cable television system may have under statute or common law for broadcasting or otherwise disseminating information. [2005 c 128 § 1.]

4.24.730 Liability immunity—Disclosure of employee information to prospective employer. (1) An employer who discloses information about a former or current employee to a prospective employer, or employment agency as defined by RCW 49.60.040, at the specific request of that individual employer or employment agency, is presumed to be acting in good faith and is immune from civil and criminal liability for such disclosure or its consequences if the disclosed information relates to: (a) The employee's ability to perform his or her job; (b) the diligence, skill, or reliability with which the employee carried out the duties of his or her job; or (c) any illegal or wrongful act committed by the employee when related to the duties of his or her job.

(2) The employer should retain a written record of the identity of the person or entity to which information is disclosed under this section for a minimum of two years from the date of disclosure. The employee or former employee has a right to inspect any such written record upon request and any such written record shall become part of the employee's personnel file, subject to the provisions of chapter 49.12 RCW.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the presumption of good faith may only be rebutted upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed by the employer was knowingly false, deliberately misleading, or made with reckless disregard for the truth. [2005 c 103 § 1.]

4.24.740 Liability immunity—Bovine handling activities. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, an owner, operator, or manager of a bovine handling facility, and the owner of bovine handled at or processed through a bovine handling facility, are not liable for an injury to or the death of a person who knowingly and voluntarily participates in bovine handling activities at a bovine handling facility or knowingly and voluntarily enters onto the premises of a bovine handling facility as a spectator of bovine handling activities.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prevents or limits the liability of an owner, operator, or manager of a bovine handling facility, or an owner of bovine handled at or processed through a bovine handling facility, if the owner, operator, or manager of the bovine handling facility, or the bovine owner:

(a) Intentionally injures the participant or spectator or commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant or spectator and that act or omission caused the injury;

(b) Owns, leases, rents, or otherwise is in lawful possession and control of the land or facilities upon which the participant or spectator sustained injuries because of a dangerous latent condition which was known to or should have been known to the owner, operator, or manager of the bovine handling facility, or the bovine owner, and for which warning signs have not been conspicuously posted; or

(c) Is liable under chapter 16.04 or 16.24 RCW.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Bovine" means beef cattle, dairy cattle, and bison.

(b) "Bovine handling facility" means a cooperative not-for-profit outdoor facility, such as a corral, that is used for the normal and customary handling and husbandry of bovines, whether on a daily or periodic basis, and does not include commercial slaughter facilities.

(c) "Bovine handling activities" means normal and customary activities associated with the handling and husbandry of bovines. [2006 c 158 § 1.]

4.24.750 Monitoring of persons charged with or convicted of misdemeanors—Decisions concerning release of criminal offenders—Findings. The legislature finds that the provision of preconviction and postconviction misdemeanor probation and supervision services, and the monitoring of persons charged with or convicted of misdemeanors to ensure their compliance with preconviction or postconviction orders of the court, are essential to improving the safety of the public in general. Furthermore, the legislature finds that decisions concerning whether criminal offenders are released into the community pretrial or postconviction, including the revocation of probation, rest with the judiciary. [2007 c 174 § 1.]

4.24.760 Limited jurisdiction courts—Limitation on liability for inadequate supervision or monitoring—Definitions. (1) A limited jurisdiction court that provides misdemeanant supervision services is not liable for civil damages based on the inadequate supervision or monitoring of a misdemeanor defendant or probationer unless the inadequate supervision or monitoring constitutes gross negligence.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Limited jurisdiction court" means a district court or a municipal court, and anyone acting or operating at the direction of such court, including but not limited to its officers, employees, agents, contractors, and volunteers.

(b) "Misdemeanant supervision services" means preconviction or postconviction misdemeanor probation or supervision services, or the monitoring of a misdemeanor defendant's compliance with a preconviction or postconviction order of the court, including but not limited to community corrections programs, probation supervision, pretrial supervision, or pretrial release services.

(3) This section does not create any duty and shall not be construed to create a duty where none exists. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect judicial immunity. [2007 c 174 § 2.]

4.24.770 Private employer not liable for injury to unauthorized third-party occupant of private employer's vehicle. (1) A private employer is not liable for any injury received by a third-party occupant of a vehicle that is owned, leased, or rented by the employer if, at the time the injuries were inflicted, the third-party occupant was riding in or on the vehicle with an employee who had explicitly acknowledged in writing the employer's policy on use of vehicles owned, leased, or rented by the employer and the third-party occupant was not:

(a) Specifically and expressly authorized by the employer to be an occupant of the vehicle; or

(b) Acting on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the employer with the knowledge or implied approval or acquiescence of the employer.

(2) For purposes of this section, "third-party occupant" means a person who occupies a vehicle owned, leased, or rented by the private employer and who is not an officer,

employee, or agent, or authorized or constructive invitee of the private employer. [2011 c 82 § 3.]

Intent—Application—2011 c 82: See notes following RCW 4.92.180.

Definitions: RCW 52.12.160.

4.24.780 Liability of fire service protection agency in providing firefighting efforts outside of jurisdiction or emergency services. Any fire service protection agency, as well as the firefighters therein, whether volunteer or paid, which takes part in firefighting efforts outside its jurisdiction or provides emergency care, rescue, assistance, or recovery services at the scene of an emergency, is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such services, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. [2011 c 200 § 2.]

4.24.785 Delivery or installation of detection device by fire protection service agency—Liability for civil damages. (1) Any fire protection service agency, as defined in RCW 52.12.160, as well as the firefighters therein, whether volunteer or paid, that delivers to, or installs at, residential premises a device or batteries for such a device is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the delivery or installation of a device or batteries for such a device, provided:

(a) Such installation was done in conformance with the manufacturer's instructions;

(b) Such installation or delivery was in the fire protection service agency's official capacity; and

(c) The act or omission did not constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(2) Any device delivered or installed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section must be new and meet all applicable current safety and manufacturing standards.

(3) Smoke alarm installation program records considered a public record by chapter 40.14 RCW shall be retained in accordance with the schedule provided within that law.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect the obligations and duties of the owner or occupier of the residential premises receiving such delivery or installation services.

(5) For purposes of this section, "device" includes any battery-operated or plug-in smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, or combination smoke and carbon monoxide detector. [2020 c 149 § 1.]

4.24.790 Electronic impersonation—Action for invasion of privacy. (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Actual person" means a living individual.

(b) "Blog" means a web site that is created primarily for the writer to maintain an online personal journal with reflections, comments, or hyperlinks provided by the writer.

(c) "Impersonates" or "impersonation" means using an actual person's name or likeness to create an impersonation that another person would reasonably believe or did reasonably believe was or is the actual person being impersonated.

(d) "Interactive computer service" means any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.

(e) "Online bulletin board" means a web site that is designed specifically for internet users to post and respond to online classified advertisements that are viewable by other internet users.

(f) "Social networking web site" means a web site that allows a user to create an account or profile for the user for the purposes of, among other things, connecting the user's account or profile to other users' accounts or profiles. A blog is not a social networking web site.

(2) A person may be liable in a civil action based on a claim of invasion of privacy when:

(a) The person impersonates another actual person on a social networking web site or online bulletin board;

(b) The impersonation was intentional and without the actual person's consent;

(c) The person intended to deceive or mislead for the purpose of harassing, threatening, intimidating, humiliating, or defrauding another; and

(d) The impersonation proximately caused injury to the actual person. Injury may include injury to reputation or humiliation, injury to professional or financial standing, or physical harm.

(3)(a) The actual person who suffered injury by an impersonation in violation of this section may bring an action to recover actual damages, injunctive relief, and declaratory relief. The court may award actual damages, injunctive relief, and declaratory relief as necessary.

(b) The court may award the prevailing party costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

(4) This section does not apply when the impersonation was:

(a) For a use set forth in RCW 63.60.070, including for matters of cultural, historical, political, religious, educational, newsworthy, or public interest including, but not limited to, use in works of art, commentary, satire, and parody;

(b) For a use that would violate chapter 63.60 RCW;

(c) Insignificant, de minimis, or incidental use; or

(d) Performed by a law enforcement agency as part of a lawful criminal investigation.

(5) A court of this state may exercise jurisdiction in a suit brought by a Washington resident or against a defendant who is a Washington resident. Jurisdiction over any person who is not a Washington resident may be exercised in a manner consistent with the laws and Constitution of the state of Washington, including RCW 4.28.185, and the Constitution of the United States.

(6)(a) This section may not be construed to impose any liability on a social networking web site, online bulletin board, internet service provider, interactive computer service, computer hardware or software provider, or web site operator or administrator or its employees, unless the provider, operator, administrator, or employee is the person impersonating an actual person. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude other common law causes of action against these entities.

(b) This section may not be construed to limit any other civil cause of action available to a person under statute or common law or any criminal prosecution.

(7) For the purposes of this section, parental liability is limited pursuant to RCW 4.24.190. [2012 c 9 § 2.]

Finding—Intent—2012 c 9: "The legislature finds that although social networking web sites and online bulletin boards provide valuable opportunities for networking, there are also opportunities for conduct that can cause harm to other persons. There are civil and criminal remedies for certain types of fraud, impersonation, and appropriation of a person's personality for commercial purposes. However, how these traditional legal remedies extend to wrongful impersonation over the internet to mislead, deceive, harass, threaten, or intimidate is relatively new and unclear. Courts have recognized the tort of invasion of privacy, and one of the four categories of an invasion of privacy claim is the misappropriation of another person's name or likeness. It is the intent of the legislature to specify that the tort of invasion of privacy may include the misappropriation of a person's name or likeness through social networking web sites and online bulletin boards with the intent to mislead, deceive, harass, threaten, or intimidate." [2012 c 9 § 1.]

4.24.795 Distribution of intimate images—Liability for damages, other civil penalties—Confidentiality of the plaintiff. (1) A person distributes an intimate image of another person when that person intentionally and without consent distributes, transmits, or otherwise makes available an intimate image or images of that other person that was:

(a) Obtained under circumstances in which a reasonable person would know or understand that the image was to remain private; or

(b) Knowingly obtained by that person without authorization or by exceeding authorized access from the other person's property, accounts, messages, files, or resources.

(2) Any person who distributes an intimate image of another person as described in subsection (1) of this section and at the time of such distribution knows or reasonably should know that disclosure would cause harm to the depicted person shall be liable to that other person for actual damages including, but not limited to, pain and suffering, emotional distress, economic damages, and lost earnings, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs. The court may also, in its discretion, award injunctive relief as it deems necessary.

(3) Factors that may be used to determine whether a reasonable person would know or understand that the image was to remain private include:

(a) The nature of the relationship between the parties;

(b) The circumstances under which the intimate image was taken;

(c) The circumstances under which the intimate image was distributed; and

(d) Any other relevant factors.

(4) It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this section that the defendant is a family member of a minor and did not intend any harm or harassment in disclosing the images of the minor to other family or friends of the defendant. This affirmative defense shall not apply to matters defined under RCW 9.68A.011.

(5) As used in this section, "intimate image" means any photograph, motion picture film, videotape, digital image, or any other recording or transmission of another person who is identifiable from the image itself or from information displayed with or otherwise connected to the image, and that was taken in a private setting, is not a matter of public concern, and depicts:

(a) Sexual activity, including sexual intercourse as defined in RCW 9A.44.010 and masturbation; or

(b) A person's intimate body parts, whether nude or visible through less than opaque clothing, including the genitals, pubic area, anus, or postpubescent female nipple.

(6) In an action brought under this section, the court shall:

(a) Make it known to the plaintiff as early as possible in the proceedings of the action that the plaintiff may use a confidential identity in relation to the action;

(b) Allow a plaintiff to use a confidential identity in all petitions, filings, and other documents presented to the court;

(c) Use the confidential identity in all of the court's proceedings and records relating to the action, including any appellate proceedings; and

(d) Maintain the records relating to the action in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the plaintiff.

(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose liability on an interactive computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. 230(f)(2) as it exists on September 26, 2015, for content provided by another person. [2015 2nd sp.s. c 8 § 1.]

4.24.800 Liability immunity—Charitable donation of eyeglasses or hearing instruments. (1) A charitable organization is not liable for any civil damages arising out of any act or omission, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct, associated with providing previously owned eyeglasses or hearing instruments to a person if:

(a) The person is at least fourteen years of age; and

(b) The eyeglasses or hearing instruments are provided to the person without compensation or the expectation of compensation.

(2) The immunity provided by subsection (1) of this section applies to eyeglasses only if the eyeglasses are provided by a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, an optometrist licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW, or an optician licensed under chapter 18.34 RCW who has:

(a) Personally examined the person who will receive the eyeglasses; or

(b) Personally consulted with the licensed physician, osteopathic physician, or optometrist who examined the person who will receive the eyeglasses.

(3) The immunity provided by subsection (1) of this section applies to eyeglasses if the eyeglasses are provided by a physician's or optician's optical assistant who has personally consulted with the licensed physician, osteopathic physician, or optometrist who examined the person who will receive the eyeglasses.

(4) The immunity provided by subsection (1) of this section applies to hearing instruments only if the hearing instruments are provided by a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, or hearing health care professional licensed under chapter 18.35 RCW who has:

(a) Personally examined the person who will receive the hearing instruments; or

(b) Personally consulted with the licensed physician, osteopathic physician, or hearing health care professional

who has examined the person who will receive the hearing instruments.

(5) For purposes of this section, "charitable organization" means an organization:

(a) That regularly engages in or provides financial support for some form of benevolent or charitable activity with the purpose of doing good to others rather than for the convenience of its members;

(b) In which no part of the organization's income is distributable to its members, directors, or officers; and

(c) In which no member, director, officer, agent, or employee is paid, or directly receives, in the form of salary or other compensation, an amount beyond that which is just and reasonable compensation commonly paid for such services rendered and which has been fixed and approved by the members, directors, or other governing body of the organization. [2012 c 203 § 1.]

4.24.810 Liability immunity—Credentialing or granting practice privileges to health care providers responding to emergencies. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any health care provider credentialing or granting practice privileges to other health care providers to deliver health care in response to an emergency is immune from civil liability arising out of such credentialing or granting of practice privileges if: (a) The health care provider so credentialed or granted practice privileges was responding to an emergency; and (b) the procedures utilized for credentialing and granting practice privileges were substantially consistent with the standards for granting emergency practice privileges adopted by the joint commission on the accreditation of health care organizations.

(2) This section does not apply to any acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Ambulatory surgical facility" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 70.230.010.

(b) "Clinic" means a place for treatment of patients on an outpatient basis by a health care provider.

(c) "Credentialing" means the collection, verification, and assessment of whether a health care provider meets relevant licensing, education, and training requirements.

(d) "Emergency" means an event or set of circumstances for which the governor has proclaimed a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010.

(e) "Health care provider" means:

(i) A member of a profession identified in RCW 7.70.020(1);

(ii) An employee or agent of a member of such a profession acting in the course and scope of his or her employment;

(iii) An entity, whether or not incorporated, facility, or institution employing, credentialing, or providing practice privileges to one or more persons described in (e)(i) of this subsection including, but not limited to, a hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, clinic, health maintenance organization, or nursing home, or an officer, director, employee, or agent thereof acting in the course and scope of his or her employment;

(iv) A pharmacist or pharmacy as defined in RCW 18.64.011; or

(v) In the event any person identified in (e)(i) through (iv) of this subsection is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative.

(f) "Health maintenance organization" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 48.46.020.

(g) "Hospital" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 70.41.020.

(h) "Nursing home" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 18.51.010. [2014 c 159 § 1.]

4.24.820 Nonrecognition of foreign order—Incompatibility with public policy. (1) Washington's courts, administrative agencies, or any other Washington tribunal shall not recognize, base any ruling on, or enforce any order issued under foreign law, or by a foreign legal system, that is manifestly incompatible with public policy.

(2) For purposes of this chapter, a foreign law, an order issued by a foreign legal system or foreign tribunal is presumed manifestly incompatible with public policy, when it does not, or would not, grant the parties all of the same rights, or when the enforcement of any order would result in a violation of any right, guaranteed by the Washington state and United States Constitutions. [2015 c 214 § 61.]

Effective date—Conflict with federal requirements—Waiver—2015 c 214: See notes following RCW 26.21A.010.

Denial of waiver—2015 c 214: See note following RCW 26.21A.115.

4.24.830 Agritourism—Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agritourism activity" means any activity carried out on a farm or ranch whose primary business activity is agriculture or ranching and that allows members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities including, but not limited to: Farming; ranching; historic, cultural, and on-site educational programs; recreational farming programs that may include on-site hospitality services; guided and self-guided tours; petting zoos; farm festivals; corn mazes; harvest-your-own operations; hayrides; barn parties; horseback riding; fishing; and camping.

(2) "Agritourism professional" means any person in the business of providing one or more agritourism activities, whether or not for compensation.

(3) "Inherent risks of agritourism activity" means those dangers or conditions that are an integral part of an agritourism activity including certain hazards, such as surface and subsurface conditions, natural conditions of land, vegetation, waters, the behavior of wild or domestic animals, and ordinary dangers of structures or equipment ordinarily used in farming and ranching operations. Inherent risks of agritourism activity also include the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, including failing to follow instructions given by the agritourism professional or failing to exercise reasonable caution while engaging in the agritourism activity, unless the participant acting in a negligent manner is a minor or is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

(4) "Participant" means any person, other than the agritourism professional, who engages in an agritourism activity.

(5) "Person" means an individual, fiduciary, firm, association, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, unit of government, or any other group acting as a unit. [2017 c 227 § 2.]

Finding—2017 c 227: See note following RCW 4.24.832.

4.24.832 Agritourism—Immunity. (1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, an agritourism professional is not liable for injury, loss, damage, or death of a participant resulting exclusively from any of the inherent risks of agritourism activities.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no participant or participant's representative may pursue an action or recover from an agritourism professional for injury, loss, damage, or death of the participant resulting exclusively from any of the inherent risks of agritourism activities.

(c) In any action for damages against an agritourism professional for agritourism activity, the agritourism professional must plead the affirmative defense of assumption of the risk of agritourism activity by the participant.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prevents or limits the liability of an agritourism professional if the agritourism professional does any one or more of the following:

(a) Commits an act or omission that is grossly negligent or constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant and that act or omission proximately causes injury, damage, or death to the participant.

(b) Has actual knowledge or reasonably should have known of an existing dangerous condition on the land, facilities, or equipment used in the activity or the dangerous propensity of a particular animal used in such an activity and does not make the danger known to the participant and the danger proximately causes injury, damage, or death to the participant.

(c) Permits minor participants to use facilities or engage in agritourism activities that are not reasonably appropriate for their age. This provision shall not be interpreted to relieve a parent or guardian of a minor participant of the duty to reasonably supervise the minor's participation in agritourism activities, including assessing whether the minor's participation in an agritourism activity is reasonably appropriate for his or her age.

(d) Knowingly permits participants to use facilities or engage in agritourism activities while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

(e) Fails to warn participants as required by RCW 4.24.835.

(3) Any limitation on legal liability afforded by this section to an agritourism professional is in addition to any other limitations of legal liability otherwise provided by law. [2017 c 227 § 3.]

Finding—2017 c 227: "The legislature finds that agriculture plays a substantial role in the economy, culture, and history of Washington state. As an increasing number of Washington's citizens are removed from day-to-day agricultural experiences, agritourism provides a valuable opportunity for the public to interact with, experience, and understand agriculture. In addition, agritourism opportunities provide valuable options for farmers and ranchers and rural residents to maintain their operations and continue a traditional economic development opportunity in rural areas. Inherent risks exist on farms and ranches, some of which cannot be reasonably eliminated. Uncertainty of potential liability associated with inherent risks has a negative impact on the establishment and success of agritourism operations." [2017 c 227 § 1.]

4.24.835 Agritourism—Warning notice. (1) Every agritourism professional must post and maintain signs that contain the warning notice specified in subsection (2) of this section. The sign must be placed in a clearly visible location at the entrance to the agritourism location and at the site of the agritourism activity. The warning notice must consist of a sign in black letters, with each letter to be a minimum of one inch in height. Every written contract entered into by an agritourism professional for the providing of professional services, instruction, or the rental of equipment to a participant, whether or not the contract involves agritourism activities on or off the location or at the site of the agritourism activity, must contain in clearly readable print the warning notice specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The sign and contracts described in subsection (1) of this section must contain the following notice of warning:

"WARNING

Under Washington state law, there is limited liability for an injury to or death of a participant in an agritourism activity conducted at this agritourism location if such an injury or death results exclusively from the inherent risks of the agritourism activity. Inherent risks of agritourism activities include, among others, risks of injury inherent to land, equipment, and animals, as well as the potential for you to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to your injury or death. We are required to ensure that in any activity involving minor children, only age-appropriate access to activities, equipment, and animals is permitted. You are assuming the risk of participating in this agritourism activity."

(3) Failure to comply with the requirements concerning warning signs and notices provided in this section prohibits an agritourism professional from invoking the privilege of immunity provided by this section, section 1, chapter 227, Laws of 2017, and RCW 4.24.830 and 4.24.832 and may be introduced as evidence in any claim for damages. [2017 c 227 § 4.]

Finding—2017 c 227: See note following RCW 4.24.832.

4.24.840 Effect of sexual harassment or sexual assault nondisclosure agreement on discovery and witness availability. (1) In any civil judicial or administrative action relating to sexual harassment or sexual assault, a nondisclosure policy or agreement that purports to limit the ability of any person to produce evidence regarding past instances of sexual harassment or sexual assault by a party to the civil action does not affect discovery or the availability of witness testimony relating to that civil action. Any provision of a nondisclosure policy or agreement including any arbitration agreement or decision that would limit, prevent, or punish such disclosure is contrary to public policy and unenforceable. However, the court or presiding officer shall enter appropriate orders upon motion of any party supported by affidavit or sworn declaration, or without motion but on the court's or presiding officer's own accord, to ensure that the identity of any person who is or is alleged to be a victim of sexual harassment or sexual assault is not made public as a

result of a disclosure made under this section, unless such person consents.

(2) The provisions of this section do not alter admissibility standards of evidence for the court or presiding officer to decide whether the probative value of evidence offered outweighs the potential prejudice. [2018 c 118 § 1.]

Application—2018 c 118: "This act applies to actions pending as of June 7, 2018, and actions filed after June 7, 2018." [2018 c 118 § 2.]

4.24.850 Action by victim of false reporting—Liability to a public agency. (1)(a) An individual who is a victim of an offense under RCW 9A.84.040 may bring a civil action against the person who committed the offense or against any person who knowingly benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that the person knew or should have known has engaged in an act in violation of RCW 9A.84.040, and may recover damages and any other appropriate relief, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

(b) A person who is found liable under RCW 9A.84.040 shall be jointly and severally liable with each other person, if any, who is found liable under RCW 9A.84.040 for damages arising from the same violation of RCW 9A.84.040.

(2) Any person convicted of violating RCW 9A.84.040 and that resulted in an emergency response may be liable to a public agency for the reasonable costs of the emergency response by, and at the discretion of, the public agency that incurred the costs. [2020 c 344 § 3.]

Finding—2020 c 344: See note following RCW 9A.84.040.

4.24.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521. For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 10.]

Chapter 4.28 RCW
COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIONS

Sections

Rules of court: *CR 3; CR 4; CR 4.1; CR 5; and CR 6.*

Claims against
cities and towns: Chapters 35.31, 35A.31 RCW.
counties: Chapter 36.45 RCW.
political subdivisions, municipal corporations, and quasi municipal corporations: Chapter 4.96 RCW.
state: Chapter 4.92 RCW.

Foreign corporations, actions against: RCW 23B.15.100.

Nonadmitted foreign corporations, actions against: Chapter 23B.18 RCW.

Proceedings as to individuals with mental illness: Chapter 71.05 RCW.

Publication of legal notices: Chapter 65.16 RCW.

Service of papers on foreign corporation: RCW 23B.15.100.

Service of process on
foreign savings and loan association: RCW 33.32.050.
nonadmitted foreign corporation: RCW 23B.18.040.
nonresident motor vehicle operator: RCW 46.64.040.

Sheriff's fees for service of process and other official services: RCW 36.18.040.

Statute of limitations, tolling: RCW 4.16.170.

4.28.020 Jurisdiction acquired, when. From the time of the commencement of the action by service of summons, or by the filing of a complaint, or as otherwise provided, the court is deemed to have acquired jurisdiction and to have control of all subsequent proceedings. [1984 c 76 § 2; 1895 c 86 § 4; 1893 c 127 § 15; RRS § 238.]

4.28.080 Summons, how served. Service made in the modes provided in this section is personal service. The summons shall be served by delivering a copy thereof, as follows:

(1) If the action is against any county in this state, to the county auditor or, during normal office hours, to the deputy auditor, or in the case of a charter county, summons may be served upon the agent, if any, designated by the legislative authority.

