

# Title 6

## ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS

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### Chapter 6.01 RCW GENERAL PROVISIONS

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**6.01.010 Application of chapters in Title 6 RCW to superior courts and district courts—Definitions.** Except as otherwise expressly provided, the provisions of this chapter and of chapters 6.13, 6.15, 6.17, 6.19, 6.21, 6.25, 6.26, and 6.27 RCW and chapter 6.32 RCW apply to both the superior courts and district courts of this state. If proceedings are before a district court, acts to be performed by the clerk may be performed by a district court judge if there is no clerk. As used in this title, "sheriff" includes deputies, and "execution docket" refers also to the docket of a district court. [1987 c 442 § 101.]

**6.01.020 Entry of judgment—Superior court—District court—Small claims.** For purposes of this title and RCW 4.56.190 and 4.56.210, a judgment of a superior court is entered when it is delivered to the clerk's office for filing.

A judgment of a district court of this state is entered on the date of the entry of the judgment in the docket of the court. A judgment of a small claims department of a district court of this state is entered on the date of the entry in the docket of that department. [1987 c 442 § 102.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. CR 58(b).*

**6.01.030 Direction of writ when sheriff a party.** If the sheriff is a party or otherwise interested in an action in which a writ of execution, attachment, or replevin is to be served, the writ shall be directed to the coroner of the county, or the officer exercising the powers and performing the duties of coroner if there is no coroner, and the person to whom the writ is thus directed shall perform the duties of the sheriff. [1987 c 442 § 103.]

**6.01.040 Execution against several persons—Contribution—Repayment.** (1) When property liable to an execution against several persons is sold on execution, if more than a due proportion of the judgment is levied upon the property of one person, or one of them pays without a sale more than his or her due proportion, that person may compel contribution from the others. When a judgment against several persons is upon an obligation or contract of one of them as security for another, if the surety pays the full amount or any part of the judgment, either by sale of the surety's property or before sale, the surety may compel repayment from the principal.

(2) In either case covered by subsection (1) of this section, the person or surety so paying shall be entitled to the benefit of the judgment to enforce contribution or repayment, if within thirty days after the payment, notice of the payment and claim to contribution or repayment is filed with the clerk of the court where the judgment was rendered.

(3) Upon filing such notice, the clerk shall make an entry thereof in the docket where the judgment is entered. [1987 c 442 § 104.]

**6.01.050 Writ of attachment or execution against debtor in bankruptcy.** If, before levying under a writ of attachment or execution, a sheriff receives notice that the defendant has become a debtor in a bankruptcy case, the sheriff shall immediately give written notice of that fact to the plaintiff's attorney of record, if any, otherwise to the plaintiff, and shall not be bound to levy under the writ. If, after levying on property under a writ of attachment or execution, a sheriff receives such notice, the sheriff shall give written notice of the attachment or execution, describing the property seized, to the trustee in the bankruptcy case if there is one, otherwise to the bankruptcy court, with a copy to the plaintiff's attorney of record, if any, otherwise to the plaintiff, and shall transfer the property to the trustee on demand or as the bankruptcy court otherwise directs. If no demand is made on the sheriff

for surrender of the property and the sheriff thereafter receives notice of the closing of the bankruptcy case, the sheriff shall give written notice by first-class mail to the plaintiff's attorney of record, if any, otherwise to the plaintiff, requiring that the plaintiff release the property or obtain a renewal of the writ from the court, and, if the plaintiff fails to release the property or to apply for a renewal within fourteen days after the mailing of the sheriff's notice, the sheriff shall release the property to the defendant. [1988 c 231 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.01.060 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this title unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Certified mail" includes, for mailings to a foreign country, any form of mail that requires or permits a return receipt.

(2) "Consumer debt" means any obligation or alleged obligation of a consumer to pay money arising out of a transaction in which the money, property, insurance, or services which are the subject of the transaction are primarily for personal, family, or household purposes. Consumer debt includes medical debt.

(3) "Medical debt" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 19.16.100.

(4) "Private student loan" means any loan not guaranteed by the federal or state government that is used solely for personal use to finance postsecondary education and costs of attendance at an educational institution. A private student loan includes a loan made solely to refinance a private student loan. A private student loan does not include an extension of credit made under an open-end consumer credit plan, a reverse mortgage transaction, a residential mortgage transaction, or any other loan that is secured by real property or a dwelling.

(5) "Public auction sale by electronic media" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 36.16.145. [2021 c 122 § 9. Prior: 2019 c 371 § 2; 2019 c 227 § 1; 2018 c 199 § 202; 1988 c 231 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—2021 c 122:** See note following RCW 2.32.050.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199:** See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 6.13 RCW HOMESTEADS

### Sections

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*Lien for assessments in favor of condominium association: RCW 64.34.364(2).*

**6.13.010 Homestead, what constitutes—Terms defined.** (1) The homestead consists of real or personal property that the owner or a dependent of the owner uses as a residence. In the case of a dwelling house or mobile home, the homestead consists of the dwelling house or the mobile home in which the owner resides or intends to reside, with appurtenant buildings, and the land on which the same are situated and by which the same are surrounded, or improved or unimproved land, regardless of area, owned with the intention of placing a house or mobile home thereon and residing thereon. A mobile home may be exempted under this chapter whether or not it is permanently affixed to the underlying land and whether or not the mobile home is placed upon a lot owned by the mobile home owner or a dependent of the owner. Property included in the homestead must be actually intended or used as the principal home for the owner.

(2) As used in this chapter:

(a) "Owner" includes but is not limited to a purchaser under a deed of trust, mortgage, or real estate contract.

(b) "Net value" means market value less all liens and encumbrances senior to the judgment being executed upon and not including the judgment being executed upon.

(c) "Forced sale" includes any sale of homestead property in a bankruptcy proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code. The reinvestment provisions of RCW 6.13.070 do not apply to the proceeds.

(d) "Dependent" has the meaning given in Title 11 U.S.C. Sec. 522(a)(1). [2021 c 290 § 2; 1999 c 403 § 1; 1993 c 200 § 1; 1987 c 442 § 201; 1981 c 329 § 7; 1945 c 196 § 1; 1931 c 88 § 1; 1927 c 193 § 1; 1895 c 64 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 528. Formerly RCW 6.12.010.]

**Findings—2021 c 290:** "The legislature finds that the homestead exemption is intended to protect the homeowner's equity in a home against unsecured creditors. The legislature finds that changes to the homestead exemption are necessary to modernize the law and to address the case of *Wilson v. Rigby*, 909 F.3d 306 (2018) and to adopt the reasoning in *In re Good*, 588 B.R. 573 (Bankr. W.D. Wash. 2018)." [2021 c 290 § 1.]

**Effective date—2021 c 290:** "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 immediately [May 12, 2021]." [2021 c 290 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.020 Homestead—What may constitute.** If the owner is married or in a state registered domestic partnership, the homestead may consist of the community or jointly owned property of the spouses or the domestic partners or the separate property of either spouse or either domestic partner: PROVIDED, That the same premises may not be claimed separately by the spouses or domestic partners with the effect

of increasing the net value of the homestead available to the marital community or state registered domestic partnership beyond the amount specified in RCW 6.13.030 as now or hereafter amended. When the owner is not married or not in a state registered domestic partnership, the homestead may consist of any of his or her property. [2008 c 6 § 633; 1987 c 442 § 202; 1981 c 329 § 8; 1977 ex.s. c 98 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 6; 1895 c 64 § 2; RRS § 530. Formerly RCW 6.12.020.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.030 Homestead exemption amount.** (1) The homestead exemption amount is the greater of:

- (a) \$125,000;
- (b) The county median sale price of a single-family home in the preceding calendar year; or
- (c) Where the homestead is subject to execution, attachment, or seizure by or under any legal process whatever to satisfy a judgment in favor of any state for failure to pay that state's income tax on benefits received while a resident of the state of Washington from a pension or other retirement plan, no dollar limit.

(2) In determining the county median sale price of a single-family home in the preceding year, a court shall use data from the Washington center for real estate research or, if the Washington center no longer provides the data, a successor entity designated by the office of financial management. [2021 c 290 § 3; 2007 c 429 § 1; 1999 c 403 § 4; 1993 c 200 § 2; 1991 c 123 § 2; 1987 c 442 § 203; 1983 1st ex.s. c 45 § 4; 1981 c 329 § 10; 1977 ex.s. c 98 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 12 § 1; 1955 c 29 § 1; 1945 c 196 § 3; 1895 c 64 § 24; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 552. Formerly RCW 6.12.050.]

**Findings—Effective date—2021 c 290:** See notes following RCW 6.13.010.

**Purpose—1991 c 123:** "The legislature recognizes that retired persons generally are financially dependent on fixed pension or retirement benefits and passive income from investment property. Because of this dependency, retired persons are more vulnerable than others to inflation and depletion of their assets. It is the purpose of this act to increase the protection of income of retired persons residing in the state of Washington from collection of income taxes imposed by other states." [1991 c 123 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.040 Automatic homestead exemption—Conditions—Declaration of homestead—Declaration of abandonment.** (1) Property described in RCW 6.13.010 constitutes a homestead and is automatically protected by the exemption described in RCW 6.13.070 from and after the time the real or personal property is occupied as a principal residence by the owner or, if the homestead is unimproved or improved land that is not yet occupied as a homestead, from and after the declaration or declarations required by the following subsections are filed for record or, if the homestead is a mobile home not yet occupied as a homestead and located on land not owned by the owner of the mobile home, from and after delivery of a declaration as prescribed in RCW 6.15.060(3)(c) or, if the homestead is any other personal property, from and after the delivery of a declaration as prescribed in RCW 6.15.060(3)(d).

(2) An owner who selects a homestead from unimproved or improved land that is not yet occupied as a homestead must execute a declaration of homestead and file the same for

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record in the office of the recording officer in the county in which the land is located. However, if the owner also owns another parcel of property on which the owner presently resides or in which the owner claims a homestead, the owner must also execute a declaration of abandonment of homestead on that other property and file the same for record with the recording officer in the county in which the land is located.

(3) The declaration of homestead must contain:

(a) A statement that the person making it is residing on the premises or intends to reside thereon and claims them as a homestead;

(b) A legal description of the premises; and

(c) An estimate of their actual cash value.

(4) The declaration of abandonment must contain:

(a) A statement that premises occupied as a residence or claimed as a homestead no longer constitute the owner's homestead;

(b) A legal description of the premises; and

(c) A statement of the date of abandonment.

(5) The declaration of homestead and declaration of abandonment of homestead must be acknowledged in the same manner as a grant of real property is acknowledged. [1993 c 200 § 3; 1987 c 442 § 204; 1981 c 329 § 9. Formerly RCW 6.12.045.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.050 Homestead presumed abandoned, when—Declaration of nonabandonment.** A homestead is presumed abandoned if the owner vacates the property for a continuous period of at least six months. However, if an owner is going to be absent from the homestead for more than six months but does not intend to abandon the homestead, and has no other principal residence, the owner may execute and acknowledge, in the same manner as a grant of real property is acknowledged, a declaration of nonabandonment of homestead and file the declaration for record in the office of the recording officer of the county in which the property is situated.

The declaration of nonabandonment of homestead must contain:

(1) A statement that the owner claims the property as a homestead, that the owner intends to occupy the property in the future, and that the owner claims no other property as a homestead;

(2) A statement of where the owner will be residing while absent from the homestead property, the estimated duration of the owner's absence, and the reason for the absence; and

(3) A legal description of the homestead property. [1987 c 442 § 205; 1981 c 329 § 14; 1895 c 64 § 7; RRS § 535. Formerly RCW 6.12.120.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.060 Conveyance or encumbrance by spouses or domestic partners.** The homestead of a spouse or domestic partner cannot be conveyed or encumbered unless the instrument by which it is conveyed or encumbered is executed and acknowledged by both spouses or both domestic partners, except that either spouse or both or either domestic partner or both jointly may make and execute powers of attorney for the

conveyance or encumbrance of the homestead. The conveyance or encumbrance of the homestead does not require that any dependent of the owner who is not a spouse or domestic partner execute and acknowledge the instrument by which it is conveyed or encumbered. [2021 c 290 § 4; 2008 c 6 § 634; 1987 c 442 § 206; 1983 c 251 § 1; 1895 c 64 § 6; RRS § 534. Formerly RCW 6.12.110.]

**Findings—Effective date—2021 c 290:** See notes following RCW 6.13.010.

*Married persons and domestic partners, property: Chapter 26.16 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.070 Homestead exempt from execution, when—Presumed valid.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 6.13.080, the homestead is exempt from attachment and from execution or forced sale for the debts of the owner up to the amount specified in RCW 6.13.030.

(2) In a bankruptcy case, the debtor's exemption shall be determined on the date the bankruptcy petition is filed. If the value of the debtor's interest in homestead property on the petition date is less than or equal to the amount that can be exempted under RCW 6.13.030, then the debtor's entire interest in the property, including the debtor's right to possession and interests of no monetary value, is exempt. Any appreciation in the value of the debtor's exempt interest in the property during the bankruptcy case is also exempt, even if in excess of the amounts in RCW 6.13.030(1).

(3) The proceeds of the voluntary sale of the homestead in good faith for the purpose of acquiring a new homestead, and proceeds from insurance covering destruction of homestead property held for use in restoring or replacing the homestead property, up to the amount specified in RCW 6.13.030, shall likewise be exempt for one year from receipt, and also such new homestead acquired with such proceeds.

(4) Every homestead created under this chapter is presumed to be valid to the extent of all the property claimed exempt, until the validity thereof is contested in a court of general jurisdiction in the county or district in which the homestead is situated. [2021 c 290 § 5; 1987 c 442 § 207; 1981 c 329 § 13; 1945 c 196 § 2; 1927 c 193 § 2; 1895 c 64 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 532. Formerly RCW 6.12.090.]

**Findings—Effective date—2021 c 290:** See notes following RCW 6.13.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.080 Homestead exemption, when not available.** The homestead exemption is not available against an execution or forced sale in satisfaction of judgments obtained:

(1) On debts secured by mechanic's, laborer's, construction, maritime, automobile repair, material supplier's, or vendor's liens arising out of and against the particular property claimed as a homestead;

(2) On debts secured:

(a) By security agreements describing as collateral the property that is claimed as a homestead; or

(b) By mortgages or deeds of trust on the premises that have been executed and acknowledged by both spouses or both domestic partners or by any claimant not married or in a state registered domestic partnership. The execution and acknowledgment of a mortgage or deed of trust by a dependent who is not a spouse or domestic partner is not required;

(3) On one spouse's or one domestic partner's or the community's debts existing at the time of that spouse's or that domestic partner's bankruptcy filing where (a) bankruptcy is filed by both spouses or both domestic partners within a six-month period, other than in a joint case or a case in which their assets are jointly administered, and (b) the other spouse or other domestic partner exempts property from property of the estate under the bankruptcy exemption provisions of 11 U.S.C. Sec. 522(d);

(4) On debts arising from a lawful court order or decree or administrative order establishing a child support obligation or obligation to pay maintenance;

(5) On debts owing to the state of Washington for recovery of medical assistance correctly paid on behalf of an individual consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396p;

(6) On debts secured by a condominium, homeowners', or common interest community association's lien; or

(7) On debts owed for taxes collected under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW but not remitted to the department of revenue. [2021 c 290 § 6; 2019 c 238 § 215; 2018 c 277 § 501; 2013 c 23 § 2; 2008 c 6 § 635; 2007 c 429 § 2; 2005 c 292 § 4; 1993 c 200 § 4. Prior: 1988 c 231 § 3; 1988 c 192 § 1; 1987 c 442 § 208; 1984 c 260 § 16; 1982 c 10 § 1; prior: 1981 c 304 § 17; 1981 c 149 § 1; 1909 c 44 § 1; 1895 c 64 § 5; RRS § 533. Formerly RCW 6.12.100.]