(2) If against any town or incorporated city in the state, to the mayor, city manager, or, during normal office hours, to the mayor's or city manager's designated agent or the city clerk thereof.

(3) If against a school or fire district, to the superintendent or commissioner thereof or by leaving the same in his or her office with an assistant superintendent, deputy commissioner, or business manager during normal business hours.

(4) If against a railroad corporation, to any station, freight, ticket or other agent thereof within this state.

(5) If against a corporation owning or operating sleeping cars, or hotel cars, to any person having charge of any of its cars or any agent found within the state.

(6) If against a domestic insurance company, to any agent authorized by such company to solicit insurance within this state.

(7)(a) If against an authorized foreign or alien insurance company, as provided in RCW 48.05.200.

(b) If against an unauthorized insurer, as provided in RCW 48.05.215 and 48.15.150.

(c) If against a reciprocal insurer, as provided in RCW 48.10.170.

(d) If against a nonresident surplus line broker, as provided in RCW 48.15.073.

(e) If against a nonresident insurance producer or title insurance agent, as provided in RCW 48.17.173.

(f) If against a nonresident adjuster, as provided in RCW 48.17.380.

(g) If against a fraternal benefit society, as provided in RCW 48.36A.350.

(h) If against a nonresident reinsurance intermediary, as provided in RCW 48.94.010.

(i) If against a nonresident life settlement provider, as provided in RCW 48.102.011.

(j) If against a nonresident life settlement broker, as provided in RCW 48.102.021.

(k) If against a service contract provider, as provided in RCW 48.110.030.

(l) If against a protection product guarantee provider, as provided in RCW 48.110.055.

(m) If against a discount plan organization, as provided in RCW 48.155.020.

(8) If against a company or corporation doing any express business, to any agent authorized by said company or corporation to receive and deliver express matters and collect pay therefor within this state.

(9) If against a company or corporation other than those designated in subsections (1) through (8) of this section, to the president or other head of the company or corporation, the registered agent, secretary, cashier or managing agent thereof or to the secretary, stenographer or office assistant of the president or other head of the company or corporation, registered agent, secretary, cashier or managing agent.

(10) If against a foreign corporation or nonresident joint stock company, partnership or association doing business within this state, to any agent, cashier or secretary thereof.

(11) If against a minor under the age of fourteen years, to such minor personally, and also to his or her father, mother, guardian, or if there be none within this state, then to any person having the care or control of such minor, or with whom he or she resides, or in whose service he or she is employed, if such there be.

(12) If against any person for whom a guardian has been appointed for any cause, then to such guardian.

(13) If against a foreign or alien steamship company or steamship charterer, to any agent authorized by such company or charterer to solicit cargo or passengers for transportation to or from ports in the state of Washington.

(14) If against a self-insurance program regulated by chapter 48.62 RCW, as provided in chapter 48.62 RCW.

(15) If against a party to a real estate purchase and sale agreement under RCW 64.04.220, by mailing a copy by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the party to be served at his or her usual mailing address or the address identified for that party in the real estate purchase and sale agreement.

(16) In all other cases, to the defendant personally, or by leaving a copy of the summons at the house of his or her usual abode with some person of suitable age and discretion then resident therein.

(17) In lieu of service under subsection (16) of this section, where the person cannot with reasonable diligence be served as described, the summons may be served as provided in this subsection, and shall be deemed complete on the tenth day after the required mailing: By leaving a copy at his or her usual mailing address with a person of suitable age and discretion who is a resident, proprietor, or agent thereof, and by thereafter mailing a copy by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the person to be served at his or her usual mailing address. For the purposes of this subsection, "usual mailing address" does not include a United States postal service post office box or the person's place of employment. [2015 c 51 § 2; 2012 c 211 § 1; 2011 c 47 § 1; 1997 c 380 § 1; 1996 c 223 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 30 § 28; 1987 c 361 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 120 § 1; 1967 c 11 § 1; 1957 c 202 § 1; 1893 c 127 § 7; RRS § 226, part. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1897 c 97 § 1 now codified in RCW 4.28.081.]

Rules of court: *Service of process—CR 4(d), (e).*

Service of process on
foreign corporation: RCW 23B.15.100.
foreign savings and loan association: RCW 33.32.050.
nonadmitted foreign corporation: RCW 23B.18.040.
nonresident motor vehicle operator: RCW 46.64.040.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.28.090 Service on corporation without officer in state upon whom process can be served. Whenever any corporation, created by the laws of this state, or late territory of Washington, does not have an officer in this state upon whom legal service of process can be made, an action or proceeding against the corporation may be commenced in any county where the cause of action may arise, or the corporation may have property, and service may be made upon the corporation by depositing a copy of the summons, writ, or other process, in the office of the secretary of state, which shall be taken, deemed and treated as personal service on the corporation: PROVIDED, A copy of the summons, writ, or other process, shall be deposited in the post office, postage paid, directed to the secretary or other proper officer of the corporation, at the place where the main business of the corporation is transacted, when the place of business is known to the plaintiff, and be published at least once a week for six weeks in a newspaper of general circulation at the seat of government of this state, before the service shall be deemed perfect. [1985 c 469 § 1; 1893 c 127 § 8; RRS § 227.]

4.28.100 Service of summons by publication—When authorized. When the defendant cannot be found within the state, and upon the filing of an affidavit of the plaintiff, his or her agent, or attorney, with the clerk of the court, stating that he or she believes that the defendant is not a resident of the state, or cannot be found therein, and that he or she has deposited a copy of the summons (substantially in the form prescribed in RCW 4.28.110) and complaint in the post office, directed to the defendant at his or her place of residence,

unless it is stated in the affidavit that such residence is not known to the affiant, and stating the existence of one of the cases hereinafter specified, the service may be made by publication of the summons, by the plaintiff or his or her attorney in any of the following cases:

(1) When the defendant is a foreign corporation, and has property within the state;

(2) When the defendant, being a resident of this state, has departed therefrom with intent to defraud his or her creditors, or to avoid the service of a summons, or keeps himself or herself concealed therein with like intent;

(3) When the defendant is not a resident of the state, but has property therein and the court has jurisdiction of the subject of the action;

(4) When the action is for (a) establishment or modification of a parenting plan or residential schedule; or (b) dissolution of marriage, legal separation, or declaration of invalidity, in the cases prescribed by law;

(5) When the action is for nonparental custody under *chapter 26.10 RCW and the child is in the physical custody of the petitioner;

(6) When the subject of the action is real or personal property in this state, and the defendant has or claims a lien or interest, actual or contingent, therein, or the relief demanded consists wholly, or partly, in excluding the defendant from any interest or lien therein;

(7) When the action is to foreclose, satisfy, or redeem from a mortgage, or to enforce a lien of any kind on real estate in the county where the action is brought, or satisfy or redeem from the same;

(8) When the action is against any corporation, whether private or municipal, organized under the laws of the state, and the proper officers on whom to make service do not exist or cannot be found;

(9) When the action is brought under RCW 4.08.160 and 4.08.170 to determine conflicting claims to property in this state. [2011 c 336 § 97; 2005 c 117 § 1; 1981 c 331 § 13; 1953 c 102 § 1. Prior: 1929 c 81 § 1; 1915 c 45 § 1; 1893 c 127 § 9; RRS § 228.]

***Reviser's note:** Chapter 26.10 RCW, with the exception of RCW 26.10.115, was repealed by 2020 c 312 § 905, effective January 1, 2021.

Court Congestion Reduction Act of 1981—Purpose—Severability—1981 c 331: See notes following RCW 2.32.070.

4.28.110 Manner of publication and form of summons. The publication shall be made in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the action is brought once a week for six consecutive weeks: PROVIDED, That publication of summons shall not be made until after the filing of the complaint, and the service of the summons shall be deemed complete at the expiration of the time prescribed for publication. The summons must be subscribed by the plaintiff or his or her attorney or attorneys. The summons shall contain the date of the first publication, and shall require the defendant or defendants upon whom service by publication is desired, to appear and answer the complaint within sixty days from the date of the first publication of the summons; and the summons for publication shall also contain a brief statement of the object of the action. The summons for publication shall be substantially as follows:

In the superior court of the State of Washington for the county of . . . . . .

. . . . . ., Plaintiff,

vs. No. . . . .

. . . . . ., Defendant.

The State of Washington to the said (naming the defendant or defendants to be served by publication):

You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the . . . . day of . . . . . ., 1 . . . ., and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiff . . . . . ., and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorneys for plaintiff . . . . . ., at his (or their) office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. (Insert here a brief statement of the object of the action.)

. . . . . ,

Plaintiff's Attorneys.

P.O. Address . . . . . .

County . . . . . .

Washington.

[2011 c 336 § 98; 1985 c 469 § 2; 1895 c 86 § 2; 1893 c 127 § 10; RRS § 233.]

Publication of legal notices: Chapter 65.16 RCW.

4.28.120 Publication of notice in eminent domain proceedings. If a party having or claiming a share or interest in or lien upon any property sought to be appropriated for public use be unknown, and such fact be made to appear by affidavit filed in the office of the clerk of the court, the notice required by law in such cases may be served by publication as in the case of nonresident owners, and such notice shall be directed by name to every owner of a share or interest in or lien upon the property sought to be so appropriated, and generally to all persons unknown having or claiming an interest or estate in the property or any portion thereof, and all such unknown parties shall in all papers and proceedings be designated as "unknown owners," and shall be bound by the provisions and be entitled to the benefits of the judgment the same as if they had been known and duly named. [1895 c 140 § 1; RRS § 239.]

Eminent domain: Title 8 RCW.

Publication of legal notices: Chapter 65.16 RCW.

4.28.140 Affidavit as to unknown heirs. Upon presenting an affidavit to the court or judge, showing to his or her satisfaction that the heirs of such deceased person are proper parties to the action, and that their names and residences cannot with use of reasonable diligence be ascertained, such court or judge may grant an order that service of the summons in such action be made on such "Unknown heirs" by publication thereof in the same manner as in actions against nonresident defendants. [2011 c 336 § 99; 1903 c 144 § 2; RRS § 230.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 10(a).*

4.28.150 Title of cause—Unknown claimants—Service by publication. In any action brought to determine any adverse claim, estate, lien, or interest in real property, or to quiet title to real property, the plaintiff may include as a defendant in such action, and insert in the title thereof, in addition to the names of such persons or parties as appear of record to have, and other persons or parties who are known to have, some title, claim, estate, lien, or interest in the lands in controversy, the following, viz.: "Also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein." And service of summons may be had upon all such unknown persons or parties defendant by publication as provided by law in case of nonresident defendants. [1903 c 144 § 3; RRS § 231.]

Publication of legal notices: Chapter 65.16 RCW.

4.28.160 Rights of unknown claimants and heirs—Effect of judgment—Lis pendens. All such unknown heirs of deceased persons, and all such unknown persons or parties, so served by publication as in RCW 4.28.150, provided, shall have the same rights as are provided by law in case of all other defendants upon whom service is made by publication, and the action shall proceed against such unknown heirs, or unknown persons or parties, in the same manner as against defendants, who are named, upon whom service is made by publication, and with like effect; and any such unknown heirs or unknown persons or parties who have or claim any right, estate, lien, or interest in the said real property in controversy, at the time of the commencement of the action, duly served as aforesaid, shall be bound and concluded by the judgment in such action, if the same is in favor of the plaintiff therein as effectually as if the action was brought against such defendant by his or her name and constructive service of summons obtained: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That such judgment shall not bind such unknown heirs, or unknown persons or parties, defendant, unless the plaintiff shall file a notice of lis pendens in the office of the auditor of each county in which said real estate is located, in the manner provided by law, before commencing the publication of said summons. [1903 c 144 § 4; RRS § 232.]

4.28.180 Personal service out-of-state. Personal service of summons or other process may be made upon any party outside the state. If upon a citizen or resident of this state or upon a person who has submitted to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state, it shall have the force and effect of personal service within this state; otherwise it shall have the force and effect of service by publication. The summons upon the party out of the state shall contain the same and be served in like manner as personal summons within the state, except it shall require the party to appear and answer within sixty days after such personal service out of the state. [1959 c 131 § 1; 1895 c 86 § 3; 1893 c 127 § 11; RRS § 234.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 4(e), CR 12(a), CR 82(a).*

Service of process on nonresident motor vehicle operator: RCW 46.64.040.

4.28.185 Personal service out-of-state—Acts submitting person to jurisdiction of courts—Saving. (1) Any person, whether or not a citizen or resident of this state, who in person or through an agent does any of the acts in this section enumerated, thereby submits said person, and, if an individual, his or her personal representative, to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state as to any cause of action arising from the doing of any of said acts:

(a) The transaction of any business within this state;

(b) The commission of a tortious act within this state;

(c) The ownership, use, or possession of any property whether real or personal situated in this state;

(d) Contracting to insure any person, property, or risk located within this state at the time of contracting;

(e) The act of sexual intercourse within this state with respect to which a child may have been conceived;

(f) Living in a marital relationship within this state notwithstanding subsequent departure from this state, as to all proceedings authorized by chapter 26.09 RCW, so long as the petitioning party has continued to reside in this state or has continued to be a member of the armed forces stationed in this state.

(2) Service of process upon any person who is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state, as provided in this section, may be made by personally serving the defendant outside this state, as provided in RCW 4.28.180, with the same force and effect as though personally served within this state.

(3) Only causes of action arising from acts enumerated herein may be asserted against a defendant in an action in which jurisdiction over him or her is based upon this section.

(4) Personal service outside the state shall be valid only when an affidavit is made and filed to the effect that service cannot be made within the state.

(5) In the event the defendant is personally served outside the state on causes of action enumerated in this section, and prevails in the action, there may be taxed and allowed to the defendant as part of the costs of defending the action a reasonable amount to be fixed by the court as attorneys' fees.

(6) Nothing herein contained limits or affects the right to serve any process in any other manner now or hereafter provided by law. [2011 c 336 § 100; 1977 c 39 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 42 § 22; 1959 c 131 § 2.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 4(e), CR 12(a), CR 82(a).*

Uniform parentage act: Chapter 26.26A RCW.

4.28.200 Right of one constructively served to appear and defend or reopen. If the summons is not served personally on the defendant in the cases provided in RCW 4.28.110 and 4.28.180, he or she or his or her representatives, on application and sufficient cause shown, at any time before judgment, shall be allowed to defend the action and, except in an action for divorce, the defendant or his or her representative may in like manner be allowed to defend after judgment, and within one year after the rendition of such judgment, on such terms as may be just; and if the defense is successful, and the judgment, or any part thereof, has been collected or otherwise enforced, such restitution may thereupon be compelled as the court directs. [2011 c 336 § 101; 1893 c 127 § 12; RRS § 235.]

4.28.210 Appearance, what constitutes. A defendant appears in an action when he or she answers, demurs, makes any application for an order therein, or gives the plaintiff written notice of his or her appearance. After appearance a

defendant is entitled to notice of all subsequent proceedings; but when a defendant has not appeared, service of notice or papers in the ordinary proceedings in an action need not be made upon him or her. Every such appearance made in an action shall be deemed a general appearance, unless the defendant in making the same states that the same is a special appearance. [2011 c 336 § 102; 1893 c 127 § 16; RRS § 241.]

Rules of court: *Demurrers abolished—CR 7(c).*

4.28.290 Assessment of damages without answer. A defendant who has appeared may, without answering, demand in writing an assessment of damages, of the amount which the plaintiff is entitled to recover, and thereupon such assessment shall be had or any such amount ascertained in such manner as the court on application may direct, and judgment entered by the clerk for the amount so assessed or ascertained. [1893 c 127 § 25; RRS § 251.]

4.28.320 Lis pendens in actions affecting title to real estate. At any time after an action affecting title to real property has been commenced, or after a writ of attachment with respect to real property has been issued in an action, or after a receiver has been appointed with respect to any real property, the plaintiff, the defendant, or such a receiver may file with the auditor of each county in which the property is situated a notice of the pendency of the action, containing the names of the parties, the object of the action, and a description of the real property in that county affected thereby. From the time of the filing only shall the pendency of the action be constructive notice to a purchaser or encumbrancer of the property affected thereby, and every person whose conveyance or encumbrance is subsequently executed or subsequently recorded shall be deemed a subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer, and shall be bound by all proceedings taken after the filing of such notice to the same extent as if he or she were a party to the action. For the purpose of this section an action shall be deemed to be pending from the time of filing such notice: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That such notice shall be of no avail unless it shall be followed by the first publication of the summons, or by the personal service thereof on a defendant within sixty days after such filing. And the court in which the said action was commenced may, at its discretion, at any time after the action shall be settled, discontinued or abated, on application of any person aggrieved and on good cause shown and on such notice as shall be directed or approved by the court, order the notice authorized in this section to be canceled of record, in whole or in part, by the county auditor of any county in whose office the same may have been filed or recorded, and such cancellation shall be evidenced by the recording of the court order. [2004 c 165 § 33; 1999 c 233 § 1; 1893 c 127 § 17; RRS § 243.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.28.325 Lis pendens in actions in United States district courts affecting title to real estate. In an action in a United States district court for any district in the state of Washington affecting the title to real property in the state of Washington, the plaintiff, at the time of filing the complaint, or at any time afterwards, or a defendant, when he or she sets up an affirmative cause of action in his or her answer, or at any time afterward, if the same be intended to affect real property, may file with the auditor of each county in which the property is situated a notice of the pendency of the action, containing the names of the parties, the object of the action and a description of the real property in that county affected thereby. From the time of the filing only shall the pendency of the action be constructive notice to a purchaser or encumbrancer of the property affected thereby, and every person whose conveyance or encumbrance is subsequently executed or subsequently recorded shall be deemed a subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer, and shall be bound by all proceedings taken after the filing of such notice to the same extent as if he or she were a party to the action. For the purpose of this section an action shall be deemed to be pending from the time of filing such notice: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That such notice shall be of no avail unless it shall be followed by the first publication of the summons, or by personal service thereof on a defendant within sixty days after such filing. And the court in which the said action was commenced may, in its discretion, at any time after the action shall be settled, discontinued, or abated, on application of any person aggrieved and on good cause shown and on such notice as shall be directed or approved by the court, order the notice authorized in this section to be canceled, in whole or in part, by the county auditor of any county in whose office the same may have been filed or recorded, and such cancellation shall be evidenced by the recording of the court order. [2011 c 336 § 103; 1999 c 233 § 4; 1963 c 137 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.28.328 Lis pendens—Liability of claimants—Damages, costs, attorneys' fees. (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Lis pendens" means a lis pendens filed under RCW 4.28.320 or 4.28.325 or other instrument having the effect of clouding the title to real property, however named, including consensual commercial lien, common law lien, commercial contractual lien, or demand for performance of public office lien, but does not include a lis pendens filed in connection with an action under Title 6, 60, other than chapter 60.70 RCW, or 61 RCW;

(b) "Claimant" means a person who files a lis pendens, but does not include the United States, any agency thereof, or the state of Washington, any agency, political subdivision, or municipal corporation thereof; and

(c) "Aggrieved party" means (i) a person against whom the claimant asserted the cause of action in which the lis pendens was filed, but does not include parties fictitiously named in the pleading; or (ii) a person having an interest or a right to acquire an interest in the real property against which the lis pendens was filed, provided that the claimant had actual or constructive knowledge of such interest or right when the lis pendens was filed.

(2) A claimant in an action not affecting the title to real property against which the lis pendens was filed is liable to an aggrieved party who prevails on a motion to cancel the lis pendens, for actual damages caused by filing the lis pendens, and for reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in canceling the lis pendens.

(3) Unless the claimant establishes a substantial justification for filing the lis pendens, a claimant is liable to an

aggrieved party who prevails in defense of the action in which the lis pendens was filed for actual damages caused by filing the lis pendens, and in the court's discretion, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in defending the action. [1994 c 155 § 1.]

4.28.330 Notice to alien property custodian. In any court or administrative action or proceeding within this state, involving property within this state or any interest therein, in which service of process is required to be made upon or notice thereof given to any person who is in a designated enemy country or enemy-occupied territory, in addition to the service of process upon or giving of notice to the person as required by any law, statute or rule applicable to the action or proceeding, a copy of the process or notice shall be sent by registered mail to the alien property custodian, Washington, District of Columbia. [1943 c 62 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 254-1.]

4.28.340 Notice to alien property custodian—Definitions. For the purposes of RCW 4.28.330 through 4.28.350:

(1) "Person" includes any individual, partnership, association and corporation;

(2) "Designated enemy country" means any foreign country as to which the United States has declared the existence of a state of war and any other country with which the United States is at war in the future;

(3) "Enemy-occupied territory" means any place under the control of any designated enemy country or any place with which, by reason of the existence of a state of war, the United States does not maintain postal communication. [1943 c 62 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 254-2.]

4.28.350 Notice to alien property custodian—Duration. RCW 4.28.330 and 4.28.340 shall remain in force only so long as a state of war shall exist between the United States and the designated enemy country involved in the action or proceeding described in RCW 4.28.330. [1943 c 62 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 254-3.]

4.28.360 Personal injury action—Complaint not to include statement of damages—Request for statement. In any civil action for personal injuries, the complaint shall not contain a statement of the damages sought but shall contain a prayer for damages as shall be determined. A defendant in such action may at any time request a statement from the plaintiff setting forth separately the amounts of any special damages and general damages sought. Not later than fifteen days after service of such request to the plaintiff, the plaintiff shall have served the defendant with such statement. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 2.]

Actions and procedure for injuries resulting from health care: Chapter 7.70 RCW.

Verdict or award of future economic damages in personal injury or property damage action may provide for periodic payments: RCW 4.56.260.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.28.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521. For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 11.]

Chapter 4.32 RCW
PLEADINGS

Sections

4.32.070 Objection may be taken by answer. When any of the matters enumerated in *RCW 4.32.050 do not appear upon the face of the complaint, the objection may be taken by answer. [Code 1881 § 79; 1877 p 18 § 79; 1854 p 139 § 42; RRS § 261.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 4.32.050 was repealed by 1984 c 76 § 11.

4.32.120 Setoff against beneficiary of trust estate. If the plaintiff be a trustee to any other, or if the action be in a name of the plaintiff who has no real interest in the contract upon which the action is founded, so much of a demand existing against those whom the plaintiff represents or for whose benefit the action is brought, may be set off as will satisfy the plaintiff's debt, if the same might have been set off in an action brought by those beneficially interested. [Code 1881 § 498; 1877 p 107 § 502; RRS § 267.]

4.32.130 Setoff in probate actions brought by personal representatives. In actions brought by executors and administrators, demands against their testators and intestates, and belonging to defendant at the time of their death, may be set off by the defendant in the same manner as if the action had been brought by and in the name of the deceased. [Code 1881 § 499; 1877 p 107 § 503; RRS § 268.]

4.32.140 Setoff in probate actions against personal representatives. In actions against executors and administrators and against trustees and others, sued in their representative character, the defendants may set off demands belonging to their testators or intestates or those whom they represent, in the same manner as the person so represented would have been entitled to set off the same, in an action against them. [Code 1881 § 501; 1877 p 107 § 505; RRS § 270.]

4.32.150 Setoff must be pleaded. To entitle a defendant to a setoff he or she must set the same forth in his or her

answer. [2011 c 336 § 104; Code 1881 § 502; 1877 p 108 § 506; RRS § 271.]

4.32.170 Answer may be stricken. Sham, frivolous and irrelevant answers and defenses may be stricken out on motion, and upon such terms as the court may in its discretion impose. [Code 1881 § 85; 1877 p 19 § 85; 1869 p 21 § 83; 1854 p 140 § 47; RRS § 275.]

4.32.250 Effect of minor defects in pleading. A notice or other paper is valid and effectual though the title of the action in which it is made is omitted, or it is defective either in respect to the court or parties, if it intelligently refers to such action or proceedings; and in furtherance of justice upon proper terms, any other defect or error in any notice or other paper or proceeding may be amended by the court, and any mischance, omission or defect relieved within one year thereafter; and the court may enlarge or extend the time, for good cause shown, within which by statute any act is to be done, proceeding had or taken, notice or paper filed or served, or may, on such terms as are just, permit the same to be done or supplied after the time therefor has expired. [1988 c 202 § 2; 1893 c 127 § 24; RRS § 250.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 6(b), RAP 5.2, 18.22.*

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 4.36 RCW
GENERAL RULES OF PLEADING

Sections

4.36.070 Pleading judgments. In pleading a judgment or other determination of a court or office of special jurisdiction, it shall not be necessary to state the facts conferring jurisdiction, but such judgment or determination may be stated to have been duly given or made. If such allegation be controverted, the party pleading shall be bound to establish on the trial the facts conferring jurisdiction. [Code 1881 § 96; 1877 p 21 § 96; 1854 p 142 § 58; RRS § 287.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 9(e).*

4.36.080 Conditions precedent, how pleaded. In pleading the performance of conditions precedent in a contract, it shall not be necessary to state the facts showing such performance, but it may be stated generally that the party duly performed all the conditions on his or her part; and if such allegation be controverted, the party pleading shall be bound to establish, on the trial, the facts showing such performance. [2011 c 336 § 105; Code 1881 § 97; 1877 p 21 § 97; 1854 p 142 § 59; RRS § 288.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 9(c).*

4.36.120 Libel or slander, how pleaded. In an action for libel or slander, it shall not be necessary to state in the complaint any extrinsic facts, for the purpose of showing the application to the plaintiff, of the defamatory matter out of which the cause arose, but it shall be sufficient to state generally, that the same was published or spoken concerning the plaintiff; and if such allegation be controverted, the plaintiff shall be bound to establish on trial that it was so published or spoken. [Code 1881 § 99; 1877 p 22 § 99; 1854 p 142 § 61; RRS § 292.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 8.*

4.36.130 Answer in justification and mitigation. In an action mentioned in RCW 4.36.120, the defendant may, in his or her answer, allege both the truth of the matter charged as defamatory, and any mitigating circumstances to reduce the amount of damages; and whether he or she proves the justification or not, he or she may give in evidence the mitigating circumstances. [2011 c 336 § 106; Code 1881 § 100; 1877 p 22 § 100; 1854 p 143 § 62; RRS § 293.]