**Findings—Effective date—2021 c 290:** See notes following RCW 6.13.010.

**Effective date—2018 c 277:** See RCW 64.90.910.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.090 Judgment against homestead owner—Lien on excess value of homestead property.** A judgment against the owner of a homestead shall become a lien on the value of the homestead property in excess of the homestead exemption from the time the judgment creditor records the judgment with the recording officer of the county where the property is located. However, if a judgment of a district court of this state has been transferred to a superior court, the judgment becomes a lien from the time of recording with such recording officer a duly certified abstract of the record of such judgment as it appears in the office of the clerk in which the transfer was originally filed. A department of revenue tax warrant filed pursuant to RCW 82.32.210 shall become a lien on the value of the homestead property in excess of the homestead exemption from the time of filing in superior court. [2007 c 429 § 3; 1988 c 231 § 4; 1987 c 442 § 209; 1984 c 260 § 30. Formerly RCW 6.12.105.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.100 Execution against homestead—Application for appointment of appraiser.** When execution for the enforcement of a judgment obtained in a case not within the classes enumerated in RCW 6.13.080 is levied upon the homestead, the judgment creditor shall apply to the superior court of the county in which the homestead is situated for the appointment of a person to appraise the value thereof. [1987 c 442 § 210; 1895 c 64 § 9; RRS § 537. Formerly RCW 6.12.140.]

**6.13.110 Application under RCW 6.13.100 must be made by verified petition—Contents.** The application under RCW 6.13.100 must be made by filing a verified petition, showing:

(1) The fact that an execution has been levied upon the homestead.

(2) The name of the owner of the homestead property.

(3) That the net value of the homestead exceeds the amount of the homestead exemption. [1987 c 442 § 211; 1981 c 329 § 15; 1895 c 64 § 10; RRS § 538. Formerly RCW 6.12.150.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.120 Notice.** A copy of the petition, with a notice of the time and place of hearing, must be served upon the owner and the owner's attorney of record, if any, at least ten days before the hearing. [1987 c 442 § 212; 1981 c 329 § 16; 1895 c 64 § 12; RRS § 540. Formerly RCW 6.12.170.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.130 Hearing—Appointment of appraiser.** At the hearing, the judge may, upon the proof of the service of a copy of the petition and notice and of the facts stated in the petition, appoint a disinterested qualified person of the county to appraise the value of the homestead. [1987 c 442 § 213; 1984 c 118 § 1; 1895 c 64 § 13; RRS § 541. Formerly RCW 6.12.180.]

*Compensation of appraiser: RCW 6.13.190.*

**6.13.140 Appraiser—Oath—Duties.** The person appointed, before entering upon the performance of duties, must take an oath to faithfully perform the same. The appraiser must view the premises and appraise the market value thereof and, if the appraised value, less all liens and encumbrances, exceeds the homestead exemption, must determine whether the land claimed can be divided without material injury. Within fifteen days after appointment, the appraiser must make to the court a report in writing, which report must show the appraised value, less liens and encumbrances, and, if necessary, the determination whether or not the land can be divided without material injury and without violation of any governmental restriction. [1987 c 442 § 214; 1895 c 64 § 14; RRS § 542. Formerly RCW 6.12.190.]

**6.13.150 Division of homestead.** If, from the report, it appears to the court that the value of the homestead, less liens and encumbrances senior to the judgment being executed upon and not including the judgment being executed upon, exceeds the homestead exemption and the property can be divided without material injury and without violation of any governmental restriction, the court may, by an order, direct the appraiser to set off to the owner so much of the land, including the residence, as will amount in net value to the homestead exemption, and the execution may be enforced against the remainder of the land. [1999 c 403 § 2; 1987 c 442 § 215; 1981 c 329 § 17; 1895 c 64 § 17; RRS § 545. Formerly RCW 6.12.220.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.160 Sale, if not divisible.** If, from the report, it appears to the court that the appraised value of the homestead

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property, less liens and encumbrances senior to the judgment being executed upon and not including the judgment being executed upon, exceeds the amount of the homestead exemption and the property is not divided, the court must make an order directing its sale under the execution. The order shall direct that at such sale no bid may be received unless it exceeds the amount of the homestead exemption. [1999 c 403 § 3; 1987 c 442 § 216; 1981 c 329 § 18; 1895 c 64 § 18; RRS § 546. Formerly RCW 6.12.230.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.170 Application of proceeds.** If the sale is made, the proceeds must be applied in the following order: First, to the amount of the homestead exemption, to be paid to the judgment debtor; second, up to the amount of the execution, to be applied to the satisfaction of the execution; third, the balance to be paid to the judgment debtor. [1987 c 442 § 217; 1981 c 329 § 19; 1895 c 64 § 20; RRS § 548. Formerly RCW 6.12.250.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.180 Money from sale protected.** The money paid to the owner is entitled to the same protection against legal process and the voluntary disposition of the other spouse or other domestic partner which the law gives to the homestead. [2008 c 6 § 636; 1987 c 442 § 218; 1981 c 329 § 20; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 10; 1895 c 64 § 21; RRS § 549. Formerly RCW 6.12.260.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.190 Appraiser—Compensation.** The court shall determine a reasonable compensation for the appraiser. [1987 c 442 § 219; 1984 c 118 § 2; 1895 c 64 § 22; RRS § 550. Formerly RCW 6.12.270.]

**6.13.200 Costs.** The execution creditor must pay the costs of these proceedings in the first instance; but in the cases provided for in RCW 6.13.150 and 6.13.160 the amount so paid must be added as costs on execution, and collected accordingly. [1987 c 442 § 220; 1895 c 64 § 23; RRS § 551. Formerly RCW 6.12.280.]

**6.13.210 Alienation in case of incompetency or disability of either spouse or either domestic partner.** In case of a homestead, if either spouse or either domestic partner shall be or become incompetent or disabled to such a degree that he or she is unable to assist in the management of his or her interest in the property of the marriage or domestic partnership and no guardian has been appointed, upon application of the other spouse or other domestic partner to the superior court of the county in which the homestead is situated, and upon due proof of such incompetency or disability in the severity required above, the court may make an order permitting the spouse or the domestic partner applying to the court to sell and convey or mortgage such homestead. [2008 c 6 § 637; 1987 c 442 § 221; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 4; 1895 c 64 § 26; RRS § 554. Formerly RCW 6.12.300.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.220 Notice of application for order.** Notice of the application for such order shall be given by publication of the same in a newspaper published in the county in which such homestead is situated, if there be a newspaper published therein, once each week for three successive weeks prior to the hearing of such application, and a copy of such notice shall be served upon the alleged incompetent spouse or domestic partner personally, and upon the nearest relative of such incompetent or disabled spouse or domestic partner other than the applicant, resident in this state, at least three weeks prior to such application being heard, and in case there be no such relative known to the applicant, a copy of such notice shall be served upon the prosecuting attorney of the county in which such homestead is situated; and it is hereby made the duty of such prosecuting attorney, upon being served with a copy of such notice, to appear in court and see that such application is made in good faith, and that the proceedings thereon are fairly conducted. [2008 c 6 § 638; 1987 c 442 § 222; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 5; 1895 c 64 § 27; RRS § 555. Formerly RCW 6.12.310.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.230 Petition.** Thirty days before the hearing of any application under the provisions of this chapter, the applicant shall present and file in the court in which such application is to be heard a petition for the order mentioned, subscribed and sworn to by the applicant, setting forth the name and age of the alleged incompetent or disabled spouse or domestic partner; a description of the premises constituting the homestead; the value of the same; the county in which it is situated; such facts necessary to show that the nonpetitioning spouse or domestic partner is incompetent or disabled to the degree required under RCW 6.13.210; and such additional facts relating to the circumstances and necessities of the applicant and his or her family as he or she may rely upon in support of the petition. [2008 c 6 § 639; 1987 c 442 § 223; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 6; 1895 c 64 § 28; RRS § 556. Formerly RCW 6.12.320.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.13.240 Order—Effect.** If the court shall make the order provided for in RCW 6.13.210, the same shall be entered upon the minutes of the court, and thereafter any sale, conveyance, or mortgage made in pursuance of such order shall be as valid and effectual as if the property affected thereby was the absolute property of the person making such sale, conveyance, or mortgage in fee simple. [1987 c 442 § 224; 1895 c 64 § 29; RRS § 557. Formerly RCW 6.12.330.]

## Chapter 6.15 RCW

### PERSONAL PROPERTY EXEMPTIONS

#### Sections

6.15.010	Exempt property.
6.15.020	Pension money exempt—Exceptions—Transfer of spouse's interest in employee benefit plan.
6.15.025	Exemption of pension or retirement plan benefits from execution for judgment for out-of-state income tax.
6.15.030	Insurance money on exempt property exempt.
6.15.040	Separate property of spouse exempt.

6.15.050	Exemptions under RCW 6.15.010—Limitations on exemptions.
6.15.060	Manner of claiming exemptions—Appraisal—Appraiser's fee.
6.15.070	Procedure if value of property claimed exempt exceeds exemptible value.
6.15.900	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

#### *Exemptions from execution, etc., generally:*

*cemetery grounds:* RCW 68.20.120 and 68.24.220.  
*child support obligations and earnings of nonobligated spouse or domestic partner:* RCW 26.16.200.  
*crime victims' compensation:* RCW 7.68.070 and 51.32.040.  
*earnings, amount of exempt from garnishment of employer:* RCW 6.27.150.  
*homesteads:* Chapter 6.13 RCW.  
*industrial insurance benefits:* RCW 51.32.040.  
*insurance, proceeds of annuity, disability, life and group life:* RCW 48.18.400 through 48.18.430.  
*property exempt from seizure:* RCW 6.32.250.  
*public assistance, benefits, money of recipients in institutions:* RCW 74.08.210, 74.13.070.  
*public retirement, insurance benefits*  
*city employees, statewide system:* RCW 41.44.240.  
*first-class cities, personnel and police:* RCW 41.28.200, 41.20.180.  
*fraternal benefit society benefits:* RCW 48.36A.180.  
*judges:* RCW 2.10.180, 2.12.090.  
*law enforcement officers and firefighters:* RCW 41.26.053.  
*state employees:* RCW 41.40.052.  
*teachers:* RCW 41.32.055.  
*volunteer firefighters:* RCW 41.24.240.  
*Washington state patrol:* RCW 43.43.310.  
*unemployment compensation benefits:* RCW 50.40.020.  
*work release participants, earnings of:* RCW 72.65.060.

**6.15.010 Exempt property. (Effective until July 1, 2025.)** (1) Except as provided in RCW 6.15.050, the following personal property is exempt from execution, attachment, and garnishment:

(a) All wearing apparel of every individual and family, but not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars in value in furs, jewelry, and personal ornaments for any individual.

(b) All private libraries including electronic media, which includes audiovisual, entertainment, or reference media in digital or analogue format, of every individual, but not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars in value, and all family pictures and keepsakes.

(c) A cell phone, personal computer, and printer.

(d) To each individual or, as to community property of spouses maintaining a single household as against a creditor of the community, to the community:

(i) The individual's or community's household goods, appliances, furniture, and home and yard equipment, not to exceed six thousand five hundred dollars in value for the individual or thirteen thousand dollars for the community, no single item to exceed seven hundred fifty dollars, said amount to include provisions and fuel for the comfortable maintenance of the individual or community;

(ii) Other personal property, except personal earnings as provided under RCW 6.15.050(1), not to exceed three thousand dollars in value, of which not more than one thousand five hundred dollars in value may consist of cash, and of which not more than:

(A) For all debts except private student loan debt and consumer debt, five hundred dollars in value may consist of bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities. The maximum exemption under this subsection (1)(d)(ii)(A) shall be automatically protected and may

not exceed five hundred dollars, regardless of the number of existing separate bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities.

(B) For all private student loan debt, two thousand five hundred dollars in value may consist of bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities. \$1,000 in value shall be automatically protected. The maximum exemption under this subsection (1)(d)(ii)(B) may not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars, regardless of the number of existing separate bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities.

(C) For all consumer debt, two thousand dollars in value may consist of bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities. \$1,000 in value shall be automatically protected. The maximum exemption under this subsection (1)(d)(ii)(C) may not exceed two thousand dollars, regardless of the number of existing separate bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities;

(iii) For an individual, a motor vehicle used for personal transportation, not to exceed three thousand two hundred fifty dollars or for a community two motor vehicles used for personal transportation, not to exceed six thousand five hundred dollars in aggregate value;

(iv) Any past due, current, or future child support paid or owed to the debtor, which can be traced;

(v) All professionally prescribed health aids for the debtor or a dependent of the debtor; and

(vi) To any individual, the right to or proceeds of a payment not to exceed twenty thousand dollars on account of personal bodily injury, not including pain and suffering or compensation for actual pecuniary loss, of the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is a dependent; or the right to or proceeds of a payment in compensation of loss of future earnings of the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is or was a dependent, to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the debtor. The exemption under this subsection (1)(d)(vi) does not apply to the right of the state of Washington, or any agent or assignee of the state, as a lienholder or subrogee under RCW 43.20B.060.

(e) To each qualified individual, one of the following exemptions:

(i) To a farmer, farm trucks, farm stock, farm tools, farm equipment, supplies and seed, not to exceed ten thousand dollars in value;

(ii) To a physician, surgeon, attorney, member of the clergy, or other professional person, the individual's library, office furniture, office equipment and supplies, not to exceed ten thousand dollars in value;

(iii) To any other individual, the tools and instruments and materials used to carry on his or her trade for the support of himself or herself or family, not to exceed ten thousand dollars in value.

(f) Tuition units, under chapter 28B.95 RCW, purchased more than two years prior to the date of a bankruptcy filing or court judgment, and contributions to any other qualified tuition program under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 529 of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, and to a Coverdell education savings account, also known as an education individual retirement account, under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 530 of the internal

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revenue code of 1986, as amended, contributed more than two years prior to the date of a bankruptcy filing or court judgment.

(2) For purposes of this section, "value" means the reasonable market value of the debtor's interest in an article or item at the time it is selected for exemption, exclusive of all liens and encumbrances thereon. [2021 c 50 § 2; 2019 c 371 § 3; 2018 c 199 § 203; 2012 c 117 § 2; 2011 c 162 § 2; 2005 c 272 § 6; 2002 c 265 § 1; 1991 c 112 § 1; 1988 c 231 § 5; 1987 c 442 § 301; 1983 1st ex.s. c 45 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 65 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 13; 1965 c 89 § 1; 1886 p 96 § 1; Code 1881 § 347; 1879 p 157 § 1; 1877 p 73 § 351; 1869 p 87 § 343; 1854 p 178 § 253; RRS § 563. Formerly RCW 6.16.020.]

**Findings—Intent—2021 c 50:** "The legislature has previously recognized that garnishees have no responsibility for the situation leading to the garnishment of a debtor's wages, funds, or other property, but that the garnishment process is necessary for the enforcement of obligations. The legislature has further recognized the importance of reducing or offsetting the administrative burden on the garnishee to the extent that that can be accomplished consistent with the goal of effectively enforcing debtors' unpaid obligations. At the same time, debtors must be afforded the exemptions to which they are statutorily entitled and protected from garnishments that violate Washington law.

By establishing automatic exemption amounts and specifying when and how much a garnishee bank is required to hold and release, the legislature intends to ease the burden on garnishees while protecting debtors from situations in which the entirety of their bank accounts are frozen before they have any opportunity to assert certain rightful exemptions." [2021 c 50 § 1.]

**Expiration date—2021 c 50:** "This act expires July 1, 2025." [2021 c 50 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199:** See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **6.15.010 Exempt property. (Effective July 1, 2025.)**

(1) Except as provided in RCW 6.15.050, the following personal property is exempt from execution, attachment, and garnishment:

(a) All wearing apparel of every individual and family, but not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars in value in furs, jewelry, and personal ornaments for any individual.

(b) All private libraries including electronic media, which includes audiovisual, entertainment, or reference media in digital or analogue format, of every individual, but not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars in value, and all family pictures and keepsakes.

(c) A cell phone, personal computer, and printer.

(d) To each individual or, as to community property of spouses maintaining a single household as against a creditor of the community, to the community:

(i) The individual's or community's household goods, appliances, furniture, and home and yard equipment, not to exceed six thousand five hundred dollars in value for the individual or thirteen thousand dollars for the community, no single item to exceed seven hundred fifty dollars, said amount to include provisions and fuel for the comfortable maintenance of the individual or community;

(ii) Other personal property, except personal earnings as provided under RCW 6.15.050(1), not to exceed three thousand dollars in value, of which not more than one thousand five hundred dollars in value may consist of cash, and of which not more than:

(A) For all debts except private student loan debt and consumer debt, five hundred dollars in value may consist of bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities. The maximum exemption under this subsection (1)(d)(ii)(A) may not exceed five hundred dollars, regardless of the number of existing separate bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities.

(B) For all private student loan debt, two thousand five hundred dollars in value may consist of bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities. The maximum exemption under this subsection (1)(d)(ii)(B) may not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars, regardless of the number of existing separate bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities.

(C) For all consumer debt, two thousand dollars in value may consist of bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities. The maximum exemption under this subsection (1)(d)(ii)(C) may not exceed two thousand dollars, regardless of the number of existing separate bank accounts, savings and loan accounts, stocks, bonds, or other securities;

(iii) For an individual, a motor vehicle used for personal transportation, not to exceed three thousand two hundred fifty dollars or for a community two motor vehicles used for personal transportation, not to exceed six thousand five hundred dollars in aggregate value;

(iv) Any past due, current, or future child support paid or owed to the debtor, which can be traced;

(v) All professionally prescribed health aids for the debtor or a dependent of the debtor; and

(vi) To any individual, the right to or proceeds of a payment not to exceed twenty thousand dollars on account of personal bodily injury, not including pain and suffering or compensation for actual pecuniary loss, of the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is a dependent; or the right to or proceeds of a payment in compensation of loss of future earnings of the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is or was a dependent, to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the debtor. The exemption under this subsection (1)(d)(vi) does not apply to the right of the state of Washington, or any agent or assignee of the state, as a lienholder or subrogee under RCW 43.20B.060.

(e) To each qualified individual, one of the following exemptions:

(i) To a farmer, farm trucks, farm stock, farm tools, farm equipment, supplies and seed, not to exceed ten thousand dollars in value;

(ii) To a physician, surgeon, attorney, member of the clergy, or other professional person, the individual's library, office furniture, office equipment and supplies, not to exceed ten thousand dollars in value;

(iii) To any other individual, the tools and instruments and materials used to carry on his or her trade for the support of himself or herself or family, not to exceed ten thousand dollars in value.

(f) Tuition units, under chapter 28B.95 RCW, purchased more than two years prior to the date of a bankruptcy filing or court judgment, and contributions to any other qualified tuition program under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 529 of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, and to a Coverdell education

savings account, also known as an education individual retirement account, under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 530 of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, contributed more than two years prior to the date of a bankruptcy filing or court judgment.

(2) For purposes of this section, "value" means the reasonable market value of the debtor's interest in an article or item at the time it is selected for exemption, exclusive of all liens and encumbrances thereon. [2019 c 371 § 3; 2018 c 199 § 203; 2012 c 117 § 2; 2011 c 162 § 2; 2005 c 272 § 6; 2002 c 265 § 1; 1991 c 112 § 1; 1988 c 231 § 5; 1987 c 442 § 301; 1983 1st ex.s. c 45 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 65 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 13; 1965 c 89 § 1; 1886 p 96 § 1; Code 1881 § 347; 1879 p 157 § 1; 1877 p 73 § 351; 1869 p 87 § 343; 1854 p 178 § 253; RRS § 563. Formerly RCW 6.16.020.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199:** See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **6.15.020 Pension money exempt—Exceptions—Transfer of spouse's interest in employee benefit plan.**

(1) It is the policy of the state of Washington to ensure the well-being of its citizens by protecting retirement income to which they are or may become entitled. For that purpose generally and pursuant to the authority granted to the state of Washington under 11 U.S.C. Sec. 522(b)(2), the exemptions in this section relating to retirement benefits are provided.

(2) Unless otherwise provided by federal law, any money received by any citizen of the state of Washington as a pension from the government of the United States, whether the same be in the actual possession of such person or be deposited or loaned, shall be exempt from execution, attachment, garnishment, or seizure by or under any legal process whatever, and when a debtor dies, or absconds, and leaves his or her family any money exempted by this subsection, the same shall be exempt to the family as provided in this subsection. This subsection shall not apply to child support collection actions issued under chapter 26.18, 26.23, or 74.20A RCW, if otherwise permitted by federal law.

(3) The right of a person to a pension, annuity, or retirement allowance or disability allowance, or death benefits, or any optional benefit, or any other right accrued or accruing to any citizen of the state of Washington under any employee benefit plan, and any fund created by such a plan or arrangement, shall be exempt from execution, attachment, garnishment, or seizure by or under any legal process whatever. This subsection shall not apply to child support collection actions issued under chapter 26.18, 26.23, or 74.20A RCW if otherwise permitted by federal law. This subsection shall permit benefits under any such plan or arrangement to be payable to a spouse, former spouse, child, or other dependent of a participant in such plan to the extent expressly provided for in a qualified domestic relations order that meets the requirements for such orders under the plan, or, in the case of benefits payable under a plan described in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 403(b) or 408 of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, or section 409 of such code as in effect before January 1, 1984, to the extent provided in any order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction that provides for maintenance or support. This subsection does not prohibit actions against an



employee benefit plan, or fund for valid obligations incurred by the plan or fund for the benefit of the plan or fund.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the term "employee benefit plan" means any plan or arrangement that is described in RCW 49.64.020, including any Keogh plan, whether funded by a trust or by an annuity contract, and in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 401(a) or 403(a) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended; or that is a tax-sheltered annuity or a custodial account described in section 403(b) of such code or an individual retirement account or an individual retirement annuity described in section 408 of such code; or a Roth individual retirement account described in section 408A of such code; or a medical savings account or a health savings account described in sections 220 and 223, respectively, of such code; or a retirement bond described in section 409 of such code as in effect before January 1, 1984. The term "employee benefit plan" shall not include any employee benefit plan that is established or maintained for its employees by the government of the United States, by the state of Washington under chapter 2.10, 2.12, 41.26, 41.32, 41.34, 41.35, 41.37, 41.40, or 43.43 RCW or RCW 41.50.770, or by any agency or instrumentality of the government of the United States.

(5) An employee benefit plan shall be deemed to be a spendthrift trust, regardless of the source of funds, the relationship between the trustee or custodian of the plan and the beneficiary, or the ability of the debtor to withdraw or borrow or otherwise become entitled to benefits from the plan before retirement. This subsection shall not apply to child support collection actions issued under chapter 26.18, 26.23, or 74.20A RCW, if otherwise permitted by federal law. This subsection shall permit benefits under any such plan or arrangement to be payable to a spouse, former spouse, child, or other dependent of a participant in such plan to the extent expressly provided for in a qualified domestic relations order that meets the requirements for such orders under the plan, or, in the case of benefits payable under a plan described in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 403(b) or 408 of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, or section 409 of such code as in effect before January 1, 1984, to the extent provided in any order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction that provides for maintenance or support.

(6) Unless prohibited by federal law, nothing contained in subsection (3), (4), or (5) of this section shall be construed as a termination or limitation of a spouse's community property interest in an employee benefit plan held in the name of or on account of the other spouse, who is the participant or the account holder spouse. Unless prohibited by applicable federal law, at the death of the nonparticipant, nonaccount holder spouse, the nonparticipant, nonaccount holder spouse may transfer or distribute the community property interest of the nonparticipant, nonaccount holder spouse in the participant or account holder spouse's employee benefit plan to the nonparticipant, nonaccount holder spouse's estate, testamentary trust, inter vivos trust, or other successor or successors pursuant to the last will of the nonparticipant, nonaccount holder spouse or the law of intestate succession, and that distributee may, but shall not be required to, obtain an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, including a nonjudicial binding agreement or order entered under chapter 11.96A RCW, to confirm the distribution. For purposes of subsection (3) of this section, the distributee of the nonparticipant, nonaccount

holder spouse's community property interest in an employee benefit plan shall be considered a person entitled to the full protection of subsection (3) of this section. The nonparticipant, nonaccount holder spouse's consent to a beneficiary designation by the participant or account holder spouse with respect to an employee benefit plan shall not, absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, be deemed a release, gift, relinquishment, termination, limitation, or transfer of the nonparticipant, nonaccount holder spouse's community property interest in an employee benefit plan. For purposes of this subsection, the term "nonparticipant, nonaccount holder spouse" means the spouse of the person who is a participant in an employee benefit plan or in whose name an individual retirement account is maintained. As used in this subsection, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction entered under chapter 11.96A RCW includes an agreement, as that term is used under RCW 11.96A.220. [2011 c 162 § 3; 2007 c 492 § 1. Prior: 1999 c 81 § 1; 1999 c 42 § 603; 1997 c 20 § 1; 1990 c 237 § 1; 1989 c 360 § 21; 1988 c 231 § 6; prior: 1987 c 64 § 1; 1890 p 88 § 1; RRS § 566. Formerly RCW 6.16.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.15.025 Exemption of pension or retirement plan benefits from execution for judgment for out-of-state income tax.** Where a judgment is in favor of any state for failure to pay that state's income tax on benefits received while a resident of the state of Washington from a pension or other retirement plan, all property in this state, real or personal, tangible or intangible, of a judgment debtor shall be exempt from execution, attachment, garnishment, or seizure by or under any legal process whatever, and when a debtor dies, or absconds, and leaves his or her spouse and dependents any property exempted by this section, the same shall be exempt to the surviving spouse and dependents. [1991 c 123 § 3.]

**Purpose—1991 c 123:** See note following RCW 6.13.030.

**6.15.030 Insurance money on exempt property exempt.** If property, which by the laws of this state is exempt from execution, attachment, or garnishment, is insured and the same is lost, stolen, or destroyed, then the insurance money coming to or belonging to the person thus insured, to an amount equal to the exempt property thus destroyed, shall be exempt from execution, attachment, and garnishment. [1987 c 442 § 303; 1895 c 76 § 1; RRS § 568. Formerly RCW 6.16.050.]

**6.15.040 Separate property of spouse exempt.** All real and personal property belonging to any married person at the time of his or her marriage, and all which he or she may have acquired subsequently to such marriage, or to which he or she shall hereafter become entitled in his or her own right, and all his or her personal earnings, and all the issues, rents and profits of such real property, shall be exempt from execution, attachment, and garnishment upon any liability or judgment against the other spouse, so long as he or she or any minor heir of his or her body shall be living: PROVIDED, That the separate property of each spouse shall be liable for debts owing by him or her at the time of marriage. [1987 c 442 § 304; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 14; Code 1881 § 341; 1877

p 71 § 345; 1869 p 85 § 337; 1854 p 178 § 252; RRS § 570. Formerly RCW 6.16.070.]

*Exemption of nonobligated spouse or domestic partner's earnings from satisfaction of other spouse or domestic partner's child support obligations: RCW 26.16.200.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.15.050 Exemptions under RCW 6.15.010—Limitations on exemptions.** (1) Wages, salary, or other compensation regularly paid for personal services rendered by the debtor claiming the exemption shall not be claimed as exempt under RCW 6.15.010, but the same may be claimed as exempt in any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding to the same extent as allowed under the statutes relating to garnishments.

(2) No property may be exempt under RCW 6.15.010 from execution, attachment, or garnishment issued upon a judgment for all or any part of the purchase price of the property.

(3) No property may be exempt under RCW 6.15.010 from legal process issued upon a judgment for restitution ordered by a court to be paid for the benefit of a victim of a criminal act.

(4) No property may be exempt under RCW 6.15.010 from legal process issued upon a judgment for any tax levied upon such property.

(5) Nothing in this chapter shall be so construed as to prevent a debtor from creating a security interest in personal property which might be claimed as exempt, or the enforcement of such security interest against the property.

(6) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to exempt personal property of a nonresident of this state or of an individual who has left or is about to leave this state with the intention to defraud his or her creditors.

(7) Personal property exemptions are waived by failure to claim them prior to sale of exemptible property under execution or, in a garnishment proceeding, within the time specified in RCW 6.27.160.

(8) Personal property exemptions may not be claimed by one spouse in a bankruptcy case that is not a joint case or a joint administration of the estate with the bankruptcy estate of the other spouse where (a) bankruptcy is filed by both spouses within a six-month period, and (b) one spouse exempts property from property of the estate under the bankruptcy exemption provisions of 11 U.S.C. Sec. 522(d).

(9) No property may be exempt under RCW 6.15.010 from execution, levy, attachment, or garnishment issued by or on behalf of a child support agency operating under Title IV-D of the federal social security act or by or on behalf of any agent or assignee of the child support agency. [2002 c 265 § 2; 1987 c 442 § 305; 1981 c 149 § 2; 1927 c 136 § 1; Code 1881 § 348; 1877 p 74 § 352; 1869 p 88 § 344; RRS § 571. Formerly RCW 6.16.080.]