4.36.140 Answer in action to recover property distrained. In an action to recover the possession of property distrained doing damage, an answer that the defendant or person by whose command he or she acted, was lawfully possessed of the real property upon which the distress was made, and that the property distrained was at the time doing the damage thereon, shall be good, without setting forth the title to such real property. [2011 c 336 § 107; Code 1881 § 101; 1877 p 22 § 101; 1854 p 143 § 63; RRS § 295.]

4.36.170 Material allegation defined. A material allegation in a pleading is one essential to the claim or defense, and which could not be stricken from the pleading without leaving it insufficient. [Code 1881 § 104; 1877 p 22 § 104; 1854 p 143 § 65; RRS § 298.]

4.36.210 Variance in action to recover personal property. Where the plaintiff in an action to recover the possession of personal property on a claim of being the owner thereof, shall fail to establish on trial such ownership, but shall prove that he or she is entitled to the possession thereof, by virtue of a special property therein, he or she shall not thereby be defeated of his or her action, but shall be permitted to amend, on reasonable terms his or her complaint, and be entitled to judgment according to the proof in the case. [2011 c 336 § 108; Code 1881 § 108; 1877 p 23 § 108; 1869 p 27 § 106; 1856 p 10 § 11; RRS § 302.]

4.36.240 Harmless error disregarded. The court shall, in every stage of an action, disregard any error or defect in pleadings or proceedings which shall not affect the substantial rights of the adverse party, and no judgment shall be reversed or affected by reason of such error or defect. [Code 1881 § 113; 1877 p 24 § 113; 1854 p 144 § 71; RRS § 307.]

Rules of court: *Cf. RAP 2.4(a), 18.22.*

Chapter 4.40 RCW
ISSUES

Sections

4.40.010 Issues defined—Kinds. Issues arise upon the pleadings when a fact or conclusion of law is maintained by one party and controverted by the other, they are of two kinds—first, of law; and second, of fact. [1893 c 127 § 28; Code 1881 § 200; 1877 p 42 § 204; 1854 p 163 § 179; RRS § 309.]

4.40.050 Trial of issue of law. An issue of law shall be tried by the court, unless it is referred as provided by the statutes relating to referees. [1893 c 127 § 32; Code 1881 § 204; 1877 p 42 § 208; 1854 p 164 § 183; RRS § 313.]

Trial before referee: Chapter 4.48 RCW.

4.40.060 Trial of certain issues of fact—Jury. An issue of fact, in an action for the recovery of money only, or of specific real or personal property shall be tried by a jury, unless a jury is waived, as provided by law, or a reference ordered, as provided by statute relating to referees. [1893 c 127 § 33; Code 1881 § 204; 1877 p 42 § 208; 1873 p 52 § 206; 1869 p 50 § 208; 1854 p 164 § 183; RRS § 314.]

4.40.070 Trial of other issues of fact. Every other issue of fact shall be tried by the court, subject, however, to the right of the parties to consent, or of the court to order, that the whole issue, or any specific question of fact involved therein, be tried by a jury, or referred. [1893 c 127 § 34; RRS § 315.]

Chapter 4.44 RCW
TRIAL

Sections

District court, civil trial: Chapter 12.12 RCW.

Juries
crimes relating to: Chapter 9.51 RCW.
generally: Chapter 2.36 RCW.

Right to jury trial: RCW 4.48.010.

4.44.020 Notice of trial—Note of issue. At any time after the issues of fact are completed in any case by the service of complaint and answer or reply when necessary, as herein provided, either party may cause the issues of fact to be brought on for trial, by serving upon the opposite party a notice of trial at least three days before any day provided by rules of court for setting causes for trial, which notice shall give the title of the cause as in the pleadings, and notify the opposite party that the issues in such action will be brought on for trial at the time set by the court; and the party giving such notice of trial shall, at least five days before the day of setting such causes for trial file with the clerk of the court a note of issue containing the title of the action, the names of the attorneys and the date when the last pleading was served; and the clerk shall thereupon enter the cause upon the trial docket according to the date of the issue.

In case an issue of law raised upon the pleadings is desired to be brought on for argument, either party shall, at least five days before the day set apart by the court under its rules for hearing issues of law, serve upon the opposite party a like notice of trial and furnish the clerk of the court with a note of issue as above provided, which note of issue shall specify that the issue to be tried is an issue of law; and the clerk of the court shall thereupon enter such action upon the motion docket of the court.

When a cause has once been placed upon either docket of the court, if not tried or argued at the time for which notice was given, it need not be noticed for a subsequent session or day, but shall remain upon the docket from session to session or from law day to law day until final disposition or stricken off by the court. The party upon whom notice of trial is served may file the note of issue and cause the action to be placed upon the calendar without further notice. [2003 c 406 § 1; 1893 c 127 § 35; RRS § 319.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 40(a).*

4.44.025 Priority permitted for aged or ill parties in civil cases. When setting civil cases for trial, unless otherwise provided by statute, upon motion of a party, the court may give priority to cases in which a party is frail and over seventy years of age, a party is afflicted with a terminal illness, or other good cause is shown for an expedited trial date. [2003 c 406 § 2; 1991 c 197 § 1.]

4.44.060 Proceedings in trial by court—Findings deemed verdict. The order of proceedings on a trial by the court shall be the same as provided in trials by jury. The finding of the court upon the facts shall be deemed a verdict, and may be set aside in the same manner and for the same reason

as far as applicable, and a new trial granted. [Code 1881 § 247; 1877 p 51 § 251; 1869 p 60 § 251; RRS § 368.]

4.44.070 Findings and conclusions, how made. In any case tried upon the facts without a jury or with an advisory jury, any party may, when the evidence is closed, submit distinct and concise proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. They may be written and handed to the court, or at the option of the court, oral, and entered in the record. [2003 c 406 § 3; Code 1881 § 222; 1877 p 47 § 226; 1869 p 56 § 226; RRS § 341.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 52(a).*

4.44.080 Questions of law to be decided by court. All questions of law including the admissibility of testimony, the facts preliminary to such admission, and the construction of statutes and other writings, and other rules of evidence, are to be decided by the court, and all discussions of law addressed to it. [Code 1881 § 223; 1877 p 47 § 227; 1869 p 56 § 227; RRS § 342.]

Rules of court: *Cf. ER 104 and ER 1008.*

4.44.090 Questions of fact for jury. All questions of fact other than those mentioned in RCW 4.44.080, shall be decided by the jury, and all evidence thereon addressed to them. [Code 1881 § 224; 1877 p 47 § 228; 1869 p 56 § 228; RRS § 343.]

Rules of court: *Cf. ER 1008.*

Charging juries: State Constitution Art. 4 § 16.

Right to trial by jury: State Constitution Art. 1 § 21; RCW 4.48.010.

4.44.110 Jury fee part of taxable costs. The jury fee paid by the party demanding a trial by jury shall be a part of the taxable costs in such action. [1961 c 304 § 3; 1903 c 43 § 2; RRS § 317.]

4.44.120 Impanelling jury—Voir dire, challenge for cause—Number. When the action is called for trial, a panel of potential jurors shall be selected at random from the citizens summoned for jury service who have appeared and have not been excused. A voir dire examination of the panel shall be conducted for the purpose of discovering any basis for challenge for cause and to permit the intelligent exercise of peremptory challenges. Any necessary additions to the panel shall be selected at random from the list of qualified jurors. The jury shall consist of six persons, unless the parties in their written demand for jury demand that the jury be twelve in number or consent to a less number. The parties may consent to a jury less than six in number but not less than three, and such consent shall be entered in the record. [2003 c 406 § 4; 1996 c 40 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 57 § 3; Code 1881 § 206; 1877 p 43 § 210; 1869 p 51 § 210; 1854 p 164 § 185; RRS § 323.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 48.*

Juries, district courts: Chapter 12.12 RCW.

4.44.130 Challenges—Kind and number. Either party may challenge the jurors. The challenge shall be to individual jurors, and be peremptory or for cause. Each party shall be entitled to three peremptory challenges. When there is more than one party on either side, the parties need not join in a challenge for cause; but, they shall join in a peremptory challenge before it can be made. If the court finds that there is a conflict of interests between parties on the same side, the court may allow each conflicting party up to three peremptory challenges. [1969 ex.s. c 37 § 1; Code 1881 § 207; 1877 p 43 § 211; 1854 p 165 § 186; RRS § 324.]

4.44.140 Peremptory challenges defined. A peremptory challenge is an objection to a juror for which no reason need be given, but upon which the court shall exclude the juror. [2003 c 406 § 5; Code 1881 § 208; 1877 p 43 § 212; 1869 p 51 § 212; RRS § 325.]

4.44.150 Challenges for cause defined. A challenge for cause is an objection to a juror, and may be either:

(1) General; that the juror is disqualified from serving in any action; or

(2) Particular; that the juror is disqualified from serving in the action on trial. [2003 c 406 § 6; Code 1881 § 209; 1877 p 43 § 213; 1869 p 51 § 213; RRS § 326.]

4.44.160 General causes of challenge. General causes of challenge are:

(1) A want of any of the qualifications prescribed for a juror, as set out in RCW 2.36.070.

(2) Unsoundness of mind, or such defect in the faculties of the mind, or organs of the body, as renders him or her incapable of performing the duties of a juror in any action. [1992 c 93 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 203 § 2; Code 1881 § 210; 1877 p 44 § 214; 1869 p 52 § 214; RRS § 327.]

Qualifications of jurors: RCW 2.36.070.

4.44.170 Particular causes of challenge. Particular causes of challenge are of three kinds:

(1) For such a bias as when the existence of the facts is ascertained, in judgment of law disqualifies the juror, and which is known in this code as implied bias.

(2) For the existence of a state of mind on the part of the juror in reference to the action, or to either party, which satisfies the court that the challenged person cannot try the issue impartially and without prejudice to the substantial rights of the party challenging, and which is known in this code as actual bias.

(3) For the existence of a defect in the functions or organs of the body which satisfies the court that the challenged person is incapable of performing the duties of a juror in the particular action without prejudice to the substantial rights of the party challenging. [1975 1st ex.s. c 203 § 3; Code 1881 § 211; 1877 p 44 § 215; 1869 p 52 § 215; RRS § 329.]

Reviser's note: The word "code" appeared in Code 1881 § 211.

Qualification of jurors: RCW 2.36.070.

4.44.180 Implied bias defined. A challenge for implied bias may be taken for any or all of the following causes, and not otherwise:

(1) Consanguinity or affinity within the fourth degree to either party.

(2) Standing in the relation of guardian and ward, attorney and client, master and servant or landlord and tenant, to a party; or being a member of the family of, or a partner in business with, or in the employment for wages, of a party, or

being surety or bail in the action called for trial, or otherwise, for a party.

(3) Having served as a juror on a previous trial in the same action, or in another action between the same parties for the same cause of action, or in a criminal action by the state against either party, upon substantially the same facts or transaction.

(4) Interest on the part of the juror in the event of the action, or the principal question involved therein, excepting always, the interest of the juror as a member or citizen of the county or municipal corporation. [2003 c 406 § 7; Code 1881 § 212; 1877 p 44 § 216; 1869 p 52 § 216; 1854 p 165 § 187; RRS § 330.]

4.44.190 Challenge for actual bias. A challenge for actual bias may be taken for the cause mentioned in RCW 4.44.170(2). But on the trial of such challenge, although it should appear that the juror challenged has formed or expressed an opinion upon what he or she may have heard or read, such opinion shall not of itself be sufficient to sustain the challenge, but the court must be satisfied, from all the circumstances, that the juror cannot disregard such opinion and try the issue impartially. [2003 c 406 § 8; Code 1881 § 213; 1877 p 44 § 217; 1869 p 53 § 217; RRS § 331.]

4.44.210 Peremptory challenges, how taken. The jurors having been examined as to their qualifications, first by the plaintiff and then by the defendant, and passed for cause, the peremptory challenges shall be conducted as follows, to wit:

The plaintiff may challenge one, and then the defendant may challenge one, and so alternately until the peremptory challenges shall be exhausted. During this alternating process, if one of the parties declines to exercise a peremptory challenge, then that party may no longer peremptorily challenge any of the jurors in the group for which challenges are then being considered and may only peremptorily challenge any jurors later added to that group. A refusal to challenge by either party in the said order of alternation shall not prevent the adverse party from using the full number of challenges. [2003 c 406 § 9; Code 1881 § 215; 1877 p 45 § 219; 1869 p 53 § 219; RRS § 333.]

4.44.220 Order of taking challenges. The challenges of either party shall be taken separately in the following order, including in each challenge all the causes of challenge belonging to the same class:

(1) Challenges for cause.

(2) Peremptory challenges. [2003 c 406 § 10; Code 1881 § 216; 1877 p 45 § 220; 1869 p 53 § 220; RRS § 334.]

4.44.230 Exceptions to challenges—Determination. The challenge may be excepted to by the adverse party for insufficiency, and if so, the court shall determine the sufficiency thereof, assuming the facts alleged therein to be true. The challenge may be denied by the adverse party, and if so, the court shall determine the facts and decide the issue. [2003 c 406 § 11; Code 1881 § 217; 1877 p 45 § 221; 1869 p 53 § 221; RRS § 335.]

4.44.240 Challenge determination. When facts are determined under RCW 4.44.230, the rules of evidence applicable to testimony offered upon the trial of an ordinary issue of fact shall govern. The juror challenged, or any other person otherwise competent may be examined as a witness by either party. If the challenge is sustained, the juror shall be dismissed from the case; otherwise, the juror shall be retained. [2003 c 406 § 12; Code 1881 § 218; 1877 p 45 § 222; 1869 p 54 § 222; RRS § 336.]

4.44.250 Challenge, exception, denial may be oral. The challenge, the exception, and the denial may be made orally. The judge shall enter the same upon the record, along with the substance of the testimony on either side. [2003 c 406 § 13; Code 1881 § 219; 1877 p 45 § 223; 1869 p 54 § 223; RRS § 337.]

4.44.260 Oath of jurors. When the jury has been selected, an oath or affirmation shall be administered to the jurors, in substance that they and each of them, will well, and truly try, the matter in issue between the plaintiff and defendant, and a true verdict give, according to the law and evidence as given them on the trial. [2003 c 406 § 14; Code 1881 § 220; 1877 p 46 § 224; 1869 p 54 § 224; RRS § 338.]

Oaths and mode of administering: State Constitution Art. 1 § 6.

4.44.270 View of premises by jury. Whenever in the opinion of the court it is proper that the jury should have a view of real property which is the subject of litigation, or of the place in which any material fact occurred, it may order the jury to be conducted in a body, in the custody of a proper officer, to the place which shall be shown to them by the judge or by a person appointed by the court for that purpose. While the jury are thus absent no person other than the judge, or person so appointed, shall speak to them on any subject connected with the trial. [Code 1881 § 225; 1877 p 47 § 229; 1869 p 56 § 229; RRS § 344.]

4.44.280 Admonitions to jurors. The court may admonish the jurors that they must not discuss among themselves any subject connected with the trial until they begin their deliberations. The court may also admonish the jurors that they must not discuss with nonjurors any subject connected with the trial until the jurors have been dismissed from the case. [2003 c 406 § 15; 1957 c 7 § 5; Code 1881 § 226; 1877 p 47 § 230; 1869 p 56 § 230; RRS § 345.]

Care of jury while deliberating: RCW 4.44.300.

4.44.290 Replacement juror procedure. If after the formation of the jury, and before verdict, a juror becomes unable to perform his or her duty, the court may discharge the juror. In that case, unless the parties agree to proceed with the other jurors: (1) An alternate juror may replace the discharged juror and the jury instructed to start their deliberations anew; (2) a new juror may be sworn and the trial begin anew; or (3) the jury may be discharged and a new jury then or afterwards formed. [2003 c 406 § 16; Code 1881 § 227; 1877 p 48 § 231; 1869 p 56 § 231; RRS § 347.]

4.44.300 Care of jury while deliberating. During deliberations, the jury may be allowed to separate unless

good cause is shown, on the record, for sequestration of the jury. Unless the members of a deliberating jury are allowed to separate, they must be kept together in a room provided for them, or some other convenient place under the charge of one or more officers, until they agree upon their verdict, or are discharged by the court. The officer shall, to the best of his or her ability, keep the jury separate from other persons. The officer shall not allow any communication to be made to them, nor make any himself or herself, unless by order of the court, except to ask them if they have agreed upon their verdict, and the officer shall not, before the verdict is rendered, communicate to any person the state of their deliberations or the verdict agreed on. [2003 c 406 § 17; Code 1881 § 229; 1877 p 48 § 233; 1869 p 57 § 233; 1854 p 166 § 194; RRS § 349.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 47(i), 51(h).*

Admonitions to jury, separation: RCW 4.44.280.

4.44.310 Expense of keeping jury. If, while the jury are kept together, either during the progress of the trial or after their retirement for deliberation, the court orders them to be provided with suitable and sufficient food and lodging, they shall be so provided at the expense of the county. [2003 c 406 § 18; Code 1881 § 230; 1877 p 48 § 234; 1869 p 57 § 234; RRS § 350.]

4.44.330 Discharge of jury without verdict. The jury may be discharged by the court on account of the sickness of a juror, or other accident or calamity requiring their discharge, or by consent of both parties, or after they have been kept together until it satisfactorily appears that there is no probability of their agreeing. [Code 1881 § 233; 1877 p 48 § 237; 1869 p 58 § 237; RRS § 353.]

4.44.340 Effect of discharge of jury. In all cases where a jury are discharged or prevented from giving a verdict, by reason of accident or other cause, during the progress of the trial or after the cause is submitted to them, the action shall thereafter be for trial anew. [1891 c 60 § 2; Code 1881 § 234; 1877 p 49 § 238; 1869 p 58 § 238; RRS § 354.]

4.44.350 Court recess while jury is out. While the jury is absent the court may adjourn from time to time, in respect to other business, but it is nevertheless to be deemed open for every purpose connected with the cause submitted to the jury until a verdict is rendered or the jury discharged. [1957 c 9 § 2; Code 1881 § 235; 1877 p 49 § 239; 1869 p 58 § 239; 1854 p 166 § 197; RRS § 355.]

4.44.360 Proceedings when jury have agreed. When the jury have agreed upon their verdict they shall be conducted into court by the officer having them in charge. [2003 c 406 § 19; Code 1881 § 236; 1877 p 49 § 240; 1869 p 58 § 240; RRS § 356.]

4.44.370 Manner of giving verdict. The jurors shall be asked by the court or the clerk whether they have agreed upon their verdict, and if the presiding juror answers in the affirmative, the presiding juror shall submit the verdict to the court. [2003 c 406 § 20; Code 1881 § 237; 1877 p 49 § 241; 1869 p 58 § 241; RRS § 357.]

4.44.380 Number of jurors required to render verdict. In all trials by juries of six in the superior court, except criminal trials, when five of the jurors agree upon a verdict, the verdict so agreed upon shall be signed by the presiding juror, and the verdict shall stand as the verdict of the whole jury, and have all the force and effect of a verdict agreed to by six jurors. In cases where the jury is twelve in number, a verdict reached by ten shall have the same force and effect as described above, and the same procedures shall be followed. [2003 c 406 § 21; 1972 ex.s. c 57 § 4; 1895 c 36 § 1; RRS § 358.]

Trial by jury: State Constitution Art. 1 § 21.

4.44.390 Jury may be polled. After the verdict is announced, but before it is filed, the jury may be polled at the request of either party. Each juror may be asked whether the verdict is his or her individual verdict and whether the verdict is the jury's collective verdict. If it appears that the verdict is insufficient because the required number of jurors have not reached agreement, the jurors may be returned to the jury room for further deliberation. [2003 c 406 § 22; 1972 ex.s. c 57 § 6; 1895 c 36 § 2; RRS § 359.]

4.44.410 General or special verdicts. The verdict of a jury is either general or special. [1984 c 76 § 4; Code 1881 § 240; 1877 p 49 § 244; 1869 p 59 § 244; 1854 p 167 § 198; RRS § 362.]

Rules of court: *See CR 49.*

4.44.420 Verdict in action for specific personal property. In an action for the recovery of specific personal property, if the property has not been delivered to the plaintiff, or the defendant by his or her answer claims a return thereof, the jury shall assess the value of the property if their verdict be in favor of the plaintiff, or if they find in favor of the defendant and that the defendant is entitled to a return thereof, they may at the same time assess the damages, if any are claimed in the complaint or answer, which the prevailing party has sustained by reason of the detention or taking and withholding such property. [2003 c 406 § 23; Code 1881 § 241; 1877 p 50 § 245; 1869 p 59 § 245; 1854 p 167 § 199; RRS § 363.]

4.44.440 Inconsistency between special findings of fact and general verdict. When special findings of fact are inconsistent with the general verdict, the judge may enter judgment consistent with the findings of fact, may return the jurors to the jury room for further deliberations, or may order a new trial. [2003 c 406 § 24; Code 1881 § 243; 1877 p 50 § 247; 1869 p 60 § 247; 1854 p 167 § 201; RRS § 365.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 49(b).*

4.44.450 Jury to assess amount of recovery. When a verdict is found for the plaintiff in an action for the recovery of money, or for the defendant when a setoff for the recovery of money is established beyond the amount of the plaintiff's claim as established, the jury shall also assess the amount of the recovery; they may also, under the direction of the court, assess the amount of the recovery when the court gives judgment for a party on the pleadings. [2003 c 406 § 25; 1891 c 60 § 3; Code 1881 § 244; 1877 p 50 § 248; 1869 p 60 § 248; 1854 p 167 § 202; RRS § 366.]

4.44.460 Receiving verdict and discharging jury. If the court determines that the verdict meets the requirements contained in this chapter and in court rules, the clerk shall file the verdict. The verdict is then complete and the jury shall be discharged from the case. The verdict shall be in writing, and under the direction of the court shall be substantially entered in the record as of the day's proceedings on which it was given. [2003 c 406 § 26; Code 1881 § 239; 1877 p 49 § 243; 1869 p 59 § 243; RRS § 361.]

4.44.470 Court may fix amount of bond in civil actions. Whenever by statute a bond or other security is required for any purpose in an action or other proceeding in a court of record and if the party shall apply therefor, the court shall have power to prescribe the amount of the bond or other security notwithstanding any requirement of the statute; and in every such case money in an amount prescribed by the court may be deposited with the clerk in lieu of a bond. After a bond or other security shall have been given, the court in its discretion may require additional security either on its own motion or upon motion of an interested party or person. The courts shall exercise care to require adequate though not excessive security in every instance. [1927 c 272 § 1; RRS § 958-4.]

Suretyship: Chapters 19.72, 48.28 RCW.

4.44.480 Deposits in court—Order. When it is admitted by the pleading or examination of a party, that the party possesses or has control of any money, or other thing capable of delivery, which being the subject of the litigation, is held by him or her as trustee for another party, or which belongs or is due to another party, the court may order the same to be deposited in court, or delivered to such party, with or without security, subject to the further direction of the court. [2003 c 406 § 27; Code 1881 § 195; 1877 p 41 § 199; 1869 p 49 § 203; 1854 p 163 § 174; RRS § 745.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 67.*

4.44.490 Deposits in court—Enforcement of order. Whenever, in the exercise of its authority, a court shall have ordered the deposit or delivery of money or other thing, and the order is disobeyed, the court, besides punishing the disobedience as for contempt, may make an order requiring the sheriff to take the money or thing, and deposit or deliver it, in conformity with the direction of the court. [Code 1881 § 196; 1877 p 41 § 200; 1869 p 49 § 200; 1854 p 163 § 175; RRS § 746.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 67.*

4.44.500 Deposits in court—Custody of money deposited. Money deposited, or paid into a court in an action, shall not be loaned out, unless, with the consent of all parties having an interest in, or making claim to the same. [Code 1881 § 197; 1877 p 41 § 201; 1869 p 49 § 201; 1854 p 163 § 176; RRS § 747.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 67.*

Chapter 4.48 RCW
TRIAL BEFORE REFEREE

Sections

4.48.010 Reference by consent—Right to jury trial—Referee may not preside—Parties' written consent constitutes waiver of right. The court shall order all or any of the issues in a civil action, whether of fact or law, or both, referred to a referee upon the written consent of the parties which is filed with the clerk. Any party shall have the right in an action at law, upon an issue of fact, to demand a trial by jury. No referee appointed under this chapter may preside over a jury trial. The written consent of the parties constitutes a waiver of the right of trial by jury by any party having the right. [1984 c 258 § 512; Code 1881 § 248; 1854 p 168 § 206; RRS § 369. Formerly RCW 4.44.100, part, and 4.48.010.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 38(a).*

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.020 Reference without consent. Where the parties do not consent, the court may upon the application of either party, direct a reference in all cases formerly cognizable in chancery in which reference might be made:

(1) When the trial of an issue of fact shall require the examination of a long account on either side, in which case the referees may be directed to hear and decide the whole issue, or to report upon any specific question of fact involved therein; or,

(2) When the taking of an account shall be necessary for the information of the court, before judgment upon an issue of law, or for carrying a judgment or order into effect; or,

(3) When a question of fact other than upon the pleadings shall arise, upon motion or otherwise, in any stage of the action; or,

(4) When it is necessary for the information of the court in a special proceeding. [1984 c 258 § 513; Code 1881 § 249; 1877 p 51 § 253; 1869 p 61 § 253; 1854 p 168 § 207; RRS § 370.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.030 To whom reference may be ordered. A reference may be ordered to any person or persons not exceeding three, agreed upon by the parties. If the reference is not agreed to by the parties, the court may appoint one or more persons, not exceeding three. [1984 c 258 § 514; Code 1881

§ 250; 1877 p 51 § 254; 1869 p 61 § 254; 1854 p 168 § 208; RRS § 371.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.040 Qualifications of referees. A person appointed by the court as a referee or who serves as a referee with the consent of the parties shall be:

(1) Qualified as a juror as provided by statute.

(2) Competent as juror between the parties.

(3) A duly admitted and practicing attorney. [1984 c 258 § 515; Code 1881 § 251; 1877 p 51 § 255; 1859 p 61 § 255; 1854 p 169 § 209; RRS § 372.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.050 Challenges to referees. If a referee is appointed by the court, each party shall have the same right to challenge the appointment. Challenges shall be made and determined in the same manner and with like effect as in the formation of juries, except that neither party shall be entitled to a peremptory challenge. [1984 c 258 § 516; Code 1881 § 252; 1877 p 52 § 256; 1869 p 61 § 256; RRS § 373.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.060 Trial procedure—Powers of referee—Referee to provide clerical personnel. (1) Subject to the limitations and directions prescribed in the order of reference, the trial conducted by a referee shall be conducted in the same manner as a trial by the court. Unless waived in whole or in part, the referee shall apply the rules of pleading, practice, procedure, and evidence used in the superior courts of this state. The referee shall have the same power to grant adjournments, administer oaths, preserve order, punish all violations thereof upon such trial, compel the attendance of witnesses, and to punish them for nonattendance or refusal to be sworn or testify, as is possessed by the court.

(2) A referee appointed under RCW 4.48.010 shall provide clerical personnel necessary for the conduct of the proceeding, including a court reporter. [1984 c 258 § 517; Code 1881 § 253; 1877 p 52 § 257; 1869 p 62 § 257; 1854 p 169 § 210; RRS § 374.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.070 Referee's report—Contents—Evidence, filing of, frivolous. The report of a referee appointed by the court under RCW 4.48.020 shall state the facts found, and when the order of reference includes an issue of law, it shall state the conclusions of law separately from the facts. The referee shall file with the report the evidence received upon the trial. If evidence offered by either party shall not be admitted on the trial and the party offering the same excepts to the decision rejecting such evidence at the time, the exceptions shall be noted by the referees and they shall take and receive such testimony and file it with the report. Whatever judgment the court may give upon the report, it shall, when it appears that such evidence was frivolous and inadmissible, require the party at whose instance it was taken and reported, to pay all costs and disbursements thereby incurred. [1984 c 258 § 518; Code 1881 § 254; 1877 p 52 § 258; 1869 p 62 § 258; 1854 p 169 § 210; RRS § 375.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.080 Proceedings on filing of report. The report of a referee appointed by the court under RCW 4.48.020 shall be filed with the clerk within twenty days after the trial concludes. Either party may, within such time as may be prescribed by the rules of court, or by special order, move to set the same aside, or for judgment thereon, or such order or proceeding as the nature of the case may require. [1984 c 258 § 519; 1957 c 9 § 3; Code 1881 § 255; 1877 p 52 § 259; 1869 p 62 § 259; RRS § 376.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.090 Judgment on referee's report. The court may affirm or set aside the report of a referee appointed under RCW 4.48.020 either in whole or in part. If it affirms the report it shall give judgment accordingly. If the report be set aside, either in whole or in part, the court may make another order of reference as to all or so much of the report as is set aside, to the original referees or others, or it may find the facts and determine the law itself and give judgment accordingly. Upon a motion to set aside a report, the conclusions thereof shall be deemed and considered as the verdict of the jury. [1984 c 258 § 520; Code 1881 § 256; 1877 p 52 § 260; 1869 p 62 § 260; RRS § 377.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.100 Compensation of referee—Trial expense—Obligation of parties, when. (1) The compensation of a referee appointed under RCW 4.48.020 shall be the same as that established for a superior court judge pro tempore under RCW 2.08.180.

(2) If a referee is appointed pursuant to RCW 4.48.010, the referee's compensation shall be at the rate prescribed by subsection (1) of this section, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties.

(3) Payment of the compensation of a referee appointed under RCW 4.48.010 and the expense of the trial before the referee shall be the obligation of the parties. The obligation shall be borne equally unless the parties agree to a different allocation. [1984 c 258 § 524; Code 1881 § 514; 1877 p 109 § 518; 1854 p 202 § 376; RRS § 483.]

Supplemental proceedings, fees of referees: RCW 6.32.280.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.110 Referee's proposed report—Copies—Objections, etc.—Request for hearing—Final report—Additional items to be filed—Exception—Copies. (1) Within twenty days after the conclusion of a trial before a referee appointed under RCW 4.48.010, unless a later time is agreed to by the parties, the referee shall mail to each party a copy of the referee's proposed written report. The proposed report shall contain the findings of fact and conclusions of law by the referee and the judgment of the referee.

(2) Within ten days after receipt of the copy of the proposed report, any party may serve written objections and suggested modifications or corrections to the proposed report on the referee and the other parties. The referee shall without delay consider the objections and suggestions and prepare a final written report. If requested by any party, the referee shall conduct a hearing on the proposed report and any suggested corrections or modifications before preparing the final written report.

(3) Upon completion of the final written report, the referee shall file with the clerk of the superior court:

(a) Copies of all original papers in the action filed with the referee;

(b) Exhibits offered and received or rejected during the trial;

(c) The transcript of the proceedings in the trial; and

(d) The final written report containing the findings of fact and conclusions of law by the referee and the judgment of the referee.

(4) The presiding judge of the superior court may allow the referee to file the final written report under subsection (3) of this section without any of the items listed in subsection (3) (a) through (c) of this section. However, the presiding judge shall require the referee to file those items if a timely notice of appeal of the judgment is filed.

(5) When the referee files the written report under subsection (3) of this section, the referee shall also mail to each party a copy of the report. [1984 c 258 § 521.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.120 Termination of referral—Judgment—Review of referee's decision. (1) Upon receipt by the clerk of the court of the final written report filed under RCW 4.48.110, the referral of the action shall terminate and the presiding judge of the superior court shall order the judgment contained in the report entered as the judgment of the court in the action. Subsequent motions and other post trial proceedings in the action may be conducted and disposed of by the referee upon order of the presiding judge, in the discretion of the presiding judge, or may otherwise be assigned by the presiding judge.

(2) The decision of a referee entered as provided in this section may be reviewed in the same manner as if the decision was made by the court. [1984 c 258 § 522.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.48.130 Notice of trial before referee. (1) If an action is to be tried by a referee appointed under RCW 4.48.010, at least five days before the date set for the trial the referee shall advise the clerk of the court of the time and place set for the trial. The clerk shall post in a conspicuous place in the courthouse a notice that includes the names of the parties to the action, the time and place set for the trial, the name of the referee, and a statement that the proceeding is being held before a referee agreed to by the parties under chapter 4.48 RCW.

(2) A person interested in attending a trial before a referee appointed under RCW 4.84.010 [4.48.010] is entitled to do so as in a trial of a civil action in superior court. Upon request by any person, the referee shall give the person notice of the time and place set for the trial. [1984 c 258 § 523.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 4.52 RCW
AGREED CASES

Sections

4.52.010 Controversy may be submitted without action. Parties to a question in difference which might be the subject of a civil action may, without action, agree upon a case containing the facts upon which the controversy depends, and present a submission of the same to any court which would have jurisdiction if an action had been brought. But it must appear by affidavit that the controversy is real, and the proceedings in good faith to determine the rights of the parties. The court shall thereupon hear and determine the case and render judgment thereon as if an action were pending. [Code 1881 § 298; 1877 p 61 § 302; 1869 p 73 § 300; RRS § 378.]

4.52.020 Judgment to be rendered as in other cases. Judgment shall be entered in the judgment book as in other cases, but without costs for any proceedings prior to the trial. The case, the submission and a copy of the judgment shall constitute the judgment roll. [Code 1881 § 299; 1877 p 61 § 303; 1869 p 74 § 301; RRS § 379.]

4.52.030 Enforcement of judgment—Appeal. The judgment may be enforced in the same manner as if it had been rendered in an action, and shall be in the same manner subject to appeal. [Code 1881 § 300; 1877 p 61 § 304; 1869 p 74 § 302; RRS § 380.]

Chapter 4.56 RCW
JUDGMENTS—GENERALLY

Sections

Enforcement of judgments: Title 6 RCW.

Judgments, financial support of child: RCW 13.34.161.

Liens, cessation, financial support of child: RCW 13.34.161.

Pleading judgments: RCW 4.36.070.

Time limit for decision: State Constitution Art. 4 § 20.

Verdict or award of future economic damages in personal injury or property damage action may provide for periodic payments: RCW 4.56.260.

4.56.050 Effect of judgment against executor or administrator. When a setoff shall be established in an action brought by executors or administrators, and a balance found due to the defendant, the judgment rendered thereon against the plaintiff shall have the same effect as if the action

had been originally commenced by the defendant. [Code 1881 § 500; 1877 p 107 § 504; RRS § 269.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 54(b).*

4.56.060 Judgment in case of setoff—When equal or less than plaintiff's debt. If the amount of the setoff, duly established, be equal to the plaintiff's debt or demand, judgment shall be rendered that the plaintiff take nothing by his or her action; if it be less than the plaintiff's debt or demand, the plaintiff shall have judgment for the residue only. [2011 c 336 § 109; Code 1881 § 503; 1877 p 108 § 507; RRS § 271 1/2.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 54(b).*

4.56.070 Judgment in case of setoff—When exceeds plaintiff's debt—Effect of contract assignment. If there be found a balance due from the plaintiff in the action to the defendant, judgment shall be rendered in favor of the defendant for the amount thereof, but no such judgment shall be rendered against the plaintiff when the contract, which is the subject of the action, shall have been assigned before the commencement of such action, nor for any balance due from any other person than the plaintiff in the action. [Code 1881 § 504; 1877 p 108 § 508; RRS § 272. FORMER PART OF SECTION: Code 1881 § 303; RRS § 433 now codified as RCW 4.56.075.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 54(b).*

4.56.075 Judgment in case of setoff—When exceeds plaintiff's debt or affirmative relief required. If a setoff established at the trial, exceeds the plaintiff's demand so established, judgment for the defendant shall be given for the excess; or if it appears that the defendant is entitled to any affirmative relief, judgment shall be given accordingly. [Code 1881 § 303; 1877 p 62 § 307; 1869 p 74 § 305; 1854 p 173 § 231; RRS § 433. Formerly RCW 4.56.070, part.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 54(b).*

4.56.080 Judgment in action to recover personal property. In an action to recover the possession of personal property, judgment for the plaintiff may be for the possession or value thereof, in case a delivery cannot be had, and damages for the detention. If the property has been delivered to the plaintiff, and the defendant claim a return thereof, judgment for the defendant may be for a return of the property, or the value thereof, in case a return cannot be had, and damages for taking and withholding the same. [Code 1881 § 304; 1877 p 62 § 308; 1869 p 75 § 306; 1854 p 173 § 232; RRS § 434.]

4.56.090 Assignment of judgment—Filing. When any judgment has been assigned, the assignment may be filed in the office of the county clerk in the county where the judgment is recorded and a certified copy thereof may be filed in any county where an abstract of such judgment has been filed and from the time of such filing shall be notice of such assignment: PROVIDED, That such assignment of a judgment or such certified copy thereof, may not be filed unless it is properly acknowledged before an officer qualified by law to take acknowledgment of deeds. [1935 c 22 § 1, part; 1929 c 60 § 5, part; RRS § 447. Prior: 1893 c 42 § 6.]

4.56.100 Satisfaction of judgments for payment of money. (1) When any judgment for the payment of money only shall have been paid or satisfied, the clerk of the court in which such judgment was rendered shall note upon the record in the execution docket satisfaction thereof giving the date of such satisfaction upon either the payment to such clerk of the amount of such judgment, costs and interest and any accrued costs by reason of the issuance of any execution, or the filing with such clerk of a satisfaction entitled in such action and identifying the same executed by the judgment creditor or his or her attorney of record in such action or his or her assignee acknowledged as deeds are acknowledged. The clerk has the authority to note the satisfaction of judgments for criminal and juvenile legal financial obligations when the clerk's record indicates payment in full or as directed by the court. Every satisfaction of judgment and every partial satisfaction of judgment which provides for the payment of money shall clearly designate the judgment creditor and his or her attorney if any, the judgment debtor, the amount or type of satisfaction, whether the satisfaction is full or partial, the cause number, and the date of entry of the judgment. A certificate by such clerk of the entry of such satisfaction by him or her may be filed in the office of the clerk of any county in which an abstract of such judgment has been filed. When so satisfied by the clerk or the filing of such certificate the lien of such judgment shall be discharged.

(2) The department of social and health services shall file a satisfaction of judgment for welfare fraud conviction if a person does not pay money through the clerk as required under subsection (1) of this section. [2003 c 379 § 23; 1997 c 358 § 4; 1994 c 185 § 1; 1983 c 28 § 1; 1929 c 60 § 6; RRS § 454. Prior: 1893 c 42 § 7.]

Intent—Purpose—2003 c 379 §§ 13-27: See note following RCW 9.94A.760.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.56.110 Interest on judgments. Interest on judgments shall accrue as follows:

(1) Judgments founded on written contracts, providing for the payment of interest until paid at a specified rate, shall bear interest at the rate specified in the contracts: PROVIDED, That said interest rate is set forth in the judgment.

(2) All judgments for unpaid child support that have accrued under a superior court order or an order entered under the administrative procedure act shall bear interest at the rate of twelve percent.

(3)(a) Judgments founded on the tortious conduct of a "public agency" as defined in RCW 42.30.020 shall bear interest from the date of entry at two percentage points above the equivalent coupon issue yield, as published by the board of governors of the federal reserve system, of the average bill rate for twenty-six week treasury bills as determined at the first bill market auction conducted during the calendar month immediately preceding the date of entry. In any case where a court is directed on review to enter judgment on a verdict or in any case where a judgment entered on a verdict is wholly or partly affirmed on review, interest on the judgment or on that portion of the judgment affirmed shall date back to and shall accrue from the date the verdict was rendered.

(b) Except as provided in (a) of this subsection, judgments founded on the tortious conduct of individuals or other

entities, whether acting in their personal or representative capacities, shall bear interest from the date of entry at two percentage points above the prime rate, as published by the board of governors of the federal reserve system on the first business day of the calendar month immediately preceding the date of entry. In any case where a court is directed on review to enter judgment on a verdict or in any case where a judgment entered on a verdict is wholly or partly affirmed on review, interest on the judgment or on that portion of the judgment affirmed shall date back to and shall accrue from the date the verdict was rendered.

(4) Except as provided under subsection (1) of this section, judgments for unpaid private student loan debt, as defined in RCW 6.01.060, shall bear interest from the date of entry at two percentage points above the prime rate, as published by the board of governors of the federal reserve system on the first business day of the calendar month immediately preceding the date of entry.

(5) Except as provided under subsection (1) of this section, judgments for unpaid consumer debt, as defined in RCW 6.01.060, shall bear interest from the date of entry at a rate of nine percent.

(6) Except as provided under subsections (1) through (5) of this section, judgments shall bear interest from the date of entry at the maximum rate permitted under RCW 19.52.020 on the date of entry thereof. In any case where a court is directed on review to enter judgment on a verdict or in any case where a judgment entered on a verdict is wholly or partly affirmed on review, interest on the judgment or on that portion of the judgment affirmed shall date back to and shall accrue from the date the verdict was rendered. The method for determining an interest rate prescribed by this subsection is also the method for determining the "rate applicable to civil judgments" for purposes of RCW 10.82.090. [2019 c 371 § 1; 2018 c 199 § 201; 2010 c 149 § 1; 2004 c 185 § 2; 1989 c 360 § 19; 1983 c 147 § 1; 1982 c 198 § 1; 1980 c 94 § 5; 1969 c 46 § 1; 1899 c 80 § 6; 1895 c 136 § 4; RRS § 457.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199: See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.56.111 Interest on judgments—Rate. The rate of interest required by RCW 4.56.110(3) (a) and (b) applies to the accrual of interest:

(1) As of the date of entry of judgment with respect to a judgment that is entered on or after June 10, 2010; and

(2) As of June 10, 2010, with respect to a judgment that was entered before June 10, 2010, and that is still accruing interest on June 10, 2010. [2010 c 149 § 2.]

4.56.115 Interest on judgments against state, political subdivisions or municipal corporations—Torts. Judgments founded on the tortious conduct of the state of Washington or of the political subdivisions, municipal corporations, and quasi municipal corporations of the state, whether acting in their governmental or proprietary capacities, shall bear interest from the date of entry at two percentage points above the equivalent coupon issue yield (as published by the board of governors of the federal reserve system) of the average bill rate for twenty-six week treasury bills as determined at the first bill market auction conducted during the calendar month immediately preceding the date of entry thereof. In any case where a court is directed on review to enter judgment on a verdict or in any case where a judgment entered on a verdict is wholly or partly affirmed on review, interest on the judgment or on that portion of the judgment affirmed shall date back to and shall accrue from the date the verdict was rendered. [2004 c 185 § 1; 1983 c 147 § 2; 1975 c 26 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.56.120 Judgment of dismissal or nonsuit, grounds, effect—Other judgments on merits. An action in the superior court may be dismissed by the court and a judgment of nonsuit rendered in the following cases:

(1) Upon the motion of the plaintiff, (a) when the case is to be or is being tried before a jury, at any time before the court announces its decision in favor of the defendant upon a challenge to the legal sufficiency of the evidence, or before the jury retire to consider their verdict, (b) when the action, whether for legal or equitable relief, is to be or is being tried before the court without a jury, at any time before the court has announced its decision: PROVIDED, That no action shall be dismissed upon the motion of the plaintiff, if the defendant has interposed a setoff as a defense, or seeks affirmative relief growing out of the same transaction, or sets up a counterclaim, either legal or equitable, to the specific property or thing which is the subject matter of the action.

(2) Upon the motion of either party, upon the written consent of the other.

(3) When the plaintiff fails to appear at the time of trial and the defendant appears and asks for a dismissal.

(4) Upon its own motion, when, upon the trial and before the final submission of the case, the plaintiff abandons it.

(5) Upon its own motion, on the refusal or neglect of the plaintiff to make the necessary parties defendants, after having been ordered so to do by the court.

(6) Upon the motion of some of the defendants, when there are others whom the plaintiff fails to prosecute with diligence.

(7) Upon its own motion, for disobedience of the plaintiff to an order of the court concerning the proceedings in the action.

(8) Upon the motion of the defendant, when, upon the trial, the plaintiff fails to prove some material fact or facts necessary to sustain his or her action, as alleged in his or her complaint. When judgment of nonsuit is given, the action is dismissed, but such judgment shall not have the effect to bar another action for the same cause. In every case, other than those mentioned in this section, the judgment shall be rendered upon the merits and shall bar another action for the same cause. [2011 c 336 § 110; 1929 c 89 § 1; RRS §§ 408, 409, 410. Formerly RCW 4.56.120, 4.56.130, and 4.56.140. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 286, 287, 288; 1877 p 58 §§ 290, 291, 292; 1869 p 69 §§ 288, 289, 290; 1854 p 171 §§ 223, 224.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 41(a), (b).*

4.56.150 Challenge to legal sufficiency of evidence—Judgment in bar or of nonsuit. In all cases tried in the superior court with a jury, the defendant, at the close of the plaintiff's evidence, or either party, at the close of all the evidence, may challenge the legal sufficiency of the evidence to war-

rant a verdict in favor of the adverse party, and if the court shall decide as a matter of law the evidence does not warrant a verdict, it shall thereupon discharge the jury from further consideration of the case and enter a judgment in accordance with its decision, which judgment if it be in favor of the defendant shall be a bar to another action by the plaintiff for the same cause: PROVIDED, That in case the defendant challenge the legal sufficiency of the evidence at the close of plaintiff's case, and the court shall decide that it is insufficient merely for failure of proof of some material fact, or facts, and that there is reasonable ground to believe that such proof can be supplied in a subsequent action, the court may discharge the jury and enter a judgment of nonsuit as provided in RCW 4.56.120: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, That nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the court to discharge the jury and determine disputed questions of fact. [1929 c 89 § 2; 1895 c 40 § 1; RRS § 410-1.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 50(a).*

4.56.190 Lien of judgment. The real estate of any judgment debtor, and such as the judgment debtor may acquire, not exempt by law, shall be held and bound to satisfy any judgment of the district court of the United States rendered in this state and any judgment of the supreme court, court of appeals, superior court, or district court of this state, and every such judgment shall be a lien thereupon to commence as provided in RCW 4.56.200 and to run for a period of not to exceed ten years from the day on which such judgment was entered unless the ten-year period is extended in accordance with RCW 6.17.020(3), or unless the judgment results from a criminal sentence for a crime that was committed on or after July 1, 2000, in which case the lien will remain in effect until the judgment is fully satisfied. As used in this chapter, real estate shall not include the vendor's interest under a real estate contract for judgments rendered after August 23, 1983. If a judgment debtor owns real estate, subject to execution, jointly or in common with any other person, the judgment shall be a lien on the interest of the defendant only.

Personal property of the judgment debtor shall be held only from the time it is actually levied upon. [2011 c 106 § 4; 1994 c 189 § 3. Prior: 1987 c 442 § 1103; 1987 c 202 § 116; 1983 1st ex.s. c 45 § 5; 1980 c 105 § 3; 1971 c 81 § 16; 1929 c 60 § 1; RRS § 445; prior: 1893 c 42 § 9; Code 1881 § 321; 1869 p 78 § 317; 1860 p 51 § 234; 1857 p 11 § 15; 1854 p 175 § 240.]

Finding—2011 c 106: See note following RCW 10.82.090.

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Entry of judgments—Superior court—District court—Small claims: RCW 6.01.020.

Execution of judgments: RCW 6.17.020.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.56.200 Commencement of lien on real estate. The lien of judgments upon the real estate of the judgment debtor shall commence as follows:

(1) Judgments of the district court of the United States rendered or filed in the county in which the real estate of the judgment debtor is situated, from the time of the entry or filing thereof;

(2) Judgments of the superior court for the county in which the real estate of the judgment debtor is situated, from the time of the filing by the county clerk upon the execution docket in accordance with RCW 4.64.030;

(3) Judgments of the district court of the United States rendered in any county in this state other than that in which the real estate of the judgment debtor to be affected is situated, judgments of the supreme court of this state, judgments of the court of appeals of this state, and judgments of the superior court for any county other than that in which the real estate of the judgment debtor to be affected is situated, from the time of the filing of a duly certified abstract of such judgment with the county clerk of the county in which the real estate of the judgment debtor to be affected is situated, as provided in this act;

(4) Judgments of a district court of this state rendered or filed as a foreign judgment in a superior court in the county in which the real estate of the judgment debtor is situated, from the time of the filing of a duly certified district court judgment or duly certified transcript of the docket of the district court with the county clerk of the county in which such judgment was rendered or filed, and upon such filing said judgment shall become to all intents and purposes a judgment of the superior court for said county; and

(5) Judgments of a district court of this state rendered or filed in a superior court in any other county in this state than that in which the real estate of the judgment debtor to be affected is situated, a transcript of the docket of which has been filed with the county clerk of the county where such judgment was rendered or filed, from the time of filing, with the county clerk of the county in which the real estate of the judgment debtor to be affected is situated, of a duly certified abstract of the record of said judgment in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the certified transcript of the docket of said judgment of said district court was originally filed. [2019 c 251 § 8; 2012 c 133 § 1; 2002 c 261 § 3; 1987 c 202 § 117; 1971 c 81 § 17; 1929 c 60 § 2; RRS § 445-1.]