**6.15.060 Manner of claiming exemptions—Appraisal—Appraiser's fee.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, property claimed exempt under RCW 6.15.010 shall be selected by the individual entitled to the exemption, or by the husband or wife entitled to a community exemption, in the manner described in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) If, at the time of seizure under execution or attachment of property exemptible under \*RCW 6.15.010(3) (a), (b), or (c), the individual or the husband or wife entitled to claim the exemption is not present, then the sheriff or deputy shall make a selection equal in value to the applicable exemptions and, if no appraisal is required and no objection is made by the creditor as permitted under subsection (4) of this section, the officer shall return the same as exempt by inventory. Any selection made as provided shall be prima facie evidence (a) that the property so selected is exempt from execution and attachment, and (b) that the property so selected is not in excess of the values specified for the exemptions.

(3)(a) A debtor who claims personal property as exempt against execution or attachment shall, at any time before sale, deliver to the officer making the levy a list by separate items of the property claimed as exempt, together with an itemized list of all the personal property owned or claimed by the debtor, including money, bonds, bills, notes, claims and demands, with the residence of the person indebted upon the said bonds, bills, notes, claims and demands, and shall verify such list by affidavit. The officer shall immediately advise the creditor, attorney, or agent of the exemption claim and, if no appraisal is required and no objection is made by the creditor as permitted under subsection (4) of this section, the officer shall return with the process the list of property claimed as exempt.

(b) A debtor who claims personal property exempt against garnishment shall proceed as provided in RCW 6.27.160.

(c) A debtor who claims as a homestead, under chapter 6.13 RCW, a mobile home that is not yet occupied as a homestead and that is located on land not owned by the debtor shall claim the homestead as against a specific levy by delivering to the sheriff who levied on the mobile home, before sale under the levy, a declaration of homestead that contains (i) a declaration that the debtor owns the mobile home, intends to reside therein, and claims it as a homestead, and (ii) a description of the mobile home, a statement where it is located or was located before the levy, and an estimate of its actual cash value.

(d) A debtor who claims as a homestead, under RCW 6.13.040, any other personal property, shall at any time before sale, deliver to the officer making the levy a notice of claim of homestead in a statement that sets forth the following: (i) The debtor owns the personal property; (ii) the debtor resides thereon as a homestead; (iii) the debtor's estimate of the fair market value of the property; and (iv) the debtor's description of the property in sufficient detail for the officer making the levy to identify the same.

(4)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a creditor, or the agent or attorney of a creditor, who wishes to object to a claim of exemption shall proceed as provided in RCW 6.27.160 and shall give notice of the objection to the officer not later than seven days after the officer's giving notice of the exemption claim.

(b) A creditor, or the agent or attorney of the creditor, who wishes to object to a claim of exemption made to a levying officer, on the ground that the property claimed exceeds exemptible value, may demand appraisal. If the creditor, or the agent or attorney of the creditor, demands an appraisal, two disinterested persons shall be chosen to appraise

the property, one by the debtor and the other by the creditor, agent or attorney, and these two, if they cannot agree, shall select a third; but if either party fails to choose an appraiser, or the two fail to select a third, or if one or more of the appraisers fail to act, the court shall appoint one or more as the circumstances require. The appraisers shall forthwith proceed to make a list by separate items, of the personal property selected by the debtor as exempt, which they shall decide as exempt, stating the value of each article, and annexing to the list their affidavit to the following effect: "We solemnly swear that to the best of our judgment the above is a fair cash valuation of the property therein described," which affidavit shall be signed by two appraisers at least, and be certified by the officer administering the oaths. The list shall be delivered to the officer holding the execution or attachment and be annexed to and made part of the return, and the property therein specified shall be exempt from levy and sale, but the other personal estate of the debtor shall remain subject to execution, attachment, or garnishment. Each appraiser shall be entitled to fifteen dollars or such larger fee as shall be fixed by the court, to be paid by the creditor if all the property claimed by the debtor shall be exempt; otherwise to be paid by the debtor.

(c) If, within seven days following the giving of notice to a creditor of an exemption claim, the officer has received no notice from the creditor of an objection to the claim or a demand for appraisal, the officer shall release the claimed property to the debtor. [1993 c 200 § 5; 1988 c 231 § 7; 1987 c 442 § 306; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 15; Code 1881 § 349; 1877 p 74 § 353; 1869 p 88 § 346; RRS § 572. Formerly RCW 6.16.090.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 6.15.010 was amended by 1991 c 112 § 1, changing subsection (3)(a), (b), and (c) to subsection (3)(a) and (b). RCW 6.15.010 was subsequently amended by 2011 c 162 § 2, changing subsection (3)(a) and (b) to subsection (1)(c)(i) and (ii). RCW 6.15.010 was subsequently amended by 2018 c 199 § 203, changing subsection (1)(c)(i) and (ii) to subsection (1)(d)(i) and (ii).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.15.070 Procedure if value of property claimed exempt exceeds exemptible value.** If from an appraisal it appears that the value of the property claimed exempt, exclusive of liens and encumbrances, exceeds the exemptible value and the property is indivisible, the property shall be put up for sale on execution, but at the sale no bid may be received unless it exceeds the exempt value. The proceeds of a sale in excess of the exempt value shall be paid, first, to the debtor to the extent of the exempt amount; second, up to the amount of the execution, to the satisfaction of the execution; third, the balance to be paid to the debtor. A judgment creditor who is the successful bidder at the sale must pay the exempt amount in cash. [1987 c 442 § 307.]

**6.15.900 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

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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 § 13.]

**Chapter 6.17 RCW  
EXECUTIONS**

Sections

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**6.17.010 Application of chapter to district courts.**

Unless otherwise expressly provided, all provisions of this chapter governing execution against personal property apply to proceedings before district courts of this state, but the district courts shall not have power to issue writs of execution against real property or any interest in real property or against a vendor's interest in a real estate contract. [1987 c 442 § 401.]

**6.17.020 Execution authorized within 10 years—Exceptions—Fee—Recoverable cost. (Effective until January 1, 2023.)**

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2), (3), and (4) of this section, the party in whose favor a judgment of a court has been or may be filed or rendered, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may have an execution, garnishment, or other legal process issued for the collection or enforcement of the judgment at any time within ten years from entry of the judgment or the filing of the judgment in this state.

(2) After July 23, 1989, a party who obtains a judgment or order of a court or an administrative order entered as defined in RCW 74.20A.020(6) for accrued child support, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may have an execution, garnishment, or other legal process issued upon that judgment or order at any time within ten years of the eighteenth birthday of the youngest child named in the order for whom support is ordered.

(3) After June 9, 1994, a party in whose favor a judgment has been filed as a foreign judgment or rendered pursuant to

subsection (1) or (4) of this section, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may, within ninety days before the expiration of the original ten-year period, apply to the court that rendered the judgment or to the court where the judgment was filed as a foreign judgment for an order granting an additional ten years during which an execution, garnishment, or other legal process may be issued. If a district court judgment of this state is transcribed to a superior court of this state, the original district court judgment shall not be extended and any petition under this section to extend the judgment that has been transcribed to superior court shall be filed in the superior court within ninety days before the expiration of the ten-year period of the date the transcript of the district court judgment was filed in the superior court of this state. The petitioner shall pay to the court a filing fee equal to the filing fee for filing the first or initial paper in a civil action in the court, except in the case of district court judgments transcribed to superior court, where the filing fee shall be the fee for filing the first or initial paper in a civil action in the superior court where the judgment was transcribed. The order granting the application shall contain an updated judgment summary as provided in RCW 4.64.030. The filing fee required under this subsection shall be included in the judgment summary and shall be a recoverable cost. The application shall be granted as a matter of right, subject to review only for timeliness, factual issues of full or partial satisfaction, or errors in calculating the judgment summary amounts.

(4) A party who obtains a judgment or order for restitution, crime victims' assessment, or other court-ordered legal financial obligations pursuant to a criminal judgment and sentence, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may execute, garnish, and/or have legal process issued upon the judgment or order any time within ten years subsequent to the entry of the judgment and sentence or ten years following the offender's release from total confinement as provided in chapter 9.94A RCW. The clerk of superior court, or a party designated by the clerk, may seek extension under subsection (3) of this section for purposes of collection as allowed under RCW 36.18.190, provided that no filing fee shall be required.

(5) "Court" as used in this section includes but is not limited to the United States supreme court, the United States courts of appeals, the United States district courts, the United States bankruptcy courts, the Washington state supreme court, the court of appeals of the state of Washington, superior courts and district courts of the counties of the state of Washington, and courts of other states and jurisdictions from which judgment has been filed in this state under chapter 6.36 or \*6.40 RCW.

(6) The perfection of any judgment lien and the priority of that judgment lien on property as established by RCW 6.13.090 and chapter 4.56 RCW is not altered by the extension of the judgment pursuant to the provisions of this section and the lien remains in full force and effect and does not have to be rerecorded after it is extended. Continued perfection of a judgment that has been transcribed to other counties and perfected in those counties may be accomplished after extension of the judgment by filing with the clerk of the other counties where the judgment has been filed either a certified copy of the order extending the judgment or a certified copy of the docket of the matter where the judgment was extended.

(7) Except as ordered in RCW 4.16.020 (2) or (3), chapter 9.94A RCW, or chapter 13.40 RCW, no judgment is enforceable for a period exceeding twenty years from the date of entry in the originating court. Nothing in this section may be interpreted to extend the expiration date of a foreign judgment beyond the expiration date under the laws of the jurisdiction where the judgment originated.

(8) The chapter 261, Laws of 2002 amendments to this section apply to all judgments currently in effect on June 13, 2002, to all judgments extended after June 9, 1994, unless the judgment has been satisfied, vacated, and/or quashed, and to all judgments filed or rendered, or both, after June 13, 2002. [2002 c 261 § 1; 1997 c 121 § 1; 1995 c 231 § 4; 1994 c 189 § 1; 1989 c 360 § 3; 1987 c 442 § 402; 1980 c 105 § 4; 1971 c 81 § 26; 1929 c 25 § 2; RRS § 510. Prior: 1888 p 94 § 1; Code 1881 § 325; 1877 p 67 § 328; 1869 p 79 § 320; 1854 p 175 § 242. Formerly RCW 6.04.010.]

**Rules of court:** Cf. CR 58(b), 62(a), and 69(a); JCR 54.

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 6.40 RCW was repealed in its entirety by chapter 363, Laws of 2009. Later enactment, see chapter 6.40A RCW.

*Entry of judgment:* RCW 6.01.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.17.020 Execution authorized within 10 years—Exceptions—Fee—Recoverable cost. (Effective January 1, 2023.)** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2), (3), and (4) of this section, the party in whose favor a judgment of a court has been or may be filed or rendered, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may have an execution, garnishment, or other legal process issued for the collection or enforcement of the judgment at any time within 10 years from entry of the judgment or the filing of the judgment in this state.

(2) After July 23, 1989, a party who obtains a judgment or order of a court or an administrative order entered as defined in RCW 74.20A.020(6) for accrued child support, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may have an execution, garnishment, or other legal process issued upon that judgment or order at any time within 10 years of the 18th birthday of the youngest child named in the order for whom support is ordered.

(3) After June 9, 1994, a party in whose favor a judgment has been filed as a foreign judgment or rendered pursuant to subsection (1) or (4) of this section, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may, within 90 days before the expiration of the original 10-year period, apply to the court that rendered the judgment or to the court where the judgment was filed as a foreign judgment for an order granting an additional 10 years during which an execution, garnishment, or other legal process may be issued. If a district court judgment of this state is transcribed to a superior court of this state, the original district court judgment shall not be extended and any petition under this section to extend the judgment that has been transcribed to superior court shall be filed in the superior court within 90 days before the expiration of the 10-year period of the date the transcript of the district court judgment was filed in the superior court of this state. The petitioner shall pay to the court a filing fee equal to the filing fee for filing the first or initial paper in a civil action in the court, except in the case of district court judgments transcribed to superior court, where the filing fee shall be the fee for filing

the first or initial paper in a civil action in the superior court where the judgment was transcribed. The order granting the application shall contain an updated judgment summary as provided in RCW 4.64.030. The filing fee required under this subsection shall be included in the judgment summary and shall be a recoverable cost. The application shall be granted as a matter of right, subject to review only for timeliness, factual issues of full or partial satisfaction, or errors in calculating the judgment summary amounts.

(4)(a) A party who obtains a judgment or order for restitution pursuant to a criminal judgment and sentence, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may execute, garnish, and/or have legal process issued upon the judgment or order any time within 10 years subsequent to the entry of the judgment and sentence or 10 years following the offender's release from total confinement as provided in chapter 9.94A RCW. The clerk of [the] superior court, or a party designated by the clerk, may seek extension under subsection (3) of this section for purposes of collection as allowed under RCW 36.18.190, provided that no filing fee shall be required.

(b) A party who obtains a judgment or order for court-ordered legal financial obligations other than restitution, pursuant to a criminal judgment and sentence, or the assignee or the current holder thereof, may execute, garnish, and have legal process issued upon the judgment or order any time within 10 years subsequent to the entry of the judgment and sentence or 10 years following the offender's release from total confinement as provided in chapter 9.94A RCW. The clerk of [the] superior court, or a party designated by the clerk, may seek extension under subsection (3) of this section for purposes of collection as allowed under RCW 36.18.190, only if the court finds that the offender has the current or likely future ability to pay the nonrestitution legal financial obligations. A person does not have the current ability to pay if the person is indigent as defined in RCW 10.01.160(3). No filing fee shall be required for filing a petition for an extension pursuant to this subsection (4)(b).

(5) "Court" as used in this section includes but is not limited to the United States supreme court, the United States courts of appeals, the United States district courts, the United States bankruptcy courts, the Washington state supreme court, the court of appeals of the state of Washington, superior courts and district courts of the counties of the state of Washington, and courts of other states and jurisdictions from which judgment has been filed in this state under chapter 6.36 or \*6.40 RCW.

(6) The perfection of any judgment lien and the priority of that judgment lien on property as established by RCW 6.13.090 and chapter 4.56 RCW is not altered by the extension of the judgment pursuant to the provisions of this section and the lien remains in full force and effect and does not have to be rerecorded after it is extended. Continued perfection of a judgment that has been transcribed to other counties and perfected in those counties may be accomplished after extension of the judgment by filing with the clerk of the other counties where the judgment has been filed either a certified copy of the order extending the judgment or a certified copy of the docket of the matter where the judgment was extended.

(7) Except as ordered in RCW 4.16.020 (2) or (3), chapter 9.94A RCW, or chapter 13.40 RCW, no judgment is enforceable for a period exceeding 20 years from the date of

entry in the originating court. Nothing in this section may be interpreted to extend the expiration date of a foreign judgment beyond the expiration date under the laws of the jurisdiction where the judgment originated.

(8) The chapter 261, Laws of 2002 amendments to this section apply to all judgments currently in effect on June 13, 2002, to all judgments extended after June 9, 1994, unless the judgment has been satisfied, vacated, and/or quashed, and to all judgments filed or rendered, or both, after June 13, 2002. [2022 c 260 § 5; 2002 c 261 § 1; 1997 c 121 § 1; 1995 c 231 § 4; 1994 c 189 § 1; 1989 c 360 § 3; 1987 c 442 § 402; 1980 c 105 § 4; 1971 c 81 § 26; 1929 c 25 § 2; RRS § 510. Prior: 1888 p 94 § 1; Code 1881 § 325; 1877 p 67 § 328; 1869 p 79 § 320; 1854 p 175 § 242. Formerly RCW 6.04.010.]