Reviser's note: The words at the end of subsection (3) reading "as provided in this act" appeared in chapter 60, Laws of 1929 which is codified as RCW 4.56.090, 4.56.100, 4.56.190 through 4.56.210, 4.64.070, 4.64.090, 4.64.110, and 4.64.120.

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Entry of verdict in execution docket—Effect—Cessation of lien: RCW 4.64.020, 4.64.100.

4.56.210 Cessation of lien—Extension prohibited—Exception. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, after the expiration of ten years from the date of the entry of any judgment heretofore or hereafter rendered in this state, it shall cease to be a lien or charge against the estate or person of the judgment debtor. No suit, action or other proceeding shall ever be had on any judgment rendered in this state by which the lien shall be extended or continued in force for any greater or longer period than ten years.

(2) An underlying judgment or judgment lien entered after *the effective date of this act for accrued child support shall continue in force for ten years after the eighteenth birthday of the youngest child named in the order for whom support is ordered. All judgments entered after *the effective

date of this act shall contain the birthdate of the youngest child for whom support is ordered.

(3) A lien based upon an underlying judgment continues in force for an additional ten-year period if the period of execution for the underlying judgment is extended under RCW 6.17.020. [1995 c 75 § 1; 1989 c 360 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 236 § 1; 1929 c 60 § 7; RRS §§ 459, 460. Formerly RCW 4.56.210 and 4.56.220. Prior: 1897 c 39 §§ 1, 2.]

***Reviser's note:** This act [1989 c 360] has three effective dates. Sections 9, 10, and 16 are effective May 12, 1989, section 39 is effective July 1, 1990, and the remainder of this act is effective July 23, 1989.

Entry of judgments—Superior court—District court—Small claims: RCW 6.01.020.

4.56.250 Claims for noneconomic damages—Limitation. (1) As used in this section, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Economic damages" means objectively verifiable monetary losses, including medical expenses, loss of earnings, burial costs, loss of use of property, cost of replacement or repair, cost of obtaining substitute domestic services, loss of employment, and loss of business or employment opportunities.

(b) "Noneconomic damages" means subjective, nonmonetary losses, including, but not limited to pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, disability or disfigurement incurred by the injured party, emotional distress, loss of society and companionship, loss of consortium, injury to reputation and humiliation, and destruction of the parent-child relationship.

(c) "Bodily injury" means physical injury, sickness, or disease, including death.

(d) "Average annual wage" means the average annual wage in the state of Washington as determined under RCW 50.04.355.

(2) In no action seeking damages for personal injury or death may a claimant recover a judgment for noneconomic damages exceeding an amount determined by multiplying 0.43 by the average annual wage and by the life expectancy of the person incurring noneconomic damages, as the life expectancy is determined by the life expectancy tables adopted by the insurance commissioner. For purposes of determining the maximum amount allowable for noneconomic damages, a claimant's life expectancy shall not be less than fifteen years. The limitation contained in this subsection applies to all claims for noneconomic damages made by a claimant who incurred bodily injury. Claims for loss of consortium, loss of society and companionship, destruction of the parent-child relationship, and all other derivative claims asserted by persons who did not sustain bodily injury are to be included within the limitation on claims for noneconomic damages arising from the same bodily injury.

(3) If a case is tried to a jury, the jury shall not be informed of the limitation contained in subsection (2) of this section. [1986 c 305 § 301.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Sofie v. Fibreboard Corp.*, 112 Wn.2d 636, 771 P.2d 711 (1989).

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.56.260 Award of future economic damages—Proposal for periodic payments—Security—Satisfaction of judgment. (1) In an action based on fault seeking damages for personal injury or property damage in which a verdict or award for future economic damages of at least one hundred thousand dollars is made, the court or arbitrator shall, at the request of a party, enter a judgment which provides for the periodic payment in whole or in part of the future economic damages. With respect to the judgment, the court or arbitrator shall make a specific finding as to the dollar amount of periodic payments intended to compensate the judgment creditor for the future economic damages.

(2) Prior to entry of judgment, the court shall request each party to submit a proposal for periodic payment of future economic damages to compensate the claimant. Proposals shall include provisions for: The name of the recipient or recipients of the payments, the dollar amount of the payments, the interval between payments, the number of payments or the period of time over which the payments shall be made, modification for hardship or unforeseen circumstances, posting of adequate security, and any other factor the court deems relevant under the circumstances. After each party has submitted a proposal, the court shall select the proposal, with any changes the court deems proper, which in the discretion of the court and the interests of justice best provides for the future needs of the claimant and enter judgment accordingly.

(3) If the court enters a judgment for periodic payments and any security required by the judgment is not posted within thirty days, the court shall enter a judgment for the payment of future damages in a lump sum.

(4) If at any time following entry of judgment for periodic payments, a judgment debtor fails for any reason to make a payment in a timely fashion according to the terms of the judgment, the judgment creditor may petition the court for an order requiring payment by the judgment debtor of the outstanding payments in a lump sum. In calculating the amount of the lump sum judgment, the court shall total the remaining periodic payments due and owing to the judgment creditor converted to present value. The court may also require payment of interest on the outstanding judgment.

(5) Upon the death of the judgment creditor, the court which rendered the original judgment may, upon petition of any party in interest, modify the judgment to award and apportion the unpaid future damages. Money damages awarded for loss of future earnings shall not be reduced or payments terminated by reason of the death of the judgment creditor.

(6) Upon satisfaction of a periodic payment judgment, any obligation of the judgment debtor to make further payments shall cease and any security posted pursuant to this section shall revert to the judgment debtor. [1986 c 305 § 801.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 4.60 RCW
JUDGMENT BY CONFESSION

Sections

Damages, assessment without answer: RCW 4.28.290.

4.60.010 Judgment on confession authorized. On the confession of the defendant, with the assent of the plaintiff or his or her attorney, judgment may be given against the defendant in any action before or after answer, for any amount or relief not exceeding or different from that demanded in the complaint. [2011 c 336 § 111; Code 1881 § 291; 1877 p 60 § 295; 1869 p 72 § 293; 1854 p 172 §§ 226-228; RRS § 413.]

4.60.020 Confession by public and private corporations and minors. When the action is against the state, a county or other public corporation therein, or a private corporation, or a minor, the confession shall be made by the person who at the time sustains the relation to such state, corporation, county or minor, as would authorize the service of a notice summons upon him or her; or in the case of a minor, if a guardian for the action has been appointed, then by such guardian; in all other cases the confession shall be made by the defendant in person. [2011 c 336 § 112; Code 1881 § 292; 1877 p 60 § 296; 1869 p 72 § 294; RRS § 414.]

4.60.030 Confession by person jointly liable. When the action is upon a contract and against one or more defendants jointly liable, judgment may be given on the confession of one or more defendants, against all the defendants thus jointly liable, whether such defendants have been served or not, to be enforced only against their joint property and against the joint and separate property of the defendant making the confession. [Code 1881 § 293; 1877 p 60 § 297; 1869 p 72 § 295; RRS § 415.]

4.60.040 Confession, how made. The confession and assent thereto shall be in writing and subscribed by the parties making the same, and acknowledged by each before some officer authorized to take acknowledgments of deeds. [Code 1881 § 294; 1877 p 60 § 298; 1869 p 72 § 296; RRS § 416.]

4.60.050 Judgment by confession without suit. A judgment by confession may be entered without action, either for money due or to become due, or to secure any person against contingent liability on behalf of the defendant, or both, in the manner prescribed by this chapter. [Code 1881 § 295; 1877 p 60 § 299; 1869 p 73 § 297; RRS § 417.]

4.60.060 Statement in writing—Requisites. A statement in writing shall be made, signed by the defendant and verified by his or her oath, to the following effect:

(1) It shall authorize the entry of judgment for a specified sum.

(2) If it be for money due or to become due, it shall state concisely the facts out of which the indebtedness arose, and shall show that the sum confessed to be due, is justly due or to become due.

(3) If it be for the purpose of securing the plaintiff against a contingent liability, it shall state concisely the facts constituting the liability, and show that the sum confessed therefor does not exceed the same. [2011 c 336 § 113; Code 1881 § 296; 1877 p 61 § 300; 1869 p 73 § 298; RRS § 418.]

4.60.070 Judgment on confession—Entry—Execution. The statement must be presented to the superior court or a judge thereof, and if the same be found sufficient, the court or judge shall indorse thereon an order that judgment be entered by the clerk; whereupon it may be filed in the office of the clerk, who shall enter a judgment for the amount confessed, with costs. Execution may be issued and enforced thereon in the same manner as upon judgments in other cases. [Code 1881 § 297; 1877 p 61 § 301; 1869 p 73 § 299; RRS § 419.]

Chapter 4.64 RCW
ENTRY OF JUDGMENTS

Sections

4.64.020 Entry of verdict in execution docket—Effect. (1) The clerk on the return of a verdict shall forthwith enter it in the execution docket, specifying the amount, the names of the parties to the action, and the names of the party or parties against whom the verdict is rendered; such entry shall be indexed in the record index and shall conform as near as may be to entries of judgments required to be made in the execution docket.

(2) Beginning at eight o'clock a.m. the day after the entry of a verdict as herein provided, it shall be notice to all the world of the rendition thereof, and any person subsequently acquiring title to or a lien upon the real property of the party or parties against whom the verdict is returned shall be deemed to have acquired such title or lien with notice, and such title or lien shall be subject and inferior to any judgment afterwards entered on the verdict. [1987 c 442 § 1109; 1927 c 176 § 1; 1921 c 65 § 2; RRS § 431-1.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 58(b).*

4.64.030 Entry of judgment—Form of judgment summary. (1) The clerk shall enter all judgments in the execution docket, subject to the direction of the court and shall specify clearly the amount to be recovered, the relief granted, or other determination of the action.

(2)(a) On the first page of each judgment which provides for the payment of money, including foreign judgments, judgments in rem, mandates of judgments, and judgments on garnishments, the following shall be succinctly summarized: The judgment creditor and the name of his or her attorney, the judgment debtor, the amount of the judgment, the interest owed to the date of the judgment, and the total of the taxable costs and attorney fees, if known at the time of the entry of the judgment, and in the entry of a foreign judgment, the filing and expiration dates of the judgment under the laws of the original jurisdiction.

(b) If the judgment provides for the award of any right, title, or interest in real property, the first page must also include an abbreviated legal description of the property in which the right, title, or interest was awarded by the judgment, including lot, block, plat, or section, township, and range, and reference to the judgment page number where the full legal description is included, if applicable; or the assessor's property tax parcel or account number, consistent with RCW 65.04.045(1) (f) and (g).

(c) If the judgment provides for damages arising from the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle as specified in RCW 46.29.270, the first page of the judgment summary must clearly state that the judgment is awarded pursuant to RCW 46.29.270 and that the clerk must give notice to the department of licensing as outlined in *RCW 46.29.310.

(3) If the attorney fees and costs are not included in the judgment, they shall be summarized in the cost bill when filed. The clerk may not enter a judgment, and a judgment does not take effect, until the judgment has a summary in compliance with this section. The clerk is not liable for an incorrect summary. [2003 c 43 § 1; 2000 c 41 § 1; 1999 c 296 § 1; 1997 c 358 § 5; 1995 c 149 § 1; 1994 c 185 § 2; 1987 c 442 § 1107; 1984 c 128 § 6; 1983 c 28 § 2; Code 1881 § 305; 1877 p 62 § 309; 1869 p 75 § 307; RRS § 435.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 58(a), CR 58(b), CR 78(e).*

***Reviser's note:** RCW 46.29.310 was amended by 2016 c 93 § 5, requiring that the judgment creditor, rather than the clerk of the court, provide notice to the department of licensing.

4.64.060 Execution docket—Index of record. Every county clerk shall keep in the clerk's office a record, to be called the execution docket, which shall be a public record and open during the usual business hours to all persons desirous of inspecting it. The record must be indexed both directly and inversely, and include all judgments, abstracts, and transcripts of judgments in the clerk's office. The index must refer to each party against whom the judgment is rendered or whose property is affected by the judgment. [1997 c 358 § 6; 1987 c 442 § 1105; 1967 ex.s. c 34 § 1; Code 1881 § 307; 1877 p 62 § 311; 1869 p 75 § 309; 1854 p 173 § 234; RRS § 444.]

4.64.080 Entries in execution docket. When entering a judgment in the execution docket, the clerk shall leave space on the same page, if practicable, in which the clerk shall enter, in the order in which they occur, all the proceedings subsequent to the judgment in the case until its final satisfaction, including when and to what county an execution is issued, when returned, and the return or the substance thereof. When the execution is levied on personal property which is returned unsold, the entry shall be: "levied (noting the date) on property not sold." When any sheriff shall furnish the clerk with a copy of any levy upon real estate on any judgment the minutes of which are entered in the execution docket, the entry shall be: "levied upon real estate," noting the date. When any execution issued to any other county is returned levied upon real estate in such county, the entry in the docket shall be, "levied on real estate of . . . . . ., in . . . . . county," noting the date, county, and defendants whose estate is levied upon. When any money is paid, the amount and time when paid shall be entered. When a judgment is appealed, modified, discharged, or in any manner satisfied, the facts in respect thereto shall be entered. The parties interested may also assign or discharge such judgment on such execution docket. When the judgment is fully satisfied in any way, the clerk shall write the word "satisfied," in large letters across the face of the record of such judgment in the execution docket. [1987 c 442 § 1108; 1957 c 7 § 6; 1923 c 130 § 2; Code 1881 § 310; 1877 p 63 § 314; 1869 p 76 § 312; 1854 p 174 § 237; RRS § 448.]

4.64.090 Abstract of judgment. The abstract of a judgment shall contain (1) the name of the party, or parties, in whose favor the judgment was rendered; (2) the name of the party, or parties, against whom the judgment was rendered; (3) the date of the rendition of the judgment; (4) the amount for which the judgment was rendered, and in the following manner, viz: Principal $. . .; interest $. . .; costs $. . .; total $. . . . . [1987 c 442 § 1113; 1957 c 7 § 8. Prior: 1929 c 60 § 3, part; 1893 c 42 § 3; RRS § 451.]

4.64.100 Abstract of verdict—Cessation of lien, certificate. The clerk shall, on request and at the expense of the party in whose favor the verdict is rendered, or the party's attorney, prepare an abstract of such verdict in substantially the same form as an abstract of a judgment and transmit such abstract to the clerk of any court in any county in the state as directed, and shall make a note on the execution docket of the name of the county to which each of such abstracts is sent. The clerk receiving such abstract shall, on payment of the statutory fee, enter and index it in the execution docket in the same manner as an abstract of judgment. The entry shall have the same effect in such county as in the county where the verdict was rendered.

Whenever the verdict, or any judgment rendered thereon, shall cease to be a lien in the county where rendered, the clerk of the court shall on request of anyone, and the payment of the cost and expense thereof, certify that the lien has ceased, and transmit such certificate to the clerk of any court to which an abstract was forwarded, and the clerk receiving the certificate, on payment of the statutory fee, shall enter it in the execution docket, and then the lien of such verdict or judgment shall cease. Nothing in this section or RCW 4.64.020 shall be construed as authorizing the issuance of an execution by a clerk in any other county than that in which the judgment is rendered. [1987 c 442 § 1110; 1984 c 76 § 5; 1921 c 65 § 3; RRS § 431-2.]

Fees of
superior court clerks: RCW 36.18.020.
supreme and appellate court clerks: RCW 2.32.070.

4.64.110 Transcript of district court docket. A transcript of the district court docket shall contain an exact copy of the district court judgment from the docket. [1987 c 202 § 118; 1957 c 7 § 9. Prior: 1929 c 60 § 3, part; 1893 c 42 § 4; RRS § 452.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

4.64.120 Entry of abstract or transcript of judgment. It shall be the duty of the county clerk to enter in the execution docket any duly certified transcript of a judgment of a

district court of this state and any duly certified abstract of any judgment of any court mentioned in RCW 4.56.200, filed in the county clerk's office, and to index the same in the same manner as judgments originally rendered in the superior court for the county of which he or she is clerk. Jurisdiction over the judgment, including modification to or vacation of the original judgment, transfers to the superior court. The superior court may, in its discretion, remand the cause to district court for determination of any motion to vacate or modify the original judgment. [1997 c 358 § 2. Prior: 1987 c 442 § 1111; 1987 c 202 § 119; 1929 c 60 § 4; RRS § 453; prior: 1893 c 42 § 5.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Chapter 4.68 RCW
PROCEDURE TO BIND JOINT DEBTOR

Sections

4.68.010 Summons after judgment. When a judgment is recorded against one or more of several persons jointly indebted upon an obligation by proceeding as provided by the court by rule, such defendants who were not originally served with the summons, and did not appear to the action, may be summoned to show cause why they should not be bound by the judgment, in the same manner as though they had been originally served with the summons. [1984 c 76 § 6; Code 1881 § 314; 1877 p 64 § 318; RRS § 436.]

4.68.020 Contents of summons. The summons, as provided in RCW 4.68.010, must describe the judgment, and require the person summoned to show cause why he or she should not be bound by it, and must be served in the same manner and returnable within the same time, as the original summons. It is not necessary to file a new complaint. [2011 c 336 § 114; Code 1881 § 315; 1877 p 64 § 319; RRS § 437.]

4.68.030 Affidavit must accompany summons. The summons must be accompanied by an affidavit of the plaintiff, his or her agent, representative, or attorney, that the judgment, or some part thereof, remains unsatisfied, and must specify the amount due thereon. [2011 c 336 § 115; Code 1881 § 316; 1877 p 65 § 320; RRS § 438.]

4.68.040 Defenses. Upon the service of such summons and affidavit, the defendant may answer within the time specified therein, denying the judgment, or setting up any defense which may have arisen subsequently to the taking of the judgment, or he or she may deny his or her liability on the obligation upon which the judgment was rendered, except a discharge from such liability by the statute of limitations. [2011 c 336 § 116; Code 1881 § 317; 1877 p 65 § 321; RRS § 439.]

4.68.050 Pleadings. If the defendant in his or her answer, deny the judgment, or set up any defense which may have arisen subsequently, the summons, with the affidavit annexed, and the answer, constitute the written allegations in the case; if he or she deny his or her liability on the obligation upon which the judgment was rendered, a copy of the original complaint and judgment, the summons with the affidavit annexed, and the answer constitute such written allegations. [2011 c 336 § 117; Code 1881 § 318; 1877 p 65 § 322; RRS § 440.]

4.68.060 Trial. The issue formed may be tried as in other cases, but when the defendant denies in his or her answer any liability on the obligation upon which the judgment was rendered, if a verdict be found against him or her, it must not exceed the amount remaining unsatisfied on such original judgment, with interest thereon. [2011 c 336 § 118; Code 1881 § 319; 1877 p 65 § 323; RRS § 441.]

Chapter 4.72 RCW
VACATION AND MODIFICATION OF JUDGMENTS

Sections

4.72.010 Causes for enumerated. The superior court in which a judgment or final order has been rendered, or made, shall have power to vacate or modify such judgment or order:

(1) By granting a new trial for the cause, within the time and in the manner, and for any of the causes prescribed by the rules of court relating to new trials.

(2) By a new trial granted in proceedings against defendant served by publication only as prescribed in RCW 4.28.200.

(3) For mistakes, neglect or omission of the clerk, or irregularity in obtaining a judgment or order.

(4) For fraud practiced by the successful party in obtaining the judgment or order.

(5) For erroneous proceedings against a minor or person of unsound mind, when the condition of such defendant does not appear in the record, nor the error in the proceedings.

(6) For the death of one of the parties before the judgment in the action.

(7) For unavoidable casualty, or misfortune preventing the party from prosecuting or defending.

(8) For error in a judgment shown by a minor, within twelve months after arriving at full age. [1957 c 9 § 4; Code 1881 § 436; 1877 p 96 § 438; 1875 p 20 § 1; RRS § 464.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 52(d), CR 60(b).*

Judgment to recover realty, vacation: RCW 7.28.260.

4.72.020 Motion to vacate—Time limitation. The proceedings to vacate or modify a judgment or order for mistakes or omissions of the clerk, or irregularity in obtaining the judgment or order, shall be by motion served on the adverse party or on his or her attorney in the action, and within one

year. [2011 c 336 § 119; 1891 c 27 § 1; Code 1881 § 438; 1877 p 97 § 440; 1875 p 21 § 3; RRS § 466.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 60(b).*

4.72.030 Petition to vacate for certain causes—Time limitation. RCW 4.72.010 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) shall be by petition verified by affidavit, setting forth the judgment or order, the facts or errors constituting a cause to vacate or modify it, and if the party is a defendant, the facts constituting a defense to the action; and such proceedings must be commenced within one year after the judgment or order was made, unless the party entitled thereto be a minor or person of unsound mind, and then within one year from the removal of such disability. [1891 c 27 § 2; Code 1881 § 439; 1877 p 97 § 441; 1875 p 21 § 4; RRS § 467.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 60(b).*

4.72.050 Conditions precedent to vacation. The judgment shall not be vacated on motion or petition until it is adjudged that there is a valid defense to the action in which the judgment is rendered; or, if the plaintiff seeks its vacation, that there is a valid cause of action; and when judgment is modified, all liens and securities obtained under it shall be preserved to the modified judgment. [Code 1881 § 441; 1877 p 97 § 443; 1875 p 22 § 6; RRS § 469.]

4.72.060 Grounds for vacation may first be tried. The court may first try and decide upon the grounds to vacate or modify a judgment or order, before trying or deciding upon the validity of the defense or cause of action. [Code 1881 § 442; 1877 p 97 § 440; 1875 p 22 § 7; RRS § 470.]

4.72.070 Injunction to suspend proceedings. The party seeking to vacate or modify a judgment or order may obtain an injunction suspending proceedings on the whole or part thereof, which injunction may be granted by the court or the judge upon its being rendered probable, by affidavit or petition sworn to, or by exhibition of the record, that the party is entitled to have such judgment or order vacated or modified. [Code 1881 § 443; 1877 p 97 § 445; 1875 p 22 § 8; RRS § 471.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 62.*

4.72.080 Construction of chapter—Time limitations when fraud, misrepresentation concerned. The provisions of this chapter shall not be so construed as to affect the power of the court to vacate or modify judgments or orders as elsewhere in this code provided; nor shall the time limitations set forth in this chapter within which proceedings to vacate or modify a judgment must be started apply to a judgment heretofore or hereafter entered by consent or stipulation where the grounds to vacate or modify such judgment are based on fraud or misrepresentation, or when after the entry of the judgment either party fails to fulfill the terms and conditions on which the consent judgment or stipulation was entered; nor shall any judgment of acquittal in a criminal action be vacated under the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 88 § 1; 1891 c 27 § 4; RRS § 472.]

Reviser's note: The words "this code" appeared in 1891 c 27 § 4.

4.72.090 Judgment upon denial of application. In all cases in which an application under this chapter to vacate or modify a judgment or order for the recovery of money is denied, if proceedings on the judgment or order shall have been suspended, judgment shall be rendered against the plaintiff [applicant] for the amount of the former judgment or order, interest and costs, together with damages at the discretion of the court, not exceeding ten percent on the amount of the judgment or order. [1891 c 27 § 5; Code 1881 § 444; 1877 p 97 § 446; 1875 p 22 § 9; RRS § 473.]

Chapter 4.76 RCW
NEW TRIALS

Sections

4.76.010 New trial defined. A new trial is a reexamination of an issue in the same court after a trial and decision by a jury, court or referees. [Code 1881 § 275; 1877 p 56 § 279; 1869 p 67 § 277; 1854 p 170 § 215; RRS § 398.]

4.76.030 Increase or reduction of verdict as alternative to new trial. If the trial court shall, upon a motion for new trial, find the damages awarded by a jury to be so excessive or inadequate as unmistakably to indicate that the amount thereof must have been the result of passion or prejudice, the trial court may order a new trial or may enter an order providing for a new trial unless the party adversely affected shall consent to a reduction or increase of such verdict, and if such party shall file such consent and the opposite party shall thereafter appeal from the judgment entered, the party who shall have filed such consent shall not be bound thereby, but upon such appeal the court of appeals or the supreme court shall, without the necessity of a formal cross-appeal, review de novo the action of the trial court in requiring such reduction or increase, and there shall be a presumption that the amount of damages awarded by the verdict of the jury was correct and such amount shall prevail, unless the court of appeals or the supreme court shall find from the record that the damages awarded in such verdict by the jury were so excessive or so inadequate as unmistakably to indicate that the amount of the verdict must have been the result of passion or prejudice. [1971 c 81 § 19; 1933 c 138 § 2; RRS § 399-1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.76.070 Newly discovered evidence, requirements as to. If the motion be supported by affidavits and the cause be newly discovered evidence, the affidavits of any witness or witnesses, showing what their testimony will be, shall be produced or good reasons shown for their nonproduction. [1891 c 59 § 2; Code 1881 § 282; 1877 p 57 § 286; 1869 p 68 § 284; 1854 p 170 § 219; RRS § 403.]

4.76.080 Petition for new trial when discovery of grounds delayed. When the grounds for a new trial could not with reasonable diligence have been discovered before, but are discovered after the time when the verdict, report of

referee, or decision was rendered or made, the application may be made by petition filed as in other cases, not later than after the discovery, on which notice shall be served and returned, and the defendant held to appear as in an original action. The facts stated in the petition shall be considered as denied without answer. The case shall be tried as other cases by ordinary proceedings, but no motion shall be filed more than one year after the final judgment was rendered. [1955 c 44 § 1; Code 1881 § 437; 1875 p 21 § 2; RRS § 465.]

Chapter 4.80 RCW
EXCEPTIONS

Sections

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 46.*

4.80.010 Exception defined. An exception is a claim of error in a ruling or decision of a court, judge or other tribunal, or officer exercising judicial functions, made in the course of an action or proceeding or after judgment therein. [1893 c 60 § 1; RRS § 381.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 46.*

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.80.020 When to be taken. It shall not be necessary or proper to take or enter an exception to any ruling or decision mentioned in RCW 4.80.010, which is embodied in a written judgment, order or journal entry in the cause. But this section shall not apply to the report of a referee or commissioner, or to findings of fact or conclusions of law in a report or decision of a referee or commissioner, or in a decision of a court or judge upon a cause or part of a cause, either legal or equitable, tried without a jury. [1893 c 60 § 2; RRS § 382.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 46.*

4.80.030 Requisites—Entry in minutes. Exceptions to any ruling upon an objection to the admission of evidence, offered in the course of a trial or hearing, need not be formally taken, but the question put or other offer of evidence, together with the objection thereto and the ruling thereon, shall be entered by the court, judge, referee or commissioner (or by the stenographer, if one is in attendance) in the minutes of the trial or hearing, and such entry shall import an exception by the party against whom the ruling was made. [1893 c 60 § 5; RRS § 385.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 46.*

4.80.040 Manner of taking and entry. Exceptions to any ruling or decision made in the course of a trial or hearing, or in the progress of a cause, except those to which it is provided in this chapter that no exception need be taken and those to which some other mode of exception is in this chapter prescribed, may be taken by any party by stating to the court, judge, referee or commissioner making the ruling or decision, when the same is made, that such party excepts to the same; whereupon such court, judge, referee or commissioner shall note the exception in the minutes of the trial, hearing or cause, or shall cause the stenographer (if one is in attendance) so to note the same. [1893 c 60 § 6; RRS § 386.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 46.*

4.80.140 Application of chapter. This chapter shall apply to and govern all civil actions and proceedings, both legal and equitable, and all criminal causes, in the superior courts, but shall not apply to district courts or other courts of limited jurisdiction from which an appeal does not lie directly to the supreme court or court of appeals. [1987 c 202 § 120; 1971 c 81 § 21; 1893 c 60 § 17; RRS § 397, part.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Chapter 4.84 RCW
COSTS

Sections

Deposit of jury fee taxable as costs: RCW 4.44.110.

4.84.010 Costs allowed to prevailing party—Defined—Compensation of attorneys. The measure and mode of compensation of attorneys and counselors, shall be

left to the agreement, expressed or implied, of the parties, but there shall be allowed to the prevailing party upon the judgment certain sums for the prevailing party's expenses in the action, which allowances are termed costs, including, in addition to costs otherwise authorized by law, the following expenses:

(1) Filing fees;

(2) Fees for the service of process by a public officer, registered process server, or other means, as follows:

(a) When service is by a public officer, the recoverable cost is the fee authorized by law at the time of service.

(b) If service is by a process server registered pursuant to chapter 18.180 RCW or a person exempt from registration, the recoverable cost is the amount actually charged and incurred in effecting service;

(3) Fees for service by publication;

(4) Notary fees, but only to the extent the fees are for services that are expressly required by law and only to the extent they represent actual costs incurred by the prevailing party;

(5) Reasonable expenses, exclusive of attorneys' fees, incurred in obtaining reports and records, which are admitted into evidence at trial or in mandatory arbitration in superior or district court, including but not limited to medical records, tax records, personnel records, insurance reports, employment and wage records, police reports, school records, bank records, and legal files;

(6) Statutory attorney and witness fees; and

(7) To the extent that the court or arbitrator finds that it was necessary to achieve the successful result, the reasonable expense of the transcription of depositions used at trial or at the mandatory arbitration hearing: PROVIDED, That the expenses of depositions shall be allowed on a pro rata basis for those portions of the depositions introduced into evidence or used for purposes of impeachment. [2009 c 240 § 1; 2007 c 121 § 1; 1993 c 48 § 1; 1984 c 258 § 92; 1983 1st ex.s. c 45 § 7; Code 1881 § 505; 1877 p 108 § 509; 1869 p 123 § 459; 1854 p 201 § 367; RRS § 474.]

Attorney fee in appeals from board of industrial insurance appeals: RCW 51.52.130, 51.52.132.

Process server fees: RCW 18.180.035.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.84.015 Costs in civil actions for the recovery of money only—When plaintiff considered the prevailing party. (1) In any civil action for the recovery of money only, the plaintiff will be considered the prevailing party for the purpose of awarding costs, including a statutory attorney fee, if: (a) The defendant makes full or partial payment of the amounts sought by the plaintiff prior to the entry of judgment; and (b) before such payment is tendered, the plaintiff has notified the defendant in writing that the full or partial payment of the amounts sued for might result in an award of costs.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "plaintiff" includes a counterclaimant, cross-claimant, and third-party plaintiff, and "defendant" includes a party defending a counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim.

(3) A party may demand, offer, or accept the payment of statutory costs before the entry of judgment in an action.

(4) This section may not be construed to (a) authorize an award of costs if the action is resolved by a negotiated settlement or (b) limit or bar the operation of cost-shifting provisions of other statutes or court rules. [2009 c 240 § 2.]

4.84.020 Amount of contracted attorneys' fee to be fixed by court. In all cases of foreclosure of mortgages and in all other cases in which attorneys' fees are allowed, the amount thereof shall be fixed by the court at such sum as the court shall deem reasonable, any stipulations in the note, mortgage or other instrument to the contrary notwithstanding; but in no case shall said fee be fixed above contract price stated in said note or contract. [1895 c 48 § 1; 1891 c 44 § 1; 1888 p 9 § 1; 1885 p 176 § 1; RRS § 475.]

4.84.030 Prevailing party to recover costs. In any action in the superior court of Washington the prevailing party shall be entitled to his or her costs and disbursements; but the plaintiff shall in no case be entitled to costs taxed as attorneys' fees in actions within the jurisdiction of the district court when commenced in the superior court. [1987 c 202 § 121; 1890 p 337 § 1; 1883 p 42 § 1; Code 1881 §§ 506, 507; 1854 p 201 §§ 368, 369; RRS § 476.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

4.84.040 Limitation on costs in certain actions. In an action for an assault and battery, or for false imprisonment, libel, slander, malicious prosecution, criminal conversation or seduction, if the plaintiff recover less than ten dollars, he or she shall be entitled to no more costs or disbursements than the damage recovered. [2011 c 336 § 120; Code 1881 § 508; 1877 p 108 § 512; 1869 p 123 § 460; 1854 p 202 § 370; RRS § 477.]

4.84.050 Limited to one of several actions. When several actions are brought on one bond, undertaking, promissory note, bill of exchange, or other instrument in writing, or in any other case for the same cause of action against several parties, who might have been joined as defendants in the same action, no costs or disbursements shall be allowed to the plaintiff in more than one of such actions, which may be at his or her election, if the parties proceeded against in the other actions were, at the commencement of the previous action, openly within this state. [2011 c 336 § 121; Code 1881 § 509; 1877 p 108 § 513; 1869 p 123 § 461; 1854 p 202 § 371; RRS § 478.]

4.84.060 Costs to defendant. In all cases where costs and disbursements are not allowed to the plaintiff, the defendant shall be entitled to have judgment in his or her favor for the same. [2011 c 336 § 122; Code 1881 § 510; 1877 p 109 § 514; 1869 p 123 § 462; 1854 p 202 § 372; RRS § 479.]

4.84.070 Costs to defendants defending separately. In all actions where there are several defendants not united in interest, and making separate defenses by separate answers, and the plaintiff fails to recover judgment against all, the court may award costs to such defendants as recover judgments in their favor, or either of them. [Code 1881 § 511; 1877 p 109 § 515; 1869 p 124 § 463; 1854 p 202 § 373; RRS § 480.]

4.84.080 Schedule of attorneys' fees. When allowed to either party, costs to be called the attorney fee, shall be as follows:

(1) In all actions where judgment is rendered, two hundred dollars.

(2) In all actions where judgment is rendered in the supreme court or the court of appeals, after argument, two hundred dollars. [2004 c 123 § 1; 1985 c 240 § 1; 1981 c 331 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 30 § 2; Code 1881 § 512; 1877 p 108 § 516; 1869 p 124 § 464; 1854 p 202 § 374; RRS § 481.]

Court Congestion Reduction Act of 1981—Purpose—Severability—1981 c 331: See notes following RCW 2.32.070.

Costs: RCW 4.84.190.

Transmission of record on change of venue—Costs, attorney's fees: RCW 4.12.090.

4.84.090 Cost bill—Witnesses to report attendance. The prevailing party, in addition to allowance for costs, as provided in RCW 4.84.080, shall also be allowed for all necessary disbursements, including the fees of officers allowed by law, the fees of witnesses, the necessary expenses of taking depositions, by commission or otherwise, and the compensation of referees. The court shall allow the prevailing party all service of process charges in case such process was served by a person or persons not an officer or officers. Such service charge shall be the same as is now allowed or shall in the future be allowed as fee and mileage to an officer. The disbursements shall be stated in detail and verified by affidavit, and shall be served on the opposite party or his or her attorney, and filed with the clerk of the court, within ten days after the judgment: PROVIDED, The clerk of the court shall keep a record of all witnesses in attendance upon any civil action, for whom fees are to be claimed, with the number of days in attendance and their mileage, and no fees or mileage for any witness shall be taxed in the cost bill unless they shall have reported their attendance at the close of each day's session to the clerk in attendance at such trial. [2011 c 336 § 123; 1949 c 146 § 1; 1905 c 16 § 1; Code 1881 § 513; 1877 p 109 § 517; 1869 p 124 § 465; 1854 p 202 § 375; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 482.]

Witness fees and mileage: Chapter 2.40 RCW.

4.84.100 Costs on postponement of trial. When an application shall be made to a court or referees to postpone a trial, the payment to the adverse party of a sum not exceeding ten dollars, besides the fees of witnesses, may be imposed as the condition of granting the postponement. [Code 1881 § 515; 1877 p 109 § 519; 1854 p 203 § 377; RRS § 484.]

4.84.110 Costs where tender is made. When in an action for the recovery of money, the defendant alleges in his or her answer, that, before the commencement of the action, he or she tendered to the plaintiff the full amount to which he or she is entitled, in such money as by agreement ought to be tendered, and thereupon brings into court, for the plaintiff, the amount tendered, and the allegation be found true, the plaintiff shall not recover costs, but shall pay them to the defendant. [2011 c 336 § 124; Code 1881 § 516; 1877 p 109 § 520; 1854 p 203 § 378; RRS § 485.]

4.84.120 Costs where deposit in court is made and rejected. If the defendant in any action pending, shall at any time deposit with the clerk of the court, for the plaintiff, the amount which he or she admits to be due, together with all costs that have accrued, and notify the plaintiff thereof, and such plaintiff shall refuse to accept the same in discharge of the action, and shall not afterwards recover a larger amount than that deposited with the clerk, exclusive of interest and cost, he or she shall pay all costs that may accrue from the time such money was so deposited. [2011 c 336 § 125; Code 1881 § 517; 1877 p 110 § 521; 1854 p 203 § 379; RRS § 486.]

Conflicting claims, deposit in court, costs: RCW 4.08.170.

4.84.130 Costs in appeals from district courts. In all civil actions tried before the district court, in which an appeal shall be taken to the superior court, and the party appellant shall not recover a more favorable judgment in the superior court than before the district court, such appellant shall pay all costs. [1987 c 202 § 122; Code 1881 § 518; 1877 p 110 § 522; 1854 p 203 § 380; RRS § 487.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

District court appeals: Chapter 12.36 RCW.

4.84.140 Costs against guardian of infant plaintiff. When costs are adjudged against an infant plaintiff, the guardian or person by whom he or she appeared in the action shall be responsible therefor, and payment may be enforced by execution. [2011 c 336 § 126; Code 1881 § 519; 1877 p 110 § 523; 1854 p 203 § 381; RRS § 488.]

4.84.150 Costs against fiduciaries. In an action prosecuted or defended by an executor, administrator, trustee of an express trust, or a person expressly authorized by statute, costs shall be recovered as in an action by or against a person prosecuting in his or her own right, but such costs shall be chargeable only upon or collected of the estate of the party represented, unless the court shall direct the same to be paid by the plaintiff or defendant personally, for mismanagement or bad faith in such action or defense. [2011 c 336 § 127; Code 1881 § 520; 1877 p 110 § 524; 1854 p 203 § 382; RRS § 489.]

Actions by and against personal representatives, etc.: Chapter 11.48 RCW.

4.84.160 Costs against assignee. When the cause of action, after the commencement of the action, by assignment, or in any other manner, becomes the property of a person not a party thereto, and the prosecution or defense is thereafter continued, such person shall be liable for the costs in the same manner as if he or she were a party, and payment thereof may be enforced by execution. [2011 c 336 § 128; Code 1881 § 521; 1877 p 110 § 525; 1869 p 125 § 473; 1854 p 203 § 383; RRS § 490.]

4.84.170 Costs against state or county. In all actions prosecuted in the name and for the use of the state, or in the name and for the use of any county, and in any action brought against the state or any county, and on all appeals to the supreme court or the court of appeals of the state in all actions brought by or against either the state or any county, the state or county shall be liable for costs in the same case and to the same extent as private parties. [1971 c 81 § 22; 1959 c 62 §

1; Code 1881 § 522; 1877 p 110 § 526; 1854 p 203 § 384; RRS § 491.]

4.84.185 Prevailing party to receive expenses for opposing frivolous action or defense. In any civil action, the court having jurisdiction may, upon written findings by the judge that the action, counterclaim, cross-claim, third party claim, or defense was frivolous and advanced without reasonable cause, require the nonprevailing party to pay the prevailing party the reasonable expenses, including fees of attorneys, incurred in opposing such action, counterclaim, cross-claim, third party claim, or defense. This determination shall be made upon motion by the prevailing party after a voluntary or involuntary order of dismissal, order on summary judgment, final judgment after trial, or other final order terminating the action as to the prevailing party. The judge shall consider all evidence presented at the time of the motion to determine whether the position of the nonprevailing party was frivolous and advanced without reasonable cause. In no event may such motion be filed more than thirty days after entry of the order.

The provisions of this section apply unless otherwise specifically provided by statute. [1991 c 70 § 1; 1987 c 212 § 201; 1983 c 127 § 1.]

Administrative law, frivolous petitions for judicial review: RCW 34.05.598.

4.84.190 Costs in proceedings not specifically covered. In all actions and proceedings other than those mentioned in this chapter [and RCW 4.48.100], where no provision is made for the recovery of costs, they may be allowed or not, and if allowed may be apportioned between the parties, in the discretion of the court. [Code 1881 § 525; 1877 p 111 § 529; 1854 p 204 § 387; RRS § 493.]

Costs: RCW 4.84.080.

4.84.200 Retaxation of costs. Any party aggrieved by the taxation of costs by the clerk of the court may, upon application, have the same retaxed by the court in which the action or proceeding is had. [Code 1881 § 526; 1877 p 111 § 530; 1854 p 204 § 388; RRS § 494.]

4.84.210 Security for costs. When a plaintiff in an action, or in a garnishment or other proceeding, resides out of the county, or is a foreign corporation, or begins such action or proceeding as the assignee of some other person or of a firm or corporation, as to all causes of action sued upon, security for the costs and charges which may be awarded against such plaintiff may be required by the defendant or garnishee defendant. When required, all proceedings in the action or proceeding shall be stayed until a bond, executed by two or more persons, or by a surety company authorized to do business in this state be filed with the clerk, conditioned that they will pay such costs and charges as may be awarded against the plaintiff by judgment, or in the progress of the action or proceeding, not exceeding the sum of two hundred dollars. A new or additional bond may be ordered by the court or judge, upon proof that the original bond is insufficient security, and proceedings in the action or proceeding stayed until such new or additional bond be executed and filed. The plaintiff may deposit with the clerk the sum of two hundred dollars in lieu of a bond. [1929 c 103 § 1; Code 1881 § 527; 1877 p 111 § 531; 1854 p 204 § 389; RRS § 495.]

4.84.220 Bond in lieu of separate security. In lieu of separate security for each action or proceeding in any court, the plaintiff may cause to be executed and filed in the court a bond in the penal sum of two hundred dollars running to the state of Washington, with surety as in case of a separate bond, and conditioned for the payment of all judgments for costs which may thereafter be rendered against him or her in that court. Any defendant or garnishee who shall thereafter recover a judgment for costs in said court against the principal on such bond shall likewise be entitled to judgment against the sureties. Such bond shall not be sufficient unless the penalty thereof is unimpaired by any outstanding obligation at the time of the commencement of the action. [2011 c 336 § 129; 1929 c 103 § 2; RRS § 495-1.]

4.84.230 Dismissal for failure to give security. After the lapse of ninety days from the service of notice that security is required or of an order for new or additional security, upon proof thereof, and that no undertaking as required has been filed, the court or judge may order the action to be dismissed. [1933 c 14 § 1; RRS § 495-2.]

4.84.240 Judgment on cost bond. Whenever any bond or undertaking for the payment of any costs to any party shall be filed in any action or other legal proceeding in any court in this state and judgment should be rendered for any such costs against the principal on any such bonds or against the party primarily liable therefor in whose behalf any such bond or undertaking has been filed, such judgment for costs shall be rendered against the principal on such bond or the party primarily liable therefor and at the same time also against his or her surety or sureties on any or all such bonds or undertakings filed in any such action or other legal proceeding. [2011 c 336 § 130; 1909 c 173 § 1; RRS § 496.]

4.84.250 Attorneys' fees as costs in damage actions of ten thousand dollars or less—Allowed to prevailing party. Notwithstanding any other provisions of chapter 4.84 RCW and RCW 12.20.060, in any action for damages where the amount pleaded by the prevailing party as hereinafter defined, exclusive of costs, is seven thousand five hundred dollars or less, there shall be taxed and allowed to the prevailing party as a part of the costs of the action a reasonable amount to be fixed by the court as attorneys' fees. After July 1, 1985, the maximum amount of the pleading under this section shall be ten thousand dollars. [1984 c 258 § 88; 1980 c 94 § 1; 1973 c 84 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.84.260 Attorneys' fees as costs in damage actions of ten thousand dollars or less—When plaintiff deemed prevailing party. The plaintiff, or party seeking relief, shall be deemed the prevailing party within the meaning of RCW 4.84.250 when the recovery, exclusive of costs, is as much as or more than the amount offered in settlement by the plaintiff, or party seeking relief, as set forth in RCW 4.84.280. [1973 c 84 § 2.]

4.84.270 Attorneys' fees as costs in damage actions of ten thousand dollars or less—When defendant deemed prevailing party. The defendant, or party resisting relief, shall be deemed the prevailing party within the meaning of RCW 4.84.250, if the plaintiff, or party seeking relief in an action for damages where the amount pleaded, exclusive of costs, is equal to or less than the maximum allowed under RCW 4.84.250, recovers nothing, or if the recovery, exclusive of costs, is the same or less than the amount offered in settlement by the defendant, or the party resisting relief, as set forth in RCW 4.84.280. [1980 c 94 § 2; 1973 c 84 § 3.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.84.280 Attorneys' fees as costs in damage actions of ten thousand dollars or less—Offers of settlement in determining. Offers of settlement shall be served on the adverse party in the manner prescribed by applicable court rules at least ten days prior to trial. Offers of settlement shall not be served until thirty days after the completion of the service and filing of the summons and complaint. Offers of settlement shall not be filed or communicated to the trier of the fact until after judgment, at which time a copy of said offer of settlement shall be filed for the purposes of determining attorneys' fees as set forth in RCW 4.84.250. [1983 c 282 § 1; 1980 c 94 § 3; 1973 c 84 § 4.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.84.290 Attorneys' fees as costs in damage actions of ten thousand dollars or less—Prevailing party on appeal. If the case is appealed, the prevailing party on appeal shall be considered the prevailing party for the purpose of applying the provisions of RCW 4.84.250: PROVIDED, That if, on appeal, a retrial is ordered, the court ordering the retrial shall designate the prevailing party, if any, for the purpose of applying the provisions of RCW 4.84.250.

In addition, if the prevailing party on appeal would be entitled to attorneys' fees under the provisions of RCW 4.84.250, the court deciding the appeal shall allow to the prevailing party such additional amount as the court shall adjudge reasonable as attorneys' fees for the appeal. [1973 c 84 § 5.]

4.84.300 Attorneys' fees as costs in damage actions of ten thousand dollars or less—Application. The provisions of RCW 4.84.250 through 4.84.290 shall apply regardless of whether the action is commenced in district court or superior court except as provided in RCW 4.84.280. This section shall not be construed as conferring jurisdiction on either court. [1987 c 202 § 123; 1980 c 94 § 4; 1973 c 84 § 6.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.84.320 Attorneys' fees in actions for injuries resulting from the rendering of medical and other health care. See RCW 7.70.070.

4.84.330 Actions on contract or lease which provides that attorneys' fees and costs incurred to enforce provisions be awarded to one of parties—Prevailing party entitled to attorneys' fees—Waiver prohibited. In any action on a contract or lease entered into after September 21, 1977, where such contract or lease specifically provides that attorneys' fees and costs, which are incurred to enforce the provisions of such contract or lease, shall be awarded to one of the parties, the prevailing party, whether he or she is the party specified in the contract or lease or not, shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees in addition to costs and necessary disbursements.

Attorneys' fees provided for by this section shall not be subject to waiver by the parties to any contract or lease which is entered into after September 21, 1977. Any provision in any such contract or lease which provides for a waiver of attorneys' fees is void.

As used in this section "prevailing party" means the party in whose favor final judgment is rendered. [2011 c 336 § 131; 1977 ex.s. c 203 § 1.]

4.84.340 Judicial review of agency action—Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 4.84.340 through 4.84.360.

(1) "Agency" means any state board, commission, department, institution of higher education, or officer, authorized by law to make rules or to conduct adjudicative proceedings, except those in the legislative or judicial branches, the governor, or the attorney general except to the extent otherwise required by law.

(2) "Agency action" means agency action as defined by chapter 34.05 RCW.

(3) "Fees and other expenses" includes the reasonable expenses of expert witnesses, the reasonable cost of a study, analysis, engineering report, test, or project that is found by the court to be necessary for the preparation of the party's case, and reasonable attorneys' fees. Reasonable attorneys' fees shall be based on the prevailing market rates for the kind and quality of services furnished, except that (a) no expert witness shall be compensated at a rate in excess of the highest rates of compensation for expert witnesses paid by the state of Washington, and (b) attorneys' fees shall not be awarded in excess of one hundred fifty dollars per hour unless the court determines that an increase in the cost of living or a special factor, such as the limited availability of qualified attorneys for the proceedings involved, justifies a higher fee.

(4) "Judicial review" means a judicial review as defined by chapter 34.05 RCW.

(5) "Qualified party" means (a) an individual whose net worth did not exceed one million dollars at the time the initial petition for judicial review was filed or (b) a sole owner of an unincorporated business, or a partnership, corporation, association, or organization whose net worth did not exceed five million dollars at the time the initial petition for judicial review was filed, except that an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1954 as exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the code and a cooperative association as defined in section 15(a) of the agricultural marketing act (12 U.S.C. 1141J(a)), may be a party regardless of the net worth of such organization or cooperative association. [1995 c 403 § 902.]