**Rules of court:** Cf. CR 58(b), 62(a), and 69(a); JCR 54.

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 6.40 RCW was repealed in its entirety by chapter 363, Laws of 2009. Later enactment, see chapter 6.40A RCW.

**Construction—Effective date—2022 c 260:** See notes following RCW 3.66.120.

*Entry of judgment:* RCW 6.01.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.17.030 Execution in name of assignee or personal representative.** When a judgment recovered in any court of this state has been assigned, execution may issue in the name of the assignee after the assignment has been recorded in the execution docket by the clerk of the court in which the judgment was recovered. When the person in whose name execution might have issued has died, execution may issue in the name of the executor, administrator or legal representative of such deceased person after letters testamentary or of administration or other sufficient proof has been filed in the cause and recorded in the execution docket by the clerk of the court in which the judgment was entered. [1987 c 442 § 403; 1957 c 8 § 2; 1929 c 25 § 7; RRS § 519. Prior: Code 1881 § 334; 1877 p 70 § 338; 1869 p 84 § 330. Formerly RCW 6.04.070.]

**6.17.040 Stay of execution—Bond—Time periods.** In addition to any stay of execution provided by court rule, stay of execution shall be allowed on judgments of the courts of this state for the following periods upon the judgment debtor filing with the clerk of the court in which the judgment was entered a bond in double the amount of the judgment and costs, with surety to the satisfaction of the clerk, conditioned to pay the judgment, interests, costs, and increased costs, at the expiration of the stay period. If execution is issued before elapse of the stay period, the judgment debtor may nevertheless stay execution for the balance of the period by filing the required bond.

(1) In the supreme court and the court of appeals, the period of stay, measured from date of entry of judgment, shall be:

- (a) On all sums under five thousand dollars, thirty days;
- (b) On all sums over five and under fifteen thousand dollars, sixty days; and
- (c) On all sums over fifteen thousand dollars, ninety days.

(2) On judgments rendered in the superior court or a district court of this state, the period of stay shall be:

- (a) On all sums under three thousand dollars, two months;

(b) On all sums over three thousand and under ten thousand dollars, five months; and

(c) On all sums over ten thousand dollars, six months. [1987 c 442 § 404.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. CR 62(a).*

**6.17.050 Stay of execution—Judgment against surety on bond if not paid.** If execution of a judgment is stayed as permitted by RCW 6.17.040 and the judgment is not satisfied at expiration of the stay period, at any time thereafter the judgment creditor may, upon motion supported by an affidavit that the judgment or any part of it is unpaid and stating how much still remains due, have judgment against the surety on the bond for the balance remaining due, and have an execution on the judgment against the surety, on which stay shall not be allowed. [1987 c 442 § 405.]

**6.17.060 Kinds of execution.** There shall be three kinds of executions: First, against the property of the judgment debtor; second, for the delivery of the possession of real or personal property or such delivery with damages for withholding the same; and third, commanding the enforcement of or obedience to any other order of the court. In all cases there shall be an order to collect the costs. [1987 c 442 § 406; 1929 c 25 § 3; RRS § 511. Prior: Code 1881 § 327; 1877 p 68 § 331; 1854 p 176 § 244. Formerly RCW 6.04.020.]

**6.17.070 Execution in particular cases.** When any judgment of a court of this state requires the payment of money or the delivery of real or personal property, it may be enforced by execution. When a judgment of a court of record requires the performance of any other act, a certified copy of the judgment may be served on the party against whom it is given or the person or officer who is required by the judgment or by law to obey the same, and a writ may be issued commanding the person or officer to obey or enforce the judgment. Refusal to do so may be punished by the court as for contempt. [1987 c 442 § 407; 1957 c 8 § 1; 1929 c 25 § 1; RRS § 512. Prior: Code 1881 § 326; 1877 p 68 § 330; 1854 p 176 § 244. Formerly RCW 6.04.030.]

**6.17.080 Enforcement of judgment against local governmental entity.** No execution may issue for collection of a judgment for the recovery of money or damages against a local governmental entity. Any such judgment may be enforced as follows:

(1) The judgment creditor may at any time when execution might issue on a like judgment against a private person, and after acknowledging satisfaction of the judgment as in ordinary cases, obtain from the clerk a certified transcript of the judgment. The clerk shall include in the transcript a copy of the memorandum of acknowledgment of satisfaction and the entry thereof as the basis for an order on the treasurer for payment. Unless the transcript contains such memorandum, no order upon the treasurer shall issue thereon.

(2) The judgment creditor shall present the certified transcript showing satisfaction of the judgment to the officer of the local governmental entity who is authorized to draw orders on its treasury.

(3) The officer shall draw an order on the treasurer for the amount of the judgment, in favor of the judgment credi-

tor. The order shall be presented for payment and paid with like effect and in like manner as other orders upon the treasurer. If the proper officer of the local governmental entity fails or refuses to draw the order for payment of the judgment as provided in this section, a writ of mandamus may be issued in the original case to compel performance of the duty.

(4) As used in this section, the term "local governmental entity" means a county, city, town, special district, municipal corporation, or quasi-municipal corporation. [1993 c 449 § 6; 1987 c 442 § 408; Code 1881 § 664; 1877 p 137 § 667; 1869 p 154 § 604; RRS § 953. Formerly RCW 6.04.140.]

**Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

**6.17.090 Property liable to execution.** All property, real and personal, of the judgment debtor that is not exempted by law is liable to execution. [1987 c 442 § 409; 1929 c 25 § 6; RRS § 518. Prior: Code 1881 § 333; 1877 p 70 § 337; 1854 p 177 § 251. Formerly RCW 6.04.060.]

**6.17.100 Affidavit of judgment creditor—Filing required before issuance of writ—Contents.** (1) Before a writ of execution may issue on any real property, the judgment creditor must file with the court an affidavit as described in subsection (4) of this section and must mail a copy of the affidavit to the judgment debtor at the debtor's last known address.

(2) If the affidavit attests that the premises are occupied or otherwise claimed as a homestead by the judgment debtor, the execution for the enforcement of a judgment obtained in a case not within the classes enumerated in RCW 6.13.080 must comply with RCW 6.13.100 through 6.13.170.

(3) The term "due diligence," as used in subsection (4) of this section, includes but is not limited to the creditor or the creditor's representative personally visiting the premises, contacting the occupants and inquiring about their relationship to the judgment debtor, contacting immediate neighbors of the premises, and searching the records of the auditor of the county in which the property is located to determine if a declaration of homestead or nonabandonment has been recorded by the judgment debtor. An examination of the debtor in supplemental proceedings on the points to be covered in the affidavit constitutes "due diligence."

(4) The affidavit required by this section shall include:

(a) A statement that the judgment creditor has exercised due diligence to ascertain whether the judgment debtor has sufficient nonexempt personal property to satisfy the judgment with interest and believes that there is not sufficient nonexempt personal property belonging to the judgment debtor to so satisfy the judgment. A list of personal property located shall be attached with an indication of any items that the judgment creditor believes to be exempt.

(b) A statement that the judgment creditor has exercised due diligence to ascertain whether the property is occupied or otherwise claimed by the judgment debtor as a homestead as defined in chapter 6.13 RCW.

(c) A statement based on belief whether the judgment debtor is currently occupying the property as the judgment debtor's principal residence and whether there is a declaration of homestead or nonabandonment of record. If the affidavit alleges that the property is not occupied or claimed as a

homestead, the creditor must list the facts relied upon to reach that conclusion.

(d) If the judgment debtor is not occupying the property and there is no declaration of nonabandonment of record, a statement based on belief whether the judgment debtor has been absent for a period of at least six months, with facts relied upon to reach that conclusion, and, if known, the judgment debtor's current address. [1988 c 231 § 8; 1987 c 442 § 410; 1981 c 329 § 4. Formerly RCW 6.04.035.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.17.110 Form and contents of writ.** (1) The writ of execution shall be issued in the name of the state of Washington, sealed with the seal of the court, and subscribed by the clerk of the court in which the judgment was entered or to which it has been transferred, and shall be directed to the sheriff of the county in which the property is situated. The writ shall intelligibly refer to the judgment, stating the court, the county where the judgment was rendered, the names of the parties, the amount of the judgment if it be for money, and the amount actually due thereon; and if the judgment has been recorded, the writ shall so indicate and shall state the recording number.

(2) Before an execution is delivered on a judgment of a district court of this state, the amount of the judgment, or damages and costs, and the fees due to each person separately shall be entered in the docket and on the back of the execution. In any proceeding to enforce a judgment certified to a district court from the small claims department under \*RCW 12.40.110, the execution shall include the amount of the judgment owed plus reasonable costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the judgment creditor in seeking enforcement of the judgment in district court.

(3) A writ shall require substantially as follows:

(a) If the execution is against the property of the judgment debtor, it shall require the officer to satisfy the judgment out of the personal property of the debtor unless an affidavit has been filed with the court pursuant to RCW 6.17.100, in which case it shall require that the judgment be satisfied out of the real property of the debtor.

(b) If the execution is against real or personal property in the hands of a personal representative, heir, devisee, legatee, tenant of real property, or trustee, it shall require the officer to satisfy the judgment out of such property.

(c) If the execution is for the delivery of real or personal property, it shall particularly describe the property and state its value and require the officer to deliver possession of it to the party entitled thereto, and may, at the same time, require the officer to satisfy any charges, damages, or rents and profits recovered by the same judgment, out of the personal property of the party against whom it was rendered. If the property described in the execution cannot be delivered, and if sufficient personal property cannot be found to satisfy the judgment, it shall be satisfied out of the real property of the party against whom the judgment was rendered.

(d) If the execution is to enforce obedience to any order, it shall particularly command what is required to be done or to be omitted.

(e) If the nature of the case requires it, the execution may embrace two or more of the requirements of this section.

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(f) In all cases the execution shall require the collection of all interest, costs, and increased costs thereon. [1988 c 231 § 9; 1987 c 442 § 411; 1981 c 329 § 5; 1929 c 25 § 4; RRS § 513. Prior: Code 1881 § 324; 1877 p 68 § 332; 1869 p 81 § 324; 1854 p 176 § 246. Formerly RCW 6.04.040.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 12.40.110 was repealed by 2019 c 251 § 10.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.17.120 Sheriff's duty on receiving writ—Order of executing writs.** The sheriff or other officer shall indorse upon the writ of execution in ink, the day, hour, and minute when the writ first came into his or her hands, and the execution shall be returned with a report of proceedings under the writ within sixty days after its date to the clerk who issued it. When there are several writs of execution or of execution and attachment against the same debtor, they shall be executed in the order in which they were received by the sheriff. [1987 c 442 § 412; 1983 1st ex.s. c 45 § 1; 1929 c 25 § 5; RRS § 515. Prior: Code 1881 § 330; 1877 p 69 § 334; 1869 p 83 § 226; 1854 p 177 § 248. Formerly RCW 6.04.050.]

**6.17.130 Sheriff's execution and service of writ—Sale date—Notice to judgment debtor.** When the writ of execution is against the property of the judgment debtor, the sheriff shall set the date of sale and serve on the debtor, in the same manner as service of a summons in a civil action, or cause to be transmitted by both regular mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the writ, together with copies of RCW 6.13.010, 6.13.030, and 6.13.040 if real property is to be levied on, or copies of RCW 6.15.010 and 6.15.060 if personal property is to be levied on, and shall at the time of service, or with the mailing, notify the judgment debtor of the date of sale. If service on the judgment debtor must be effected by publication, only the following notice need be published under the caption of the case:

To . . . . ., Judgment Debtor:

A writ of execution has been issued in the above-captioned case, directed to the sheriff of . . . . . county, commanding the sheriff as follows:

"WHEREAS, . . . [Quoting body of writ of execution]."

The sale date has been set for . . . . . YOU MAY HAVE A RIGHT TO EXEMPT PROPERTY from the sale under statutes of this state, including sections 6.13.010, 6.13.030, 6.13.040, 6.15.010, and 6.15.060 of the Revised Code of Washington, in the manner described in those statutes.

[1988 c 231 § 10; 1987 c 442 § 413; 1984 c 276 § 7; 1983 c 3 § 6; 1981 c 193 § 1; Code 1881 § 355; 1877 p 76 § 358; 1869 p 91 § 351; RRS § 578. Formerly RCW 6.04.100.]

**Rules of court:** *CR 4.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.17.140 Sheriff's execution of writ—Satisfaction of judgment—Proceeds to clerk—Distribution of proceeds.** The sheriff shall, at a time as near before or after service of the writ on, or mailing of the writ to, the judgment debtor as is possible, execute the writ as follows:

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(1) If property has been attached, the sheriff shall indorse on the execution, and pay to the clerk forthwith, if he or she has not already done so, the amount of the proceeds of sales of perishable property or debts due the defendant previously received, sufficient to satisfy the judgment.

(2) If the judgment is not then satisfied, and property has been attached and remains in custody, the sheriff shall sell the same, or sufficient thereof to satisfy the judgment. When property has been attached and it is probable that such property will not be sufficient to satisfy the judgment, the sheriff may, on instructions from the judgment creditor, levy on other property of the judgment debtor without delay.

(3) If then any portion of the judgment remains unsatisfied, or if no property has been attached or the same has been discharged, the sheriff shall levy on the property of the judgment debtor, sufficient to satisfy the judgment, in the manner described in RCW 6.17.160.

(4) If, after the judgment is satisfied, any property remains in custody, the sheriff shall deliver it to the judgment debtor.

(5) Until a levy, personal property shall not be affected by the execution.

(6) When property has been sold or debts received on execution, the sheriff shall pay the proceeds to the clerk who issued the writ, for satisfaction of the judgment as commanded in the writ or for payment of any excess proceeds to all interests in, or liens against, the property eliminated by the sale in the order of priority that the interest, lien, or claim attached to the property, as determined by the court. Any remaining proceeds shall be paid to the judgment debtor. No sheriff or other officer may retain any moneys collected on execution more than twenty days before paying the same to the clerk of the court who issued the writ. [2014 c 107 § 3; 1988 c 231 § 11; 1987 c 442 § 414.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.17.150 Clerk's duty on receipt of execution proceeds.** Upon receipt of proceeds from the sheriff on execution, the clerk shall notify the party to whom the same is payable, and pay over the amount to that party as required by law. If any proceeds remain after satisfaction of the judgment, the clerk shall pay the excess to all interests in, or liens against, the property eliminated by the sale in the order of priority that the interest, lien, or claim attached to the property, as determined by the court. Any remaining proceeds shall be paid to the judgment debtor. [2014 c 107 § 4; 1987 c 442 § 415.]

**6.17.160 Sheriff's execution of writ—Manner of levy.** The sheriff to whom the writ is directed and delivered shall execute the same without delay as follows:

(1) Real property, including a vendee's interests under a real estate contract, shall be levied on by recording a copy of the writ, together with a description of the property attached, with the recording officer of the county in which the real estate is situated.