Findings—1995 c 403: "The legislature finds that certain individuals, smaller partnerships, smaller corporations, and other organizations may be deterred from seeking review of or defending against an unreasonable agency action because of the expense involved in securing the vindication of

their rights in administrative proceedings. The legislature further finds that because of the greater resources and expertise of the state of Washington, individuals, smaller partnerships, smaller corporations, and other organizations are often deterred from seeking review of or defending against state agency actions because of the costs for attorneys, expert witnesses, and other costs. The legislature therefore adopts this equal access to justice act to ensure that these parties have a greater opportunity to defend themselves from inappropriate state agency actions and to protect their rights." [1995 c 403 § 901.]

Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403: See note following RCW 34.05.328.

4.84.350 Judicial review of agency action—Award of fees and expenses. (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, a court shall award a qualified party that prevails in a judicial review of an agency action fees and other expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, unless the court finds that the agency action was substantially justified or that circumstances make an award unjust. A qualified party shall be considered to have prevailed if the qualified party obtained relief on a significant issue that achieves some benefit that the qualified party sought.

(2) The amount awarded a qualified party under subsection (1) of this section shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply unless all parties challenging the agency action are qualified parties. If two or more qualified parties join in an action, the award in total shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. The court, in its discretion, may reduce the amount to be awarded pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, or deny any award, to the extent that a qualified party during the course of the proceedings engaged in conduct that unduly or unreasonably protracted the final resolution of the matter in controversy. [1995 c 403 § 903.]

Findings—1995 c 403: See note following RCW 4.84.340.

Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403: See note following RCW 34.05.328.

4.84.360 Judicial review of agency action—Payment of fees and expenses—Report to office of financial management. Fees and other expenses awarded under RCW 4.84.340 and 4.84.350 shall be paid by the agency over which the party prevails from operating funds appropriated to the agency within sixty days. Agencies paying fees and other expenses pursuant to RCW 4.84.340 and 4.84.350 shall report all payments to the office of financial management within five days of paying the fees and other expenses. Fees and other expenses awarded by the court shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 39.76 RCW and shall be deemed payable on the date the court announces the award. [1995 c 403 § 904.]

Findings—1995 c 403: See note following RCW 4.84.340.

Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403: See note following RCW 34.05.328.

4.84.370 Appeal of land use decisions—Fees and costs. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs shall be awarded to the prevailing party or substantially prevailing party on appeal before the court of appeals or the supreme court of a decision by a county, city, or town to issue, condition, or deny a development permit involving a site-specific rezone, zoning, plat, conditional use, variance, shoreline permit, building permit, site plan, or similar land use approval or decision. The court shall award and determine the amount of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under this section if:

(a) The prevailing party on appeal was the prevailing or substantially prevailing party before the county, city, or town, or in a decision involving a substantial development permit under chapter 90.58 RCW, the prevailing party on appeal was the prevailing party or the substantially prevailing party before the shoreline[s] hearings board; and

(b) The prevailing party on appeal was the prevailing party or substantially prevailing party in all prior judicial proceedings.

(2) In addition to the prevailing party under subsection (1) of this section, the county, city, or town whose decision is on appeal is considered a prevailing party if its decision is upheld at superior court and on appeal. [1995 c 347 § 718.]

Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347: See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

Chapter 4.88 RCW
APPEALS

Sections

Rule-making power of
court of appeals: RCW 2.06.030, 2.06.040.
supreme court: RCW 2.04.180 through 2.04.210.

4.88.330 Indigent party—State payment of review costs. When a party has been judicially determined to have a constitutional right to obtain a review and to be unable by reason of poverty to procure counsel to perfect the review all costs necessarily incident to the proper consideration of the review including preparation of the record, reasonable fees for court appointed counsel to be determined by the supreme court, and actual travel expenses of counsel for appearance in the supreme court or court of appeals, shall be paid by the state. Upon satisfaction of requirements established by supreme court rules and submission of appropriate vouchers to the clerk of the supreme court, payment shall be made from funds specifically appropriated by the legislature for that purpose. [1975 1st ex.s. c 261 § 2. Prior: 1972 ex.s. c 111 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 31 § 2; 1965 c 133 § 2. Formerly RCW 10.01.112.]

Transcript of testimony—Fee—Forma pauperis: RCW 2.32.240.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 4.92 RCW
ACTIONS AND CLAIMS AGAINST STATE

Sections

Actions against political subdivisions, municipal corporations and quasi municipal corporations: Chapter 4.96 RCW.

Claims, reports, etc., filing and receipt: RCW 1.12.070.

Hood Canal bridge, use for sport fishing purposes—Disclaimer of liability: RCW 47.56.366.

Interest on judgments: RCW 4.56.115.

Liability coverage of university personnel and students: RCW 28B.20.250 through 28B.20.255.

4.92.005 "Volunteer"—Definition. For the purposes of RCW 4.92.060, 4.92.070, 4.92.130, *4.92.140, and 4.92.150, volunteer is defined in RCW 51.12.035. [1985 c 217 § 6.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 4.92.140 was repealed by 1989 c 419 § 18, effective July 1, 1989.

4.92.006 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the department of enterprise services.

(2) "Director" means the director of enterprise services.

(3) "Office of risk management" means the office within the department of enterprise services that carries out the powers and duties under this chapter relating to claim filing, claims administration, and claims payment.

(4) "Risk manager" means the person supervising the office of risk management. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 511; 2002 c 332 § 10; 1989 c 419 § 2.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Intent—1989 c 419: "In recent years the state of Washington has experienced significant increases in public liability claims. It is the intent of the legislature to reduce tort claim costs by restructuring Washington state's risk management program to place more accountability in state agencies, to establish an actuarially sound funding mechanism for paying legitimate claims, when they occur, and to establish an effective safety and loss control program." [1989 c 419 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.92.010 Where brought—Change of venue. Any person or corporation having any claim against the state of Washington shall have a right of action against the state in the superior court.

The venue for such actions shall be as follows:

(1) The county of the residence or principal place of business of one or more of the plaintiffs;

(2) The county where the cause of action arose;

(3) The county in which the real property that is the subject of the action is situated;

(4) The county where the action may be properly commenced by reason of the joinder of an additional defendant; or

(5) Thurston county.

Actions shall be subject to change of venue in accordance with statute, rules of court, and the common law as the same now exist or may hereafter be amended, adopted, or altered.

Actions shall be tried in the county in which they have been commenced in the absence of a seasonable motion by or in behalf of the state to change the venue of the action. [1986 c 126 § 1; 1973 c 44 § 1; 1963 c 159 § 1; 1927 c 216 § 1; 1895 c 95 § 1; RRS § 886.]

Venue: Chapter 4.12 RCW.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.92.020 Service of summons and complaint. Service of summons and complaint in such actions shall be served in the manner prescribed by law upon the attorney general, or by leaving the summons and complaint in the office of the attorney general with an assistant attorney general. [1986 c 126 § 2; 1927 c 216 § 2; 1895 c 95 § 2; RRS § 887.]

4.92.030 Duties of attorney general—Procedure. The attorney general or an assistant attorney general shall appear and act as counsel for the state. The action shall proceed in all respects as other actions. Appellate review may be sought as in other actions or proceedings, but in case review is sought by the state, no bond shall be required of the appellant. [1988 c 202 § 3; 1986 c 126 § 3; 1971 c 81 § 24; 1895 c 95 § 3; RRS § 888.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.92.040 Judgments—Claims to legislature against state—Payment procedure—Inapplicability to judgments and claims against housing finance commission. (1) No execution shall issue against the state on any judgment.

(2) Whenever a final judgment against the state is obtained in an action on a claim arising out of tortious conduct, the claim shall be paid from the liability account.

(3) Whenever a final judgment against the state shall have been obtained in any other action, the clerk of the court shall make and furnish to the office of risk management a duly certified copy of such judgment; the office of risk management shall thereupon audit the amount of damages and costs therein awarded, and the same shall be paid from appropriations specifically provided for such purposes by law.

(4) Final judgments for which there are no provisions in state law for payment shall be transmitted by the office of risk management to the senate and house of representatives committees on ways and means as follows:

(a) On the first day of each session of the legislature, the office of risk management shall transmit judgments received and audited since the adjournment of the previous session of the legislature.

(b) During each session of legislature, the office of risk management shall transmit judgments immediately upon completion of audit.

(5) All claims, other than judgments, made to the legislature against the state of Washington for money or property, shall be accompanied by a statement of the facts on which such claim is based and such evidence as the claimant intends to offer in support of the claim and shall be filed with the office of risk management, which shall retain the same as a record. All claims of two thousand dollars or less shall be approved or rejected by the office of risk management, and if approved shall be paid from appropriations specifically provided for such purpose by law. Such decision, if adverse to the claimant in whole or part, shall not preclude the claimant from seeking relief from the legislature. If the claimant accepts any part of his or her claim which is approved for payment by the office of risk management, such acceptance shall constitute a waiver and release of the state from any further claims relating to the damage or injury asserted in the claim so accepted. The office of risk management shall submit to the house and senate committees on ways and means, at the beginning of each regular session, a comprehensive list of all claims paid pursuant to this subsection during the preceding year. For all claims not approved by the office of risk management, the office of risk management shall recommend to the legislature whether such claims should be approved or rejected. Recommendations shall be submitted to the senate and house of representatives committees on ways and means not later than the thirtieth day of each regular session of the legislature. Claims which cannot be processed for timely submission of recommendations shall be held for submission during the following regular session of the legislature. The recommendations shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) A summary of the facts alleged in the claim, and a statement as to whether these facts can be verified by the office of risk management;

(b) An estimate by the office of risk management of the value of the loss or damage which was alleged to have occurred;

(c) An analysis of the legal liability, if any, of the state for the alleged loss or damage; and

(d) A summary of equitable or public policy arguments which might be helpful in resolving the claim.

(6) The legislative committees to whom such claims are referred shall make a transcript, recording, or statement of the substance of the evidence given in support of such a claim. If the legislature approves a claim the same shall be paid from appropriations specifically provided for such purpose by law.

(7) Subsections (3) through (6) of this section do not apply to judgments or claims against the state housing finance commission created under chapter 43.180 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 512; 2002 c 332 § 11; 1999 c 163 § 3; 1986 c 126 § 4; 1983 c 161 § 28; 1979 ex.s. c 167 § 1; 1979 c 151 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 144 § 1; 1963 c 159 § 6; 1895 c 95 § 4; RRS § 889.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.92.050 Limitations. All provisions of law relating to the limitations of personal actions shall apply to claims against the state, but the computation of time thereunder shall not begin until RCW 4.92.010 through 4.92.050 shall have become a law. [1895 c 95 § 5; RRS § 890.]

4.92.060 Action against state officers, employees, volunteers, or foster parents—Request for defense. Whenever an action or proceeding for damages shall be instituted against any state officer, including state elected officials, employee, volunteer, or foster parent licensed in accordance with chapter 74.15 RCW, arising from acts or omissions while performing, or in good faith purporting to perform, official duties, or, in the case of a foster parent, arising from the good faith provision of foster care services, such officer, employee, volunteer, or foster parent may request the attorney general to authorize the defense of said action or proceeding at the expense of the state. [1989 c 403 § 2; 1986 c 126 § 5; 1985 c 217 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 126 § 1; 1975 c 40 § 1; 1921 c 79 § 1; RRS § 890-1.]

Findings—1989 c 403: "The legislature finds and declares that foster parents are a valuable resource providing an important service to the citizens of Washington. The legislature further recognizes that the current insurance crisis has adversely affected some foster family homes in several ways: (1) In some locales, foster parents are unable to obtain liability insurance coverage over and above homeowner's or tenant's coverage for actions filed against them by the foster child or the child's parents or legal guardian. In addition, the monthly payment made to foster family homes is not sufficient to cover the cost of obtaining this extended coverage and there is no mechanism in place by which foster parents can recapture this cost; (2) foster parents' personal resources are at risk. Therefore, the legislature is providing relief to address these problems." [1989 c 403 § 1.]

4.92.070 Actions against state officers, employees, volunteers, or foster parents—Defense by attorney general—Legal expenses. If the attorney general shall find that said officer, employee, or volunteer's acts or omissions were, or were purported to be in good faith, within the scope of that person's official duties, or, in the case of a foster parent, that the occurrence arose from the good faith provision of foster care services, said request shall be granted, in which event the necessary expenses of the defense of said action or proceeding relating to a state officer, employee, or volunteer shall be paid as provided in RCW 4.92.130. In the case of a foster parent, necessary expenses of the defense shall be paid from the appropriations made for the support of the department to which such foster parent is attached. In such cases the attorney general shall appear and defend such officer, employee, volunteer, or foster parent, who shall assist and cooperate in the defense of such suit. However, the attorney general may not represent or provide private representation for a foster parent in an action or proceeding brought by the department of social and health services against that foster parent. [1999 c 163 § 5; 1989 c 403 § 3; 1986 c 126 § 6; 1985 c 217 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 126 § 2; 1975 c 40 § 2; 1921 c 79 § 2; RRS § 890-2.]

Findings—1989 c 403: See note following RCW 4.92.060.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.92.075 Action against state officers, employees, or volunteers—Judgment satisfied by state. When a state officer, employee, or volunteer has been represented by the attorney general pursuant to RCW 4.92.070, and the body presiding over the action or proceeding has found that the officer, employee, or volunteer was acting within the scope of his or her official duties, and a judgment has been entered against the officer, employee, or volunteer pursuant to chapter 4.92 RCW or 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1981 et seq., thereafter the judgment creditor shall seek satisfaction only from the state, and the judgment shall not become a lien upon any property of such officer, employee, or volunteer. [1989 c 413 § 2.]

4.92.080 Bond not required of state. No bond shall be required of the state of Washington for any purpose in any case in any of the courts of the state of Washington and the state of Washington shall be, on proper showing, entitled to any orders, injunctions and writs of whatever nature without bond notwithstanding the provisions of any existing statute requiring that bonds be furnished by private parties. [1935 c 122 § 1; RRS § 390-3.]

4.92.090 Tortious conduct of state—Liability for damages. The state of Washington, whether acting in its governmental or proprietary capacity, shall be liable for damages arising out of its tortious conduct to the same extent as if it were a private person or corporation. [1963 c 159 § 2; 1961 c 136 § 1.]

4.92.100 Tortious conduct of state or its agents—Claims—Presentment and filing—Contents. (1) All claims against the state, or against the state's officers, employees, or volunteers, acting in such capacity, for damages arising out of tortious conduct, must be presented to the office of risk management. A claim is deemed presented when the claim form is delivered in person or by regular mail, registered mail, or certified mail, with return receipt requested, or as an attachment to email or by fax, to the office of risk management. For claims for damages presented after July 26, 2009, all claims for damages must be presented on the standard tort claim form that is maintained by the office of risk management. The standard tort claim form must be posted on the department of enterprise services' web site.

(a) The standard tort claim form must, at a minimum, require the following information:

(i) The claimant's name, date of birth, and contact information;

(ii) A description of the conduct and the circumstances that brought about the injury or damage;

(iii) A description of the injury or damage;

(iv) A statement of the time and place that the injury or damage occurred;

(v) A listing of the names of all persons involved and contact information, if known;

(vi) A statement of the amount of damages claimed; and

(vii) A statement of the actual residence of the claimant at the time of presenting the claim and at the time the claim arose.

(b)(i) The standard tort claim form must be signed either:

(A) By the claimant, verifying the claim;

(B) Pursuant to a written power of attorney, by the attorney-in-fact for the claimant;

(C) By an attorney admitted to practice in Washington state on the claimant's behalf; or

(D) By a court-approved guardian or guardian ad litem on behalf of the claimant.

(ii) For the purpose of this subsection (1)(b), when the claim form is presented electronically it must bear an electronic signature in lieu of a written original signature.

(iii) When an electronic signature is used and the claim is submitted as an attachment to email, the conveyance of that claim must include the date, time the claim was presented, and the internet provider's address from which it was sent. The attached claim form must be a format approved by the office of risk management.

(iv) When an electronic signature is used and the claim is submitted via a facsimile machine, the conveyance must include the date, time the claim was submitted, and the fax number from which it was sent.

(v) In the event of a question on an electronic signature, the claimant shall have an opportunity to cure and the cured notice shall relate back to the date of the original filing.

(c) The amount of damages stated on the claim form is not admissible at trial.

(2) The state shall make available the standard tort claim form described in this section with instructions on how the form is to be presented and the name, address, and business hours of the office of risk management. The standard tort claim form must not list the claimant's social security number and must not require information not specified under this section. The claim form and the instructions for completing the claim form must provide the United States mail, physical, and electronic addresses and numbers where the claim can be presented.

(3) With respect to the content of claims under this section and all procedural requirements in this section, this section must be liberally construed so that substantial compliance will be deemed satisfactory. [2020 c 57 § 21; 2013 c 188 § 1; 2012 c 250 § 1; 2009 c 433 § 2; 2006 c 82 § 1; 2002 c 332 § 12; 1986 c 126 § 7; 1979 c 151 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 144 § 2; 1967 c 164 § 2; 1963 c 159 § 3.]

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Purpose—Severability—1967 c 164: See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

Puget Sound ferry and toll bridge system, claims against: RCW 47.60.250.

4.92.110 Tortious conduct of state or its agents—Presentment and filing of claim prerequisite to suit. No action subject to the claim filing requirements of RCW 4.92.100 shall be commenced against the state, or against any state officer, employee, or volunteer, acting in such capacity, for damages arising out of tortious conduct until sixty calendar days have elapsed after the claim is presented to the office of risk management in the department of enterprise services. The applicable period of limitations within which an action must be commenced shall be tolled during the sixty calendar day period. For the purposes of the applicable period of limitations, an action commenced within five court days after the sixty calendar day period has elapsed is deemed to have been

presented on the first day after the sixty calendar day period elapsed. [2015 c 225 § 5; 2009 c 433 § 3; 2006 c 82 § 2; 2002 c 332 § 13; 1989 c 419 § 14; 1986 c 126 § 8; 1979 c 151 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 144 § 3; 1963 c 159 § 4.]

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Intent—Effective date—1989 c 419: See notes following RCW 4.92.006.

4.92.120 Tortious conduct of state—Assignment of claims. Claims against the state arising out of tortious conduct may be assigned voluntarily, involuntarily, and by operation of law to the same extent as like claims against private persons may be so assigned. [1963 c 159 § 5.]

4.92.130 Tortious conduct of state—Liability account—Purpose. A liability account in the custody of the treasurer is hereby created as a nonappropriated account to be used solely and exclusively for the payment of liability settlements and judgments against the state under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1981 et seq. or for the tortious conduct of its officers, employees, and volunteers and all related legal defense costs.

(1) The purpose of the liability account is to: (a) Expeditiously pay legal liabilities and defense costs of the state resulting from tortious conduct; (b) promote risk control through a cost allocation system which recognizes agency loss experience, levels of self-retention, and levels of risk exposure; and (c) establish an actuarially sound system to pay incurred losses, within defined limits.

(2) The liability account shall be used to pay claims for injury and property damages and legal defense costs exclusive of agency-retained expenses otherwise budgeted.

(3) No money shall be paid from the liability account, except for defense costs, unless all proceeds available to the claimant from any valid and collectible liability insurance shall have been exhausted and unless:

(a) The claim shall have been reduced to final judgment in a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(b) The claim has been approved for payment.

(4) The liability account shall be financed through annual premiums assessed to state agencies, based on sound actuarial principles, and shall be for liability coverage in excess of agency-budgeted self-retention levels.

(5) Annual premium levels shall be determined by the risk manager. An actuarial study shall be conducted to assist in determining the appropriate level of funding.

(6) Disbursements for claims from the liability account shall be made to the claimant, or to the clerk of the court for judgments, upon written request to the state treasurer from the risk manager.

(7) The director may direct agencies to transfer moneys from other funds and accounts to the liability account if premiums are delinquent.

(8) The liability account shall not exceed fifty percent of the actuarial value of the outstanding liability as determined annually by the office of risk management. If the account exceeds the maximum amount specified in this section, premiums may be adjusted by the office of risk management in order to maintain the account balance at the maximum limits. If, after adjustment of premiums, the account balance remains above the limits specified, the excess amount shall be prorated back to the appropriate funds. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 513; 2009 c 560 § 15; 2002 c 332 § 14; 1999 c 163 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 92; 1989 c 419 § 4; 1985 c 217 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 126 § 3; 1969 c 140 § 1; 1963 c 159 § 7.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Effective date—Disposition of property and funds—Assignment/delegation of contractual rights or duties—2009 c 560: See notes following RCW 18.06.080.

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Intent—Effective date—1989 c 419: See notes following RCW 4.92.006.

Actions against regents, trustees, etc., of institutions of higher education or educational boards, payments of obligations from liability account: RCW 28B.10.842.

Department of enterprise services to conduct actuarial studies: RCW 43.19.778.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.92.150 Compromise and settlement of claims by attorney general. After commencement of an action in a court of competent jurisdiction upon a claim against the state, or any of its officers, employees, or volunteers arising out of tortious conduct or pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1981 et seq., or against a foster parent that the attorney general is defending pursuant to RCW 4.92.070, or upon petition by the state, the attorney general, with the prior approval of the office of risk management and with the approval of the court, following such testimony as the court may require, may compromise and settle the same and stipulate for judgment against the state, the affected officer, employee, volunteer, or foster parent. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 514; 2002 c 332 § 15; 1989 c 403 § 4. Prior: 1985 c 217 § 5; 1985 c 188 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 144 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 126 § 5; 1963 c 159 § 9.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Findings—1989 c 403: See note following RCW 4.92.060.

4.92.160 Payment of claims and judgments. Payment of claims and judgments arising out of tortious conduct or pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1981 et seq. shall not be made by any agency or department of state government with the exception of the office of risk management, and that office shall authorize and direct the payment of moneys only from the liability account whenever:

(1) The head or governing body of any agency or department of state or the designee of any such agency certifies to the office of risk management that a claim has been settled; or

(2) The clerk of court has made and forwarded a certified copy of a final judgment in a court of competent jurisdiction and the attorney general certifies that the judgment is final and was entered in an action on a claim arising out of tortious conduct or under and pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1981 et seq. Payment of a judgment shall be made to the clerk of the court for the benefit of the judgment creditors. Upon receipt of payment, the clerk shall satisfy the judgment against the state. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 515; 2002 c 332 § 16; 1999 c 163 § 4; 1991 c 187 § 3; 1986 c 126 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 144 § 3; 1979 c

151 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 126 § 6; 1969 c 140 § 2; 1963 c 159 § 10.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Intent—1991 c 187: "It is the intent of the legislature that the tort claims revolving fund created under section 1 of this act have [has] the same purpose, use, and application as the tort claims revolving fund abolished effective July 1, 1989, by the legislature in chapter 419, Laws of 1989." [1991 c 187 § 2.]

Duty of clerk to forward copy of judgment: RCW 4.92.040.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.92.175 Action against state patrol officers in private law enforcement off-duty employment—Immunity of state—Notice to employer. (1) The state of Washington is not liable for tortious conduct by Washington state patrol officers that occurs while such officers are engaged in private law enforcement off-duty employment.

(2) Upon petition of the state any suit, for which immunity is granted to the state under subsection (1) of this section, shall be dismissed.

(3) Washington state patrol officers engaged in private law enforcement off-duty employment shall notify, in writing, prior to such employment, anyone who employs Washington state patrol officers in private off-duty employment of the specific provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section. [1997 c 375 § 2.]

4.92.180 State, local governments not liable for injury to unauthorized third-party occupant of state or local government vehicle. (1) The state and local governments are not liable for any injury received by a third-party occupant of a vehicle that is owned, leased, or rented by the state or local government if, at the time the injuries were inflicted, the third-party occupant was:

(a) Riding in or on the vehicle with a state or local government employee who had explicitly acknowledged in writing the employer's policy on use of vehicles owned, leased, or rented by the state or local government; and

(b) Not specifically and expressly authorized by the state or local government to be an occupant of the vehicle.

(2) For purposes of this section, "third-party occupant" means a person who occupies a vehicle owned, leased, or rented by the state or local government and who is not an officer, employee, or agent of the state or local government. "Local government" includes any city, county, or other subdivision of the state and any municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or special district within the state. [2011 c 82 § 2.]

Intent—2011 c 82: "The legislature intends to overrule the state supreme court's holding in *Rahman v. State*, No. 83428-8 (January 20, 2011), by modifying the application of the common law doctrine of respondeat superior." [2011 c 82 § 1.]

Application—2011 c 82: "This act applies to all causes of action accruing on or after July 22, 2011." [2011 c 82 § 4.]

4.92.200 Actions against state on state warrant appearing to be redeemed—Claim required—Time limitation. No action shall be commenced against the state on account of any state warrant appearing to have been redeemed unless a claim has been presented and filed with the state treasurer within six years of the date of issuance of such warrant. The requirements of this section shall not extend or modify the period of limitations otherwise applicable within which an action must be commenced, but such period shall begin and shall continue to run as if no claim were required. [1975 c 48 § 1.]

State warrants: RCW 43.08.061 through 43.08.080.