(2) Personal property, capable of manual delivery, shall be levied on by taking into custody. If the property or any part of it may be concealed in a building or enclosure, the sheriff may publicly demand delivery of the property. If the property is not delivered and if the order of execution so directs, the

sheriff may cause the building or enclosure to be broken open and take possession of the property.

(3) Shares of stock and other investment securities shall be levied on in accordance with the requirements of RCW 62A.8-112.

(4) A fund in court shall be levied on by leaving a copy of the writ with the clerk of the court with notice in writing specifying the fund.

(5) A franchise granted by a public or quasi-public corporation shall be levied on by (a) serving a copy of the writ on, or mailing it to, the judgment debtor as required by RCW 6.17.130 and (b) filing a copy of the writ in the office of the auditor of the county in which the franchise was granted together with a notice in writing that the franchise has been levied on to be sold, specifying the time and place of sale, the name of the owner, the amount of the judgment for which the franchise is to be sold, and the name of the judgment creditor.

(6) A vendor's interest under a real estate contract shall be levied on by (a) recording a copy of the writ, with descriptions of the contract and of the real property covered by the contract, with the recording officer of the county in which the real estate is located and (b) serving a copy of the writ, with a copy of the descriptions, on, or mailing the same to, the judgment debtor and the vendee under the contract in the manner as described in RCW 6.17.130.

(7) Other intangible personal property may be levied on by serving a copy of the writ on, or mailing it to, the judgment debtor in the manner as required by RCW 6.17.130, together with a description of the property. If the property is a claim on which suit has been commenced, a copy of the writ and of the description shall also be filed with the clerk of the court in which the suit is pending. [2010 1st sp.s. c 26 § 1; 2007 c 37 § 1; 1988 c 231 § 12; 1987 c 442 § 416; 1927 c 100 § 1; 1886 p 42 § 13; RRS § 659. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.130.]

*Sheriff's fees for service of process and other official services: RCW 36.18.040.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.17.170 Levy on jointly owned real estate.** If a judgment debtor owns real estate jointly or in common with any other person, only the debtor's interest may be levied on and sold on execution, and the sheriff's notice of sale shall describe the extent of the debtor's interest to be sold as accurately as possible. [1987 c 442 § 417.]

**6.17.180 Levy on jointly owned personal property.** When a judgment debtor owns personal property jointly or in common with any other person, only the debtor's interest may be levied on and sold on execution, and the sheriff's notice of sale shall describe the extent of the debtor's interest as accurately as possible.

If the debtor's interest cannot be separately levied on, the sheriff shall take possession of the property unless the other person having an interest gives the sheriff a sufficient bond, with surety, conditioned to hold and manage the property according to law; and the sheriff shall then proceed to sell the interest of the defendant in such property. This section shall not be construed so as to deprive the joint or common owner



of any interest in the property. [1987 c 442 § 418; 1957 c 8 § 3; Code 1881 § 752; 1877 p 152 § 757; 1869 p 174 § 694; 1854 p 220 § 499; RRS § 580. Formerly RCW 6.04.120.]

**6.17.190 Retention of property by judgment debtor—On bond or approval of judgment creditor.** (1) After levy of execution upon personal property, the sheriff may permit the judgment debtor to retain possession of the property or any part of it until the day of sale, upon the debtor executing a written bond to the sheriff with sufficient surety, in double the value of such property, to the effect that it shall be delivered to the sheriff at the time and place of sale, and for nondelivery thereof, an action may be maintained upon such bond by the sheriff or the judgment creditor, or the judgment creditor may, on motion supported by affidavit that the property has not been delivered and the judgment remains unpaid, stating the amount unpaid, have judgment against the surety on the bond for the balance remaining due.

(2) In the alternative, the sheriff may appoint the judgment debtor as an agent to keep the property, without bond, upon written approval by the judgment creditor. [1988 c 231 § 13; 1987 c 442 § 419; Code 1881 § 358; 1877 p 77 § 361; 1869 p 92 § 354; 1854 p 182 § 268; RRS § 581. Formerly RCW 6.04.130.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 6.19 RCW

### ADVERSE CLAIMS TO PROPERTY LEVIED ON

#### Sections

6.19.010	Definitions.
6.19.020	Application of chapter—Common law or other remedies not superseded.
6.19.030	Affidavit of adverse claimant—Bond—Hearing.
6.19.040	Justification of sureties.
6.19.050	Filing of affidavit by sheriff—Designation of parties—Trial.
6.19.060	Judgment—Costs.

**6.19.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Adverse claimant" means a person, other than the judgment debtor or defendant, who claims title or right to possession of property levied on.

(2) "Levying creditor" means the judgment creditor or plaintiff who obtained the writ of execution or attachment under which levy was made. [1987 c 442 § 501.]

**6.19.020 Application of chapter—Common law or other remedies not superseded.** An adverse claimant may assert a claim under the procedures provided in this chapter whether the levy was made under a writ of execution or of attachment and whether the writ was issued by a superior court or a district court of this state, but this chapter does not supersede common law or other remedies available to an adverse claimant before or after levy or sale. [1987 c 442 § 502.]

**6.19.030 Affidavit of adverse claimant—Bond—Hearing.** (1) An adverse claimant to property levied on may demand and receive the property from the sheriff who made the levy, upon making and delivering to the sheriff an affidavit that the property is owned by the claimant or that the

claimant has a right to the immediate possession thereof, stating on oath the value thereof, and giving to the sheriff a bond, with sureties in double the value of such property. The bond shall be conditioned that the claimant will appear in the court specified in RCW 6.19.050 after the bond is accepted by the sheriff, and make good the claim in the affidavit or will return the property or pay its value to the sheriff.

(2) Without giving a bond, an adverse claimant who delivers to the sheriff an affidavit as described in subsection (1) of this section may, on motion made within seven days after delivering the affidavit, appear in the court specified in RCW 6.19.050, with notice to the sheriff and to the attorney of record for the levying creditor, if any, otherwise to the levying creditor, and set a hearing at which the probable validity of the claim stated in the affidavit can be considered. If the court, after the hearing, finds that the claim is probably valid, it shall direct the sheriff to release the claimed property to the claimant; otherwise, the court shall direct the sheriff to continue to hold the property unless the claimant gives a bond as provided in subsection (1) of this section. [1987 c 442 § 503; 1891 c 40 § 1; Code 1881 § 350; 1877 p 75 § 354; 1869 p 89 § 347; 1854 p 179 § 256; RRS § 573. Formerly RCW 6.20.010.]

**6.19.040 Justification of sureties.** If the adverse claimant posts a bond and the sheriff requires it, the sureties shall justify as in other cases, and in case they do not so justify when required, the sheriff shall retain the property; if the sheriff does not require the sureties to justify, he or she shall stand good for their sufficiency. The sheriff shall date and indorse acceptance upon the bond. [1987 c 442 § 504; 1957 c 8 § 5; Code 1881 § 351; 1877 p 75 § 354; 1869 p 89 § 347; 1854 p 179 § 256; RRS § 574. Formerly RCW 6.20.020.]

**6.19.050 Filing of affidavit by sheriff—Designation of parties—Trial.** The sheriff shall immediately return the affidavit of an adverse claimant and the bond and justification, if any, to the office of the clerk of the court that issued the writ, unless the property was seized in another county, then to the clerk of the superior court of the county in which the property was seized or, if the levy was made under a writ of a district court of this state, then to a district court, to be selected by the sheriff, in the county in which the property was seized, and this case shall stand for trial in said court. The adverse claimant shall be the plaintiff, and the sheriff and the levying creditor shall be the defendants. The sheriff or levying creditor or both of them may respond to the affidavit, but no further pleadings are required, and any party may cause the matter to be noted for trial. [1987 c 442 § 505; 1891 c 40 § 2; Code 1881 § 352; 1877 p 75 § 355; 1869 p 90 § 348; 1854 p 179 § 257; RRS § 575. Formerly RCW 6.20.030.]

**6.19.060 Judgment—Costs.** If the claimant makes good on all or any part of the claim to title to the property or right to possession, judgment shall be entered for the claimant to the extent the claim has been established. If the claimant has given a bond, the bond shall be canceled or, if the claimant makes good on only a portion of the claim, a like proportion of the bond shall be canceled. If the claimant has not given a bond and the sheriff has retained possession of the

property, judgment shall be entered in favor of the claimant for return of the property or its value.

If the claimant does not maintain the claim, judgment shall be rendered against the claimant. If the claimant has retained possession of the property pending trial on the claim, the judgment shall be entered against the claimant and, if the claimant has given a bond, against the sureties for the return of the property or for the value of the property or of the portion of the property for which the claim is not maintained, or for such lesser amount as shall not exceed the amount due on the original execution or attachment.

When the judgment is in favor of the sheriff for the entire property, the claimant shall pay the costs; when the claimant recovers all the property, judgment shall be given in favor of the claimant for costs; when the claimant recovers a portion of the property only, the costs shall be apportioned. When the claimant prevails, the costs may be taxed against the levying creditor or, if the court finds that the sheriff attached or levied upon the property without the exercise of due caution, the court may require the sheriff to pay the costs or any portion thereof. [1987 c 442 § 506; Code 1881 § 354; 1877 p 76 § 357; 1869 p 90 § 350; 1854 p 179 § 259; RRS § 577. Formerly RCW 6.20.050.]

Chapter 6.21 RCW
SALES UNDER EXECUTION

Sections

6.21.010 Application of chapter to district courts.
6.21.020 Notice of sale—Personal property.
6.21.030 Notice of sale—Real property—Form for publication.
6.21.040 Notice of sale of real property—Form of notice to judgment debtor.
6.21.050 Time and place of sale—Postponements.
6.21.060 Amount of property to be sold—Officers and deputies may not purchase.
6.21.070 Manner of sale of personal property—Bill of sale—Sheriff's deed if real estate contract.
6.21.080 Redemption rights—Sale of short term leasehold and vendor's interest under real estate contract absolute.
6.21.090 Manner of selling real estate—Sale by lot, acre—Measurement.
6.21.100 Sale of real property to highest bidder—Sheriff's return and certificate of sale.
6.21.110 Confirmation of sale—Objections—Resale—Distribution of sale proceeds—Filing of certificate.
6.21.120 Sheriff's deed to real property sold.
6.21.130 Effect of reversal of judgment on sale of real property.

6.21.010 Application of chapter to district courts. All the provisions of this chapter governing sales of personal property, except vendors' interests under real estate contracts, shall apply to proceedings before district courts. [1987 c 442 § 601.]

6.21.020 Notice of sale—Personal property. Before the sale of personal property under execution, order of sale or decree, notice thereof shall be given as follows:

(1) The judgment creditor shall, not less than thirty days prior to the day of sale, cause a copy of the notice of sale to be transmitted both by regular mail and by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the judgment debtor at the debtor's last known address, and by regular mail to the attorney of record for the judgment debtor, if any. The judgment creditor shall file an affidavit with the court showing compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

(2) The sheriff shall post typed or printed notice of the time and place of the sale in three public places in the county in which the sale is to take place, for a period of not less than four weeks prior to the day of sale. [1988 c 231 § 14; 1987 c 442 § 602; 1984 c 276 § 1; 1981 c 329 § 1; 1935 c 35 § 1; RRS § 582. Prior: 1927 c 69 § 1; 1903 c 179 § 1; 1899 c 53 § 3; 1897 c 91 § 1. Formerly RCW 6.24.010.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.21.030 Notice of sale—Real property—Form for publication. Before the sale of real property under execution, order of sale, or decree, notice of the sale shall be given as follows:

(1) The judgment creditor shall:

(a) Not less than thirty days prior to the date of sale, cause a copy of the notice in the form provided in RCW 6.21.040 to be (i) served on the judgment debtor or debtors and each of them in the same manner as a summons in a civil action, or (ii) transmitted both by regular mail and by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the judgment debtor or debtors, and to each of them separately if there is more than one judgment debtor, at each judgment debtor's last known address; and

(b) Not less than thirty days prior to the date of sale, mail a copy of the notice of sale to the attorney of record for the judgment debtor, if any; and

(c) File an affidavit with the court that the judgment creditor has complied with the notice requirements of this section.

(2) The sheriff shall:

(a) For a period of not less than four weeks prior to the date of sale, post a notice in the form provided in RCW 6.21.040, particularly describing the property, in two public places in the county in which the property is located, one of which shall be at the courthouse door, and in case of improved real estate, one of which shall be at the front door of the principal building constituting such improvement; and

(b) Publish a notice of the sale once a week, consecutively, for the same period, in any daily or weekly legal newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which the real property to be sold is situated, but if there is more than one legal newspaper published in the county, then the plaintiff or moving party in the action, suit, or proceeding has the exclusive right to designate in which of the qualified newspapers the notice shall be published, and if there is no qualified legal newspaper published in the county, then the notice shall be published in a qualified legal newspaper published in a contiguous county, as designated by the plaintiff or moving party. The published notice shall be in substantially the following form:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR . . . COUNTY

Plaintiff, vs. Defendant. CAUSE NO. SHERIFF'S PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

TO: [Judgment Debtor]

The Superior Court of . . . . . County has directed the undersigned Sheriff of . . . . . County to sell the property described below to satisfy a judgment in the above-entitled action. If developed, the property address is: . . . . .

The sale of the above-described property is to take place:

- Time: . . . . .
Date: . . . . .
Place: . . . . .

The judgment debtor can avoid the sale by paying the judgment amount of \$ . . . . , together with interest, costs, and fees, before the sale date. For the exact amount, contact the sheriff at the address stated below:

. . . . . SHERIFF-DIRECTOR, . . . . . COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

By . . . . ., Deputy
Address . . . . .
City . . . . .
Washington 9 . . . . .
Phone ( . . ) . . . . .

(c) If the sale is to take place via electronic media, notice of the public sale shall also be posted on the website hosting the auction sale for a period not less than four weeks prior to the date of sale. [2021 c 122 § 10; 1987 c 442 § 603.]

Effective date—2021 c 122 § 10: "Section 10 of this act takes effect July 1, 2022." [2021 c 122 § 16.]

Finding—Intent—2021 c 122: See note following RCW 2.32.050.

6.21.040 Notice of sale of real property—Form of notice to judgment debtor. The notice of sale shall be printed or typed and shall be in substantially the following form, except that if the sale is not pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure of a mortgage or a statutory lien, the notice shall also contain a statement that the sheriff has been informed that there is not sufficient personal property to satisfy the judgment and that if the judgment debtor or debtors do have sufficient personal property to satisfy the judgment, the judgment debtor or debtors should contact the sheriff's office immediately:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR . . . . . COUNTY

Plaintiff, vs. Defendant. CAUSE NO. SHERIFF'S NOTICE TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

TO: [Judgment Debtor]

The Superior Court of . . . . . County has directed the undersigned Sheriff of . . . . . County to sell the property described below to satisfy a judgment in the above-entitled action. The property to be sold is described on the reverse side of this notice. If developed, the property address is: . . . . .

The sale of the above-described property is to take place:

- Time: . . . . .
Date: . . . . .
Place: . . . . .

If the sale is to be conducted by electronic media, include the web address of the sale website.

The judgment debtor can avoid the sale by paying the judgment amount of \$ . . . . , together with interest, costs, and fees, before the sale date. For the exact amount, contact the sheriff at the address stated below:

This property is subject to: (check one)

- 1. No redemption rights after sale.
2. A redemption period of eight months which will expire at 4:30 p.m. on the . . . . day of . . . . ., (year) . . . .
3. A redemption period of one year which will expire at 4:30 p.m. on the . . . . day of . . . . ., (year) . . . .

The judgment debtor or debtors or any of them may redeem the above described property at any time up to the end of the redemption period by paying the amount bid at the sheriff's sale plus additional costs, taxes, assessments, certain other amounts, fees, and interest. If you are interested in redeeming the property contact the undersigned sheriff at the address stated below to determine the exact amount necessary to redeem.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: IF THE JUDGMENT DEBTOR OR DEBTORS DO NOT REDEEM THE PROPERTY BY 4:30 p.m. ON THE . . . . DAY OF . . . . ., (year) . . . . , THE END OF THE REDEMPTION PERIOD, THE PURCHASER AT THE SHERIFF'S SALE WILL BECOME THE OWNER AND MAY EVICT THE OCCUPANT FROM THE PROPERTY UNLESS THE OCCUPANT IS A TENANT HOLDING UNDER AN UNEXPIRED LEASE. IF THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD

IS OCCUPIED AS A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE BY THE JUDGMENT DEBTOR OR DEBTORS AT THE TIME OF SALE, HE, SHE, THEY, OR ANY OF THEM MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO RETAIN POSSESSION DURING THE REDEMPTION PERIOD, IF ANY, WITHOUT PAYMENT OF ANY RENT OR OCCUPANCY FEE. THE JUDGMENT DEBTOR MAY ALSO HAVE A RIGHT TO RETAIN POSSESSION DURING ANY REDEMPTION PERIOD IF THE PROPERTY IS USED FOR FARMING OR IF THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD UNDER A MORTGAGE THAT SO PROVIDES.

. . . . . SHERIFF-DIRECTOR, . . . . . COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

By . . . . ., Deputy
Address . . . . .
City . . . . .
Washington 9 . . . . .
Phone ( . . ) . . . . .

[2021 c 122 § 11; 2016 c 202 § 1; 1987 c 442 § 604; 1984 c 276 § 2; 1981 c 329 § 2. Formerly RCW 6.24.015.]

Finding—Intent—2021 c 122: See note following RCW 2.32.050.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.21.050 Time and place of sale—Postponements. (1)

All sales of property under execution, order of sale, or decree, shall be made by auction between nine o'clock in the morning and four o'clock in the afternoon. Sale of a public franchise

under execution or order of sale on foreclosure must be made at the front door of the courthouse in the county in which the franchise was granted or by public auction sale by electronic media. Sales of real property shall be made at the courthouse door or by public auction sale by electronic media on Friday unless Friday is a legal holiday and then the sale shall be held on the next following regular business day.

(2) If at the time appointed for the sale the sheriff is prevented from attending at the place appointed or, being present, should deem it for the advantage of all concerned to postpone the sale for want of purchasers, or other sufficient cause, the sheriff may postpone the sale not exceeding one week next after the day appointed, and so from time to time for the like cause, giving notice of every adjournment by public proclamation made at the same time, and by posting written notices of such adjournment under the notices of sale originally posted. The sheriff for like causes may also adjourn the sale from time to time, not exceeding thirty days beyond the day at which the writ is made returnable, with the consent of the plaintiff indorsed upon the writ. [2021 c 122 § 12; 1987 c 442 § 605; 1953 c 126 § 1; 1899 c 53 § 4; 1897 c 50 § 2; RRS § 583. Formerly RCW 6.24.020.]

**Finding—Intent—2021 c 122:** See note following RCW 2.32.050.

**6.21.060 Amount of property to be sold—Officers and deputies may not purchase.** After sufficient property has been sold to satisfy the execution, no more shall be sold. Neither the officer holding the execution nor his or her deputy shall become a purchaser or be interested in any purchase at the sale. [1987 c 442 § 606.]

**6.21.070 Manner of sale of personal property—Bill of sale—Sheriff's deed if real estate contract.** If the sale is of personal property capable of manual delivery, and not in the possession of a third person, it shall be within view of those who attend the sale and shall be sold in such parcels as are likely to bring the highest price; and upon receipt of the purchase money, the sheriff shall deliver the property to the purchaser and shall give a bill of sale containing an acknowledgment of the payment if the purchaser requests it. A vendor's interest under a real estate contract, including vendor's legal title to the real property, shall be treated as personal property for purposes of sale, but the sheriff shall give the purchaser both a bill of sale covering the vendor's interest under the contract and a sheriff's deed covering the vendor's legal title to the real property. In all other sales of personal property, the sheriff shall give the purchaser a bill of sale with an acknowledgment of payment. The sheriff shall return the proceeds with the execution to the clerk who issued the writ for payment as required by law. [1987 c 442 § 607; Code 1881 § 362; 1877 p 78 § 365; 1869 p 94 § 358; 1854 p 183 § 270; RRS § 586. Formerly RCW 6.24.050.]

**6.21.080 Redemption rights—Sale of short term leasehold and vendor's interest under real estate contract absolute.** A sale of a real property estate of less than a leasehold of two years unexpired term and a sale of a vendor's interest in real property being sold under a real estate contract shall be absolute. In all other cases, real property shall be sold subject to redemption, as provided in chapter 6.23 RCW.

[1987 c 442 § 608; 1899 c 53 § 5; RRS § 584. Formerly RCW 6.24.030.]

**6.21.090 Manner of selling real estate—Sale by lot, acre—Measurement.** (1)(a) The form and manner of selling real estate by execution shall be as follows: The sheriff shall proclaim aloud at the place of sale, in the hearing of all the bystanders: "I am about to sell the following tracts of real estate (here reading the description,) upon the following execution:" (here reading the execution). The sheriff shall also state the amount that is required upon the execution, which shall include damages, interests and costs up to the day of sale, and increased costs. The sheriff shall then offer the land for sale.

(b) If the sale is by electronic media, a copy of the execution shall be posted on the website hosting the auction sale. The website shall also include a statement from the sheriff that states the amount that is required upon the execution, which shall include damages, interests and costs up to the day of sale, and increased costs. The sheriff shall then offer the land for sale.

(2) If the sale is of real property consisting of several known lots or parcels, they shall be sold separately or otherwise as the sheriff deems likely to bring the highest price, except that if an interest in a portion of such real property is claimed by a third person who, by request directed to the sheriff in writing prior to the sale or orally or in writing at the sale before the bidding is begun, requests that it be sold separately, such portion shall be sold separately. Bids on all land except town lots may be by the acre or by tract or parcel.

(3) If the land is sold by the acre and any fewer number of acres than the whole tract or parcel is sold, it shall be measured off to the purchaser in a square form, from the northeast corner of the tract or parcel, unless some person claiming an interest in the land, by request directed to the sheriff in writing prior to the sale or orally or in writing at the sale before the bidding is begun, requests that the land sold be taken from some other part or in some other form; in such case, if the request is reasonable, the officer making the sale shall sell accordingly.

(4) If an entire tract or parcel of land is sold by the acre, it shall not be measured but shall be deemed and taken to contain the number of acres named in the description, and be paid for accordingly; and if the number of acres is not contained in the description, the officer shall declare according to his or her judgment how many acres are contained therein, which shall be deemed and taken to be the true number of acres. [2021 c 122 § 13; 1987 c 442 § 609; Code 1881 § 363; 1877 p 79 § 366; 1869 p 94 § 359; 1854 p 181 § 262; RRS § 587. Formerly RCW 6.24.060.]

**Finding—Intent—2021 c 122:** See note following RCW 2.32.050.

**6.21.100 Sale of real property to highest bidder—Sheriff's return and certificate of sale.** (1)(a) The officer shall strike off the land to the highest bidder, who shall forthwith pay the money bid to the officer or to their agent conducting the sale by electronic media. The sheriff or their agent conducting the sale by electronic media shall tender the money to the clerk of the court that issued the writ.

(b) When final judgment shall have been entered in the supreme court or the court of appeals and the execution upon

which sale has been made issued from said court, the return shall be made to the superior court in which the action was originally commenced, and the same proceedings shall be had as though execution had issued from that superior court.

(2) At the time of the sale, the sheriff shall prepare a certificate of the sale, containing a particular description of the property sold, the price bid for each distinct lot or parcel, and the whole price paid; and when subject to redemption, it shall be so stated. The matters contained in such certificate shall be substantially stated in the sheriff's return of proceedings upon the writ. Upon receipt of the purchase price, the sheriff shall give a copy of the certificate to the purchaser and the original certificate to the clerk of the court with the return on the execution to hold for delivery to the purchaser upon confirmation of the sale. [2021 c 122 § 14; 1987 c 442 § 610; 1971 c 81 § 28; Code 1881 § 366; 1877 p 79 § 369; 1869 p 95 § 362; 1854 p 182 § 265; RRS § 590. Formerly RCW 6.24.090.]

**Finding—Intent—2021 c 122:** See note following RCW 2.32.050.

**6.21.110 Confirmation of sale—Objections—Resale—Distribution of sale proceeds—Filing of certificate.** (1) Upon the return of any sale of real estate, the clerk: (a) Shall enter the cause, on which the execution or order of sale issued, by its title, on the motion docket, and mark opposite the same: "Sale of land for confirmation"; (b) shall mail notice of the filing of the return of sale to all parties who have entered a written notice of appearance in the action and who have not had an order of default entered against them; (c) shall file proof of such mailing in the action; (d) shall apply the proceeds of the sale returned by the sheriff, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to satisfaction of the judgment, including interest as provided in the judgment, and shall pay any excess proceeds as provided in subsection (5) of this section by direction of court order; and (e) upon confirmation of the sale, shall deliver the original certificate of sale to the purchaser.

(2) The judgment creditor or successful purchaser at the sheriff's sale is entitled to an order confirming the sale at any time after twenty days have elapsed from the mailing of the notice of the filing of the sheriff's return, on motion with notice given to all parties who have entered a written notice of appearance in the action and who have not had an order of default entered against them, unless the judgment debtor, or in case of the judgment debtor's death, the representative, or any nondefaulting party to whom notice was sent shall file objections to confirmation with the clerk within twenty days after the mailing of the notice of the filing of such return.

(3) If objections to confirmation are filed, the court shall nevertheless allow the order confirming the sale, unless on the hearing of the motion, it shall satisfactorily appear that there were substantial irregularities in the proceedings concerning the sale, to the probable loss or injury of the party objecting. In the latter case, the court shall disallow the motion and direct that the property be resold, in whole or in part, as the case may be, as upon an execution received as of that date.

(4) Upon a resale, the bid of the purchaser at the former sale shall be deemed to be renewed and continue in force, and no bid shall be taken, except for a greater amount. If on resale the property sells for a greater amount to any person other than the former purchaser, the clerk shall first repay to the

former purchaser out of the proceeds of the resale the amount of the former purchaser's bid together with interest as is provided in the judgment.

(5)(a) If, after confirmation of the sale and the judgment is satisfied, there are any proceeds of the sale remaining, the clerk shall pay such proceeds, as provided for in (b) of this subsection, to all interests in, or liens against, the property eliminated by sale under this section in the order of priority that the interest, lien, or claim attached to the property, as determined by the court. Any remaining proceeds shall be paid to the judgment debtor, or the judgment debtor's representative, as the case may be, before the order is made upon the motion to confirm the sale only if the party files with the clerk a waiver of all objections made or to be made to the proceedings concerning the sale; otherwise, the excess proceeds shall remain in the custody of the clerk until the sale of the property has been disposed of.

(b) Anyone seeking disbursement of surplus funds shall file a motion requesting disbursement in the superior court for the county in which the surplus funds are deposited. Notice of the motion shall be served upon or mailed to all persons who had an interest in the property at the time of sale, and any other party who has entered an appearance in the proceeding, not less than twenty days prior to the hearing of the motion. The clerk shall not disburse such remaining proceeds except upon order of the superior court of such county.

(6) The purchaser shall file the original certificate of sale for record with the recording officer in the county in which the property is located. [2014 c 107 § 1; 1994 c 185 § 3; 1987 c 442 § 611; 1984 c 276 § 3; 1981 c 329 § 3; 1899 c 53 § 6; RRS § 591. Prior: 1897 c 50 § 14; Code 1881 § 367; 1877 p 79 § 370; 1869 p 95 § 363; 1854 p 182 § 266. Formerly RCW 6.24.100.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.21.120 Sheriff's deed to real property sold.** In all cases where real estate has been, or may hereafter be sold by virtue of an execution or other process, it shall be the duty of the sheriff or other officer making such sale to execute and deliver to the purchaser, or other person entitled to the same, a deed of conveyance of the real estate so sold. The deeds shall be issued upon request immediately after the confirmation of sale by the court in those instances where redemption rights have been precluded pursuant to RCW 61.12.093 et seq., or immediately after the time for redemption from such sale has expired in those instances in which there are redemption rights, as provided in RCW 6.23.060. In case the term of office of the sheriff or other officer making such sale shall have expired before a sufficient deed has been executed, then the successor in office of such sheriff shall, within the time specified in this section, execute and deliver to the purchaser or other person entitled to the same a deed of the premises so sold, and such deeds shall be as valid and effectual to convey to the grantee the lands or premises so sold, as if the deed had been made by the sheriff or other officer who made the sale. [1987 c 442 § 612; 1965 c 80 § 5; 1899 c 53 § 16; RRS § 603. Prior: 1897 c 50 § 16. Formerly RCW 6.24.220.]

*Sheriff, successor to complete process: RCW 36.28.130.*

**6.21.130 Effect of reversal of judgment on sale of real property.** A purchaser of real property sold on execution, or

a purchaser's successor in interest, who is evicted in consequence of the reversal of the judgment may recover from the plaintiff in the execution the price paid with interest and the costs and disbursements of the eviction suit. [1987 c 442 § 613; Code 1881 § 368; 1877 p 80 § 371; 1869 p 96 § 364; RRS § 592. Formerly RCW 6.24.110.]

Chapter 6.23 RCW
REDEMPTION

Sections

- 6.23.010 Redemption from sale—Who may redeem—Terms include successors.
6.23.011 Voluntary relinquishment of ownership rights by mortgagor may result in loss of redemption rights.
6.23.020 Time for redemption from purchaser—Amount to be paid.
6.23.030 Notice to be given during redemption period—Effect of non-compliance—Form of notice and affidavit.
6.23.040 Time for redemption from redemptioner—Successive redemptions—Amount to be paid.
6.23.050 Purchaser or redemptioner to file statements of amounts paid.
6.23.060 Sheriff's deed—When issued.
6.23.070 Payment on successive redemptions.
6.23.080 Redemption procedure—Certificate to be recorded—Evidence of right to redeem.
6.23.090 Rents and profits during period of redemption—Accounting—Option for reimbursement or extension on agricultural property.
6.23.100 Restraining waste during redemption period.
6.23.110 Possession during period of redemption.
6.23.120 Listing of property for sale during redemption period—Acceptance of qualifying offer if property unredeemed and deed issued—Procedure—Disposition of proceeds.