4.92.210 Risk management—Review of claims—Settlements. (1) All liability claims arising out of tortious conduct or under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1981 et seq. that the state of Washington or any of its officers, employees, or volunteers would be liable for shall be filed with the office of risk management.

(2) A centralized claim tracking system shall be maintained to provide agencies with accurate and timely data on the status of liability claims. Information in this claim file, other than the claim itself, shall be privileged and confidential.

(3) Standardized procedures shall be established for filing, reporting, processing, and adjusting claims, which includes the use of qualified claims management personnel.

(4) All claims shall be reviewed by the office of risk management to determine an initial valuation, to delegate to the appropriate office to investigate, negotiate, compromise, and settle the claim, or to retain that responsibility on behalf of and with the assistance of the affected state agency.

(5) All claims that result in a lawsuit shall be forwarded to the attorney general's office. Thereafter the attorney general and the office of risk management shall collaborate in the investigation, denial, or settlement of the claim.

(6) Reserves shall be established for recognizing financial liability and monitoring effectiveness. The valuation of specific claims against the state shall be privileged and confidential.

(7) All settlements shall be approved by the responsible agencies, or their designees, prior to settlement. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 516; 2002 c 332 § 17; 1989 c 419 § 3.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Intent—Effective date—1989 c 419: See notes following RCW 4.92.006.

4.92.220 Risk management administration account. (1) The risk management administration account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from appropriations and assessments shall be deposited into the account. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

(2) The risk management administration account is to be used for the payment of costs related to:

(a) The appropriated administration of liability, property, and vehicle claims, including investigation, claim processing, negotiation, and settlement, and other expenses relating to settlements and judgments against the state not otherwise budgeted; and

(b) The nonappropriated pass-through cost associated with the purchase of liability and property insurance, including catastrophic insurance, subject to policy conditions and limitations determined by the risk manager.

(3) The risk management administration account's appropriation for risk management shall be financed through a combination of direct appropriations and assessments to state agencies. [2002 c 332 § 18; 1998 c 105 § 2; 1995 c 137 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 91; 1989 c 419 § 5.]

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Intent—Effective date—1989 c 419: See notes following RCW 4.92.006.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.92.240 Rules. The director has the power to adopt rules necessary to carry out the intent of this chapter. [2002 c 332 § 20; 1989 c 419 § 8.]

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Intent—Effective date—1989 c 419: See notes following RCW 4.92.006.

4.92.250 Risk management—Risk manager may delegate powers and duties. The risk manager may delegate to a state agency the authority to carry out any powers or duties of the risk manager under this chapter related to claims administration and purchase of insurance for the purpose of protecting any classes of officers, employees, or for other persons performing services for the state. Such delegation shall be made only upon a determination by the risk manager that another agency has sufficient resources to carry out the functions delegated. [1989 c 419 § 9.]

Intent—Effective date—1989 c 419: See notes following RCW 4.92.006.

4.92.260 Construction. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as amending, repealing, or otherwise affecting RCW 28B.20.250 through 28B.20.255. [1989 c 419 § 10.]

Intent—Effective date—1989 c 419: See notes following RCW 4.92.006.

4.92.270 Risk management—Standard indemnification agreements. The risk manager shall develop procedures for standard indemnification agreements for state agencies to use whenever the agency agrees to indemnify, or be indemnified by, any person or party. The risk manager shall also develop guidelines for the use of indemnification agreements by state agencies. On request of the risk manager, an agency shall forward to the office of risk management for review and approval any contract or agreement containing an indemnification agreement. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 517; 2002 c 332 § 21; 1989 c 419 § 15.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Effective date—2002 c 332: See notes following RCW 43.19.760.

Intent—Effective date—1989 c 419: See notes following RCW 4.92.006.

4.92.280 Local government reimbursement claims. If chapter 217, Laws of 1998 mandates an increased level of service by local governments, the local government may, under RCW 43.135.060 and chapter 4.92 RCW, submit claims for reimbursement by the legislature. The claims shall be subject to verification by the department of enterprise services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 518; 1998 c 217 § 4.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Chapter 4.96 RCW
ACTIONS AGAINST POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, MUNICIPAL AND QUASI-MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

Sections

Claims, reports, etc., filing and receipt: RCW 1.12.070.

Interest on judgments: RCW 4.56.115.

Liability of local governments for injury to unauthorized third-party occupant of local government vehicle: RCW 4.92.180.

Liability of public officials and governing body members: RCW 4.24.470.

4.96.010 Tortious conduct of local governmental entities—Liability for damages. (1) All local governmental entities, whether acting in a governmental or proprietary capacity, shall be liable for damages arising out of their tortious conduct, or the tortious conduct of their past or present officers, employees, or volunteers while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties, to the same extent as if they were a private person or corporation. Filing a claim for damages within the time allowed by law shall be a condition precedent to the commencement of any action claiming damages. The laws specifying the content for such claims shall be liberally construed so that substantial compliance therewith will be deemed satisfactory.

(2) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, for the purposes of this chapter, "local governmental entity" means a county, city, town, special district, municipal corporation as defined in RCW 39.50.010, quasi-municipal corporation, any joint municipal utility services authority, any entity created by public agencies under RCW 39.34.030, or public hospital.

(3) For the purposes of this chapter, "volunteer" is defined according to RCW 51.12.035. [2011 c 258 § 10; 2001 c 119 § 1; 1993 c 449 § 2; 1967 c 164 § 1.]

Short title—Purpose—Intent—2011 c 258: See RCW 39.106.010.

Purpose—1993 c 449: "This act is designed to provide a single, uniform procedure for bringing a claim for damages against a local governmental entity. The existing procedures, contained in chapter 36.45 RCW, counties, chapter 35.31 RCW, cities and towns, chapter 35A.31 RCW, optional municipal code, and chapter 4.96 RCW, other political subdivisions, municipal corporations, and quasi-municipal corporations, are revised and consolidated into chapter 4.96 RCW." [1993 c 449 § 1.]

Purpose—1967 c 164: "It is the purpose of this act to extend the doctrine established in chapter 136, Laws of 1961, as amended, to all political subdivisions, municipal corporations and quasi municipal corporations of the state." [1967 c 164 § 17.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

4.96.020 Tortious conduct of local governmental entities and their agents—Claims—Presentment and filing—Contents. (1) The provisions of this section apply to claims for damages against all local governmental entities and their officers, employees, or volunteers, acting in such capacity.

(2) The governing body of each local governmental entity shall appoint an agent to receive any claim for damages made under this chapter. The identity of the agent and the address where he or she may be reached during the normal business hours of the local governmental entity are public records and shall be recorded with the auditor of the county in which the entity is located. All claims for damages against a local governmental entity, or against any local governmental entity's officers, employees, or volunteers, acting in such capacity, shall be presented to the agent within the applicable period of limitations within which an action must be commenced. A claim is deemed presented when the claim form is delivered in person or is received by the agent by regular mail, registered mail, or certified mail, with return receipt requested, to the agent or other person designated to accept delivery at the agent's office. The failure of a local governmental entity to comply with the requirements of this section precludes that local governmental entity from raising a defense under this chapter.

(3) For claims for damages presented after July 26, 2009, all claims for damages must be presented on the standard tort claim form that is maintained by the office of risk management in the department of enterprise services, except as allowed under (c) of this subsection. The standard tort claim form must be posted on the department of enterprise services' web site.

(a) The standard tort claim form must, at a minimum, require the following information:

(i) The claimant's name, date of birth, and contact information;

(ii) A description of the conduct and the circumstances that brought about the injury or damage;

(iii) A description of the injury or damage;

(iv) A statement of the time and place that the injury or damage occurred;

(v) A listing of the names of all persons involved and contact information, if known;

(vi) A statement of the amount of damages claimed; and

(vii) A statement of the actual residence of the claimant at the time of presenting the claim and at the time the claim arose.

(b) The standard tort claim form must be signed either:

(i) By the claimant, verifying the claim;

(ii) Pursuant to a written power of attorney, by the attorney-in-fact for the claimant;

(iii) By an attorney admitted to practice in Washington state on the claimant's behalf; or

(iv) By a court-approved guardian or guardian ad litem on behalf of the claimant.

(c) Local governmental entities shall make available the standard tort claim form described in this section with instructions on how the form is to be presented and the name, address, and business hours of the agent of the local governmental entity. If a local governmental entity chooses to also make available its own tort claim form in lieu of the standard tort claim form, the form:

(i) May require additional information beyond what is specified under this section, but the local governmental entity may not deny a claim because of the claimant's failure to provide that additional information;

(ii) Must not require the claimant's social security number; and

(iii) Must include instructions on how the form is to be presented and the name, address, and business hours of the agent of the local governmental entity appointed to receive the claim.

(d) If any claim form provided by the local governmental entity fails to require the information specified in this section, or incorrectly lists the agent with whom the claim is to be filed, the local governmental entity is deemed to have waived any defense related to the failure to provide that specific information or to present the claim to the proper designated agent.

(e) Presenting either the standard tort claim form or the local government tort claim form satisfies the requirements of this chapter.

(f) The amount of damages stated on the claim form is not admissible at trial.

(4) No action subject to the claim filing requirements of this section shall be commenced against any local governmental entity, or against any local governmental entity's officers, employees, or volunteers, acting in such capacity, for damages arising out of tortious conduct until sixty calendar days have elapsed after the claim has first been presented to the agent of the governing body thereof. The applicable period of limitations within which an action must be commenced shall be tolled during the sixty calendar day period. For the purposes of the applicable period of limitations, an action commenced within five court days after the sixty calendar day period has elapsed is deemed to have been presented on the first day after the sixty calendar day period elapsed.

(5) With respect to the content of claims under this section and all procedural requirements in this section, this section must be liberally construed so that substantial compliance will be deemed satisfactory. [2015 c 225 § 6; 2012 c 250 § 2; 2009 c 433 § 1; 2006 c 82 § 3; 2001 c 119 § 2; 1993 c 449 § 3; 1967 c 164 § 4.]

Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449: See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

4.96.041 Action or proceeding against officer, employee, or volunteer of local governmental entity—Payment of damages and expenses of defense. (1) Whenever an action or proceeding for damages is brought against any past or present officer, employee, or volunteer of a local governmental entity of this state, arising from acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform his or her official duties, such officer, employee, or volunteer may request the local governmental entity to authorize the defense of the action or proceeding at the expense of the local governmental entity.

(2) If the legislative authority of the local governmental entity, or the local governmental entity using a procedure created by ordinance or resolution, finds that the acts or omis-

sions of the officer, employee, or volunteer were, or in good faith purported to be, within the scope of his or her official duties, the request shall be granted. If the request is granted, the necessary expenses of defending the action or proceeding shall be paid by the local governmental entity. Any monetary judgment against the officer, employee, or volunteer shall be paid on approval of the legislative authority of the local governmental entity or by a procedure for approval created by ordinance or resolution.

(3) The necessary expenses of defending an elective officer of the local governmental entity in a judicial hearing to determine the sufficiency of a recall charge as provided in *RCW 29.82.023 shall be paid by the local governmental entity if the officer requests such defense and approval is granted by both the legislative authority of the local governmental entity and the attorney representing the local governmental entity. The expenses paid by the local governmental entity may include costs associated with an appeal of the decision rendered by the superior court concerning the sufficiency of the recall charge.

(4) When an officer, employee, or volunteer of the local governmental entity has been represented at the expense of the local governmental entity under subsection (1) of this section and the court hearing the action has found that the officer, employee, or volunteer was acting within the scope of his or her official duties, and a judgment has been entered against the officer, employee, or volunteer under chapter 4.96 RCW or 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1981 et seq., thereafter the judgment creditor shall seek satisfaction for nonpunitive damages only from the local governmental entity, and judgment for nonpunitive damages shall not become a lien upon any property of such officer, employee, or volunteer. The legislative authority of a local governmental entity may, pursuant to a procedure created by ordinance or resolution, agree to pay an award for punitive damages. [1993 c 449 § 4; 1989 c 250 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 72 § 1. Formerly RCW 36.16.134.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 29.82.023 was recodified as RCW 29A.56.140 pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004.

Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449: See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

4.96.050 Bond not required. No bond is required of any local governmental entity for any purpose in any case in any of the courts of the state of Washington and all local governmental entities shall be, on proper showing, entitled to any orders, injunctions, and writs of whatever nature without bond, notwithstanding the provisions of any existing statute requiring that bonds be furnished by private parties. [1993 c 449 § 5.]

Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449: See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

Chapter 4.100 RCW
WRONGLY CONVICTED PERSONS

Sections

4.100.010 Intent. The legislature recognizes that persons convicted and imprisoned for crimes they did not commit have been uniquely victimized. Having suffered tremendous injustice by being stripped of their lives and liberty, they are forced to endure imprisonment and are later stigmatized as felons. A majority of those wrongly convicted in Washington state have no remedy available under the law for the destruction of their personal lives resulting from errors in our criminal justice system. The legislature intends to provide an avenue for those who have been wrongly convicted in Washington state to redress the lost years of their lives, and help to address the unique challenges faced by the wrongly convicted after exoneration. [2013 c 175 § 1.]

4.100.020 Claim for compensation—Definitions. (1) Any person convicted in superior court and subsequently imprisoned for one or more felonies of which he or she is actually innocent may file a claim for compensation against the state.

(2) For purposes of this chapter, a person is:

(a) "Actually innocent" of a felony if he or she did not engage in any illegal conduct alleged in the charging documents; and

(b) "Wrongly convicted" if he or she was charged, convicted, and imprisoned for one or more felonies of which he or she is actually innocent.

(3)(a) If the person entitled to file a claim under subsection (1) of this section is incapacitated and incapable of filing the claim, or if he or she is a minor, or is a nonresident of the state, the claim may be filed on behalf of the claimant by an authorized agent.

(b) A claim filed under this chapter survives to the personal representative of the claimant as provided in RCW 4.20.046. [2013 c 175 § 2.]

4.100.030 Procedure for filing of claims. (1) All claims under this chapter must be filed in superior court. The venue for such actions is governed by RCW 4.12.020.

(2) Service of the summons and complaint is governed by RCW 4.28.080. [2013 c 175 § 3.]

4.100.040 Claims—Evidence, determinations required—Dismissal of claim. (1) In order to file an actionable claim for compensation under this chapter, the claimant must establish by documentary evidence that:

(a) The claimant has been convicted of one or more felonies in superior court and subsequently sentenced to a term of imprisonment, and has served all or part of the sentence;

(b)(i) The claimant is not currently incarcerated for any offense; and

(ii) During the period of confinement for which the claimant is seeking compensation, the claimant was not serving a term of imprisonment or a concurrent sentence for any crime other than the felony or felonies that are the basis for the claim;

(c)(i) The claimant has been pardoned on grounds consistent with innocence for the felony or felonies that are the basis for the claim; or

(ii) The claimant's judgment of conviction was reversed or vacated and the charging document dismissed on the basis of significant new exculpatory information or, if a new trial was ordered pursuant to the presentation of significant new exculpatory information, either the claimant was found not guilty at the new trial or the claimant was not retried and the charging document dismissed; and

(d) The claim is not time barred by RCW 4.100.090.

(2) In addition to the requirements in subsection (1) of this section, the claimant must state facts in sufficient detail for the finder of fact to determine that:

(a) The claimant did not engage in any illegal conduct alleged in the charging documents; and

(b) The claimant did not commit or suborn perjury, or fabricate evidence to cause or bring about the conviction. A guilty plea to a crime the claimant did not commit, or a confession that is later determined by a court to be false, does not automatically constitute perjury or fabricated evidence under this subsection.

(3) Convictions vacated, overturned, or subject to resentencing pursuant to *In re: Personal Detention of Andress*, 147 Wn.2d 602 (2002) may not serve as the basis for a claim under this chapter unless the claimant otherwise satisfies the qualifying criteria set forth in RCW 4.100.020 and this section.

(4) The claimant must verify the claim unless he or she is incapacitated, in which case the personal representative or agent filing on behalf of the claimant must verify the claim.

(5) If the attorney general concedes that the claimant was wrongly convicted, the court must award compensation as provided in RCW 4.100.060.

(6)(a) If the attorney general does not concede that the claimant was wrongly convicted and the court finds after reading the claim that the claimant does not meet the filing criteria set forth in this section, it may dismiss the claim, either on its own motion or on the motion of the attorney general.

(b) If the court dismisses the claim, the court must set forth the reasons for its decision in written findings of fact and conclusions of law. [2013 c 175 § 4.]

4.100.050 Appeals. Any party is entitled to the rights of appeal afforded parties in a civil action following a decision on such motions. In the case of dismissal of a claim, review of the superior court action is de novo. [2013 c 175 § 5.]

4.100.060 Compensation awards—Amounts—Proof required—Reentry services. (1) In order to obtain a judgment in his or her favor, the claimant must show by clear and convincing evidence that:

(a) The claimant was convicted of one or more felonies in superior court and subsequently sentenced to a term of imprisonment, and has served all or any part of the sentence;

(b)(i) The claimant is not currently incarcerated for any offense; and

(ii) During the period of confinement for which the claimant is seeking compensation, the claimant was not serving a term of imprisonment or a concurrent sentence for any conviction other than those that are the basis for the claim;

(c)(i) The claimant has been pardoned on grounds consistent with innocence for the felony or felonies that are the basis for the claim; or

(ii) The claimant's judgment of conviction was reversed or vacated and the charging document dismissed on the basis of significant new exculpatory information or, if a new trial was ordered pursuant to the presentation of significant new exculpatory information, either the claimant was found not guilty at the new trial or the claimant was not retried and the charging document dismissed;

(d) The claimant did not engage in any illegal conduct alleged in the charging documents; and

(e) The claimant did not commit or suborn perjury, or fabricate evidence to cause or bring about his or her conviction. A guilty plea to a crime the claimant did not commit, or a confession that is later determined by a court to be false, does not automatically constitute perjury or fabricated evidence under this subsection.

(2) Any pardon or proclamation issued to the claimant must be certified by the officer having lawful custody of the pardon or proclamation, and be affixed with the seal of the office of the governor, or with the official certificate of such officer before it may be offered as evidence.

(3) In exercising its discretion regarding the weight and admissibility of evidence, the court must give due consideration to difficulties of proof caused by the passage of time or by release of evidence pursuant to a plea, the death or unavailability of witnesses, the destruction of evidence, or other factors not caused by the parties.

(4) The claimant may not be compensated for any period of time in which he or she was serving a term of imprisonment or a concurrent sentence for any conviction other than the felony or felonies that are the basis for the claim.

(5) If the jury or, in the case where the right to a jury is waived, the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the claimant was wrongly convicted, the court must order the state to pay the actually innocent claimant the following compensation award, as adjusted for partial years served and to account for inflation from July 28, 2013:

(a) Fifty thousand dollars for each year of actual confinement including time spent awaiting trial and an additional fifty thousand dollars for each year served under a sentence of death pursuant to chapter 10.95 RCW;

(b) Twenty-five thousand dollars for each year served on parole, community custody, or as a registered sex offender pursuant only to the felony or felonies which are grounds for the claim;

(c) Compensation for child support payments owed by the claimant that became due and interest on child support arrearages that accrued while the claimant was in custody on the felony or felonies that are grounds for the compensation claim. The funds must be paid on the claimant's behalf in a lump sum payment to the department of social and health services for disbursement under Title 26 RCW;

(d) Reimbursement for all restitution, assessments, fees, court costs, and all other sums paid by the claimant as required by pretrial orders and the judgment and sentence; and

(e) Attorneys' fees for successfully bringing the wrongful conviction claim calculated at ten percent of the monetary damages awarded under subsection (5)(a) and (b) of this section, plus expenses. However, attorneys' fees and expenses may not exceed seventy-five thousand dollars. These fees may not be deducted from the compensation award due to the claimant and counsel is not entitled to receive additional fees from the client related to the claim. The court may not award any attorneys' fees to the claimant if the claimant fails to prove he or she was wrongly convicted.

(6) The compensation award may not include any punitive damages.

(7) The court may not offset the compensation award by any expenses incurred by the state, the county, or any political subdivision of the state including, but not limited to, expenses incurred to secure the claimant's custody, or to feed, clothe, or provide medical services for the claimant. The court may not offset against the compensation award the value of any services or reduction in fees for services to be provided to the claimant as part of the award under this section.

(8) The compensation award is not income for tax purposes, except attorneys' fees awarded under subsection (5)(e) of this section.

(9)(a) Upon finding that the claimant was wrongly convicted, the court must seal the claimant's record of conviction.

(b) Upon request of the claimant, the court may order the claimant's record of conviction vacated if the record has not already been vacated, expunged, or destroyed under court rules. The requirements for vacating records under RCW 9.94A.640 do not apply.

(10) Upon request of the claimant, the court must refer the claimant to the department of corrections or the department of social and health services for access to reentry services, if available, including but not limited to counseling on the ability to enter into a structured settlement agreement and where to obtain free or low-cost legal and financial advice if the claimant is not already represented, the community-based transition programs and long-term support programs for education, mentoring, life skills training, assessment, job skills development, mental health and substance abuse treatment.

(11) The claimant or the attorney general may initiate and agree to a claim with a structured settlement for the compensation awarded under subsection (5) of this section. During negotiation of the structured settlement agreement, the claimant must be given adequate time to consult with the legal and financial advisor of his or her choice. Any structured settlement agreement binds the parties with regard to all compensation awarded. A structured settlement agreement entered into under this section must be in writing and signed by the parties or their representatives and must clearly state that the parties understand and agree to the terms of the agreement.

(12) Before approving any structured settlement agreement, the court must ensure that the claimant has an adequate understanding of the agreement. The court may approve the agreement only if the judge finds that the agreement is in the best interest of the claimant and actuarially equivalent to the lump sum compensation award under subsection (5) of this section before taxation. When determining whether the agreement is in the best interest of the claimant, the court must consider the following factors:

(a) The age and life expectancy of the claimant;

(b) The marital or domestic partnership status of the claimant; and

(c) The number and age of the claimant's dependents. [2013 c 175 § 6.]

4.100.070 Provision of information—Statute of limitations. (1) On or after July 28, 2013, when a court grants judicial relief, such as reversal and vacation of a person's conviction, consistent with the criteria established in RCW 4.100.040, the court must provide to the claimant a copy of RCW 4.100.020 through 4.100.090, 28B.15.395, and 72.09.750 at the time the relief is granted.

(2) The clemency and pardons board or the indeterminate sentence review board, whichever is applicable, upon issuance of a pardon by the governor on grounds consistent with innocence on or after July 28, 2013, must provide a copy of RCW 4.100.020 through 4.100.090, 28B.15.395, and 72.09.750 to the individual pardoned.

(3) If an individual entitled to receive the information required under this section shows that he or she was not provided with the information, he or she has an additional twelve months, beyond the statute of limitations under RCW 4.100.090, to bring a claim under this chapter. [2013 c 175 § 7.]

4.100.080 Remedies and compensation exclusive—Admissibility of agreements. (1) It is the intent of the legislature that the remedies and compensation provided under this chapter shall be exclusive to all other remedies at law and in equity against the state or any political subdivision of the state. As a requirement to making a request for relief under this chapter, the claimant waives any and all other remedies, causes of action, and other forms of relief or compensation against the state, any political subdivision of the state, and their officers, employees, agents, and volunteers related to the claimant's wrongful conviction and imprisonment. This waiver shall also include all state, common law, and federal claims for relief, including claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1983. A wrongfully convicted person who elects not to pursue a claim for compensation pursuant to this chapter shall not be precluded from seeking relief through any other existing remedy. The claimant must execute a legal release prior to the payment of any compensation under this chapter. If the release is held invalid for any reason and the claimant is awarded compensation under this chapter and receives a tort award related to his or her wrongful conviction and incarceration, the claimant must reimburse the state for the lesser of:

(a) The amount of the compensation award, excluding the portion awarded pursuant to RCW 4.100.060(5) (c) through (e); or

(b) The amount received by the claimant under the tort award.

(2) A release dismissal agreement, plea agreement, or any similar agreement whereby a prosecutor's office or an agent acting on its behalf agrees to take or refrain from certain action if the accused individual agrees to forgo legal action against the county, the state of Washington, or any political subdivision, is admissible and should be evaluated

in light of all the evidence. However, any such agreement is not dispositive of the question of whether the claimant was wrongly convicted or entitled to compensation under this chapter. [2013 c 175 § 8.]

4.100.090 Actions for compensation. Except as provided in RCW 4.100.070, an action for compensation under this chapter must be commenced within three years after the grant of a pardon, the grant of judicial relief and satisfaction of other conditions described in RCW 4.100.020, or release from custody, whichever is later. However, any action by the state challenging or appealing the grant of judicial relief or release from custody tolls the three-year period. Any persons meeting the criteria set forth in RCW 4.100.020 who was wrongly convicted before July 28, 2013, may commence an action under this chapter within three years after July 28, 2013. [2013 c 175 § 9.]