6.23.010 Redemption from sale—Who may redeem—Terms include successors. (1) Real property sold subject to redemption, as provided in RCW 6.21.080, or any part thereof separately sold, may be redeemed by the following persons, or their successors in interest:

- (a) The judgment debtor, in the whole or any part of the property separately sold.
(b) A creditor having a lien by judgment, decree, deed of trust, or mortgage, on any portion of the property, or any portion of any part thereof, separately sold, subsequent in priority to that on which the property was sold. The persons mentioned in this subsection are termed redemptioners.

(2) As used in this chapter, the terms "judgment debtor," "redemptioner," and "purchaser" refer also to their respective successors in interest. [2013 c 53 § 1; 1987 c 442 § 701; 1899 c 53 § 7; RRS § 594. Prior: 1897 c 50 § 15. Formerly RCW 6.24.130.]

6.23.011 Voluntary relinquishment of ownership rights by mortgagor may result in loss of redemption rights. See RCW 61.12.093 through 61.12.095.

6.23.020 Time for redemption from purchaser—Amount to be paid. (1) Unless redemption rights have been precluded pursuant to RCW 61.12.093 et seq., the judgment debtor or any redemptioner may redeem the property from the purchaser at any time (a) within eight months after the date of the sale if the sale is pursuant to judgment and decree of foreclosure of any mortgage executed after June 30, 1961, which mortgage declares in its terms that the mortgaged property is not used principally for agricultural or farming purposes, and in which complaint the judgment creditor has

expressly waived any right to a deficiency judgment, or (b) otherwise within one year after the date of the sale.

(2) The person who redeems from the purchaser must pay: (a) The amount of the bid, with interest thereon at the rate provided in the judgment to the time of redemption, together with (b) the amount of any assessment or taxes which the purchaser has paid thereon after purchase, and like interest on such amount from time of payment to time of redemption, together with (c) any sum paid by the purchaser on a prior lien or obligation secured by an interest in the property to the extent the payment was necessary for the protection of the interest of the judgment debtor or a redemptioner, and like interest upon every payment made from the date of payment to the time of redemption, and (d) if the redemption is by a redemptioner and if the purchaser is also a creditor having a lien, by judgment, decree, deed of trust, or mortgage, prior to that of the redemptioner, other than the judgment under which such purchase was made, the redemptioner shall also pay the amount of such lien with like interest: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That a purchaser who makes any payment as mentioned in (c) of this subsection shall submit to the sheriff the affidavit required by RCW 6.23.080, and any purchaser who pays any taxes or assessments or has or acquires any such lien as mentioned in (d) of this subsection must file the statement required in RCW 6.23.050 and provide evidence of the lien as required by RCW 6.23.080. [1987 c 442 § 702; 1984 c 276 § 4; 1965 c 80 § 4; 1961 c 196 § 1; 1899 c 53 § 8; RRS § 595. Formerly RCW 6.24.140.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.23.030 Notice to be given during redemption period—Effect of noncompliance—Form of notice and affidavit.

(1) If the property is subject to a homestead as provided in chapter 6.13 RCW, the purchaser, or the redemptioner if the property has been redeemed, shall send a notice, in the form prescribed in subsection (3) of this section, at least forty but not more than sixty days before the expiration of the judgment debtor's redemption period both by regular mail and by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the judgment debtor or debtors and to each of them separately, if there is more than one judgment debtor, at their last known address or addresses and to "occupant" at the property address. The party who sends the notice shall file a copy of the notice with an affidavit of mailing with the clerk of the court and deliver or mail a copy to the sheriff.

(2) Failure to comply with this section extends the judgment debtor's redemption period six months. If the redemption period is extended, no further notice need be sent. Time for redemption by redemptioners shall not be extended.

(3) The notice and affidavit of mailing required by subsection (1) of this section shall be in substantially the following form:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR . . . COUNTY

Plaintiff, vs. Defendant. CAUSE NO. NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION PERIOD

TO: [Judgment Debtor]

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE AFFECTING YOUR RIGHT TO RETAIN YOUR PROPERTY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for redemption of the following described real property ("the property") is expiring. The property is situated in the County of . . . . ., State of Washington, to wit:

. . . . . [legal description] . . . . . and commonly known as . . . . ., which was sold by . . . . ., . . . . . County Sheriff, in . . . . ., . . . . . County, Washington on the . . . . day of . . . . ., (year) . . . . ., under and by virtue of a writ of execution and order of sale issued by the court in the above-entitled action.

THE REDEMPTION PERIOD FOR THE PROPERTY IS . . . . MONTHS. THE REDEMPTION PERIOD COMMENCED ON . . . . ., (year) . . . . ., AND WILL EXPIRE AT 4:30 p.m. ON . . . . ., (year) . . . . .

If you intend to redeem the property described above you must give written notice of your intention to the . . . . . County Sheriff on or before . . . . ., (year) . . . . .

Following is an itemized account of the amount required to redeem the property to date:

Item	Amount
Purchase price paid at sale	\$
Interest from date of sale to date of this notice at . . . percent per annum	\$
Real estate taxes plus interest	\$
Assessments plus interest	\$
Liens or other costs paid by purchaser or purchaser's successor during redemption period plus interest	\$
Lien of redemptioner	\$
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED TO REDEEM AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE</b>	<b>\$</b>

You may redeem the property by 4:30 p.m. on or before the . . . . day of . . . . ., (year) . . . . ., by paying the amount set forth above and such other amounts as may be required by law. Payment must be in the full amount and in cash, certified check, or cashier's check. Because such other amounts as may be required by law to redeem may include presently unknown expenditures required to operate, preserve, protect, or insure the property, or the amount to comply with state or local laws, or the amounts of prior liens, with interest, held by the purchaser or a redemptioner, it will be necessary for you to contact the . . . . . County Sheriff at the address stated below prior to the time you tender the redemption amount so that you may be informed exactly how much you will have to pay to redeem the property.

. . . . . SHERIFF-DIRECTOR, . . . . . COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

By . . . . ., Deputy  
Address . . . . .  
City . . . . .  
Washington 9 . . . .

Phone ( . . . ) . . . . .

IF YOU FAIL TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY BY 4:30 p.m. ON OR BEFORE THE . . . . DAY OF . . . . ., (year) . . . . ., THE DATE UPON WHICH THE REDEMPTION PERIOD WILL EXPIRE, THE PURCHASER OR THE PURCHASER'S SUCCESSOR WILL BE ENTITLED TO POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY AND MAY BRING AN ACTION TO EVICT YOU FROM POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY.

DATED THIS . . . . DAY OF . . . . ., (year) . . . .

[Purchaser]  
By  
[Purchaser's attorney]  
Attorneys for

STATE OF WASHINGTON }  
COUNTY OF } ss.

The undersigned being first duly sworn on oath states: That on this day affiant deposited in the mails of the United States of America a properly stamped and addressed envelope directed to the judgment debtor at the address stated on the face of this document and to "occupant" at the property address, both by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by first-class mail, all of the mailings containing a copy of the document to which this affidavit is attached.

SIGNED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS . . . . DAY OF . . . . ., (year) . . . . ., BY . . . . . (name of person making statement)

. . . . .  
Title . . . . .  
My appointment expires  
. . . . ., (year) . . . . .

[2016 c 202 § 2; 1987 c 442 § 703; 1984 c 276 § 5; 1981 c 329 § 6. Formerly RCW 6.24.145.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.23.040 Time for redemption from redemptioner—Successive redemptions—Amount to be paid.** (1) If property is redeemed from the purchaser by a redemptioner, as provided in RCW 6.23.020, another redemptioner may, within sixty days after the first redemption, redeem it from the first redemptioner. The property may be again, and as often as a redemptioner is so disposed, redeemed from any previous redemptioner within sixty days after the last redemption, and such sixty-day redemption periods may extend beyond the period prescribed in RCW 6.23.020 for redemption from the purchaser.

(2) The judgment debtor may also redeem from a redemptioner, but in all cases the judgment debtor shall have the entire redemption period prescribed by RCW 6.23.020, but no longer unless the time is extended under RCW 6.23.030 or 6.23.090. If the judgment debtor redeems, the effect of the sale is terminated and the estate of the debtor is restored.

(3) A redemptioner may redeem under this section by paying the sum paid on the last previous redemption with interest at the rate of eight percent per annum, and the amount of any assessments or taxes which the last previous redemptioner paid on the property after redeeming, with like interest, and the amount of any liens by judgment, decree, deed of trust, or mortgage, other than the judgment under which the property was sold, held by the last redemptioner, prior to his or her own, with interest. A judgment debtor who redeems from a redemptioner under this section must make the same payments as are required to effect a redemption by a redemptioner, including any lien by judgment, decree, deed of trust, or mortgage, other than the judgment under which the property was sold, held by the redemptioner. A redemptioner who pays any taxes or assessments, or has or acquires any such lien as herein mentioned, must file a statement as required under RCW 6.23.050. [2011 c 336 § 145; 1987 c 442 § 704; 1899 c 53 § 9; RRS § 596. Formerly RCW 6.24.150.]

**6.23.050 Purchaser or redemptioner to file statements of amounts paid.** A purchaser or redemptioner who pays any taxes or assessments or has or acquires a lien on the property by judgment, decree, deed of trust, or mortgage prior to that of a prospective redemptioner must file a statement thereof, for recording, with the recording officer of the county in which the property is situated before the property has been redeemed from him or her. Otherwise, the property may be redeemed without paying such tax, assessment, or lien, but if actual notice of such payments or liens has been given to the person who redeems, failure to file the statement shall not affect the right to payment from that person absent that person's demonstration of prejudice resulting from the failure to file the statement. [1987 c 442 § 705.]

**6.23.060 Sheriff's deed—When issued.** If no redemption is made within the redemption period prescribed by RCW 6.23.020 or within any extension of that period under any other provision of this chapter, the purchaser is entitled to a sheriff's deed; or, if so redeemed, whenever sixty days have elapsed and no other redemption has been made or notice given operating to extend the period for re-redemption, and the time for redemption by the judgment debtor has expired, the last redemptioner is entitled to receive a sheriff's deed as provided in RCW 6.21.120. [1987 c 442 § 706; 1961 c 196 § 2; 1899 c 53 § 10; RRS § 597. Prior: 1897 c 50 § 16. Formerly RCW 6.24.160.]

**6.23.070 Payment on successive redemptions.** When two or more persons apply to the sheriff to redeem at the same time, the sheriff shall allow the person having the prior lien to redeem first, and so on. The sheriff shall immediately pay the money over to the person from whom the property is redeemed, if that person is present at time of redemption; or if not, at any time thereafter when demanded. When a sheriff wrongfully refuses to allow any person to redeem, the right to redeem shall not be prejudiced by such refusal, and the sheriff may be required, by order of the court, to allow such redemption. [1987 c 442 § 707; 1899 c 53 § 11; RRS § 598. Formerly RCW 6.24.170.]

**6.23.080 Redemption procedure—Certificate to be recorded—Evidence of right to redeem.** (1) The person seeking to redeem shall give the sheriff at least five days' written notice of intention to apply to the sheriff for that purpose. It shall be the duty of the sheriff to notify the purchaser or redemptioner, as the case may be, or the purchaser's or redemptioner's attorney, of the receipt of such notice, if such person is within such county. At the time specified in such notice, the person seeking to redeem may do so by paying to the sheriff the sum required. The sheriff shall give the person redeeming a certificate stating the sum paid on redemption, from whom redeemed, the date thereof and a description of the property redeemed. A certificate of redemption must be filed and recorded in the office of the recording officer of the county in which the property is situated, and the recording officer must note the record thereof in the margin of the record of the certificate of sale.

(2) A person seeking to redeem shall submit to the sheriff the evidence of the right to redeem, as follows:

(a) A lien creditor shall submit a copy of the docket of the judgment or decree under which the right to redeem is claimed, certified by the clerk of the court where such judgment or decree is docketed; or the holder of a mortgage or deed of trust shall submit the certificate of the record thereof together with an affidavit, verified by the holder or agent, showing the amount then actually due thereon.

(b) An assignee shall submit a copy of any assignment necessary to establish the claim, verified by the affidavit of the assignee or agent, showing the amount then actually due on the judgment, decree, deed of trust, or mortgage.

(3) If the redemptioner or purchaser has a lien prior to that of the lien creditor seeking to redeem, such redemptioner or purchaser shall submit to the sheriff the same kind of evidence thereof as is required from a person seeking to redeem under subsection (2) of this section, and the amount due thereon, or the same may be disregarded.

(4) A purchaser who has paid a sum on a prior lien or obligation secured by an interest in the property shall submit to the sheriff an affidavit, verified by the purchaser or an agent, showing the amount paid on the prior lien or obligation, or the prior lien or obligation may be disregarded. [1987 c 442 § 708; 1984 c 276 § 6; 1899 c 53 § 12; RRS § 599. Formerly RCW 6.24.180.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.23.090 Rents and profits during period of redemption—Accounting—Option for reimbursement or extension on agricultural property.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section and in RCW 6.23.110, the purchaser, from the time of the sale until the redemption, and the redemptioner from the time of the redemption until another redemption, is entitled to receive from the tenant in possession the rents of the property sold or the value of the use and occupation thereof. But when any rents or profits have been received from the property by such purchaser or redemptioner, preceding the redemption thereof from him or her, the amount of such rents and profits, over and above the expenses paid for operating, caring for, protecting and insuring the property, shall be a credit upon the redemption money to be paid.



(2) If a redemptioner or other person entitled to redeem, before the expiration of the time allowed for such redemption, files with the sheriff a demand in writing for a written and verified statement of the amounts of rents and profits thus received and expenses paid and incurred, the period for redemption is extended five days after such a sworn statement is given by the person receiving such rents and profits, or by his or her agent, to the person making the demand, or to the sheriff. It shall be the duty of the sheriff to serve a copy of such demand upon the person receiving such rents and profits, his or her agent or his or her attorney, if service can be made in the county where the property is situate. If such person shall, for a period of ten days after such demand has been given to the sheriff, fail or refuse to give such statement, the redemptioner or other person entitled to redeem who made the demand may bring an action within sixty days after making such demand, but not later, in any court of competent jurisdiction, to compel an accounting and disclosure of such rents, profits and expenses, and until fifteen days from and after the final determination of such action the right of redemption is extended to such redemptioner or other person entitled to redeem who made the demand. If a sworn statement is given by the purchaser or other person receiving such rents and profits, and the redemptioner or other person entitled to redeem who made the demand, desires to contest the correctness of the statement, he or she must first redeem in accordance with such sworn statement, and if he or she desires to bring an action for an accounting thereafter he or she may do so within thirty days after such redemption, but not later.

(3) If such property is farming or agricultural property and is in possession of any purchaser or any previous redemptioner and is redeemed after the first day of April and before the first day of December, and the purchaser or previous redemptioner or the tenant of either has performed any work in preparing such property for crops or has planted crops, such purchaser or previous redemptioner shall have the option to demand reimbursement for such work and labor or to retain possession of such property until the first day of December following, and the new redemptioner shall be entitled to collect the reasonable rental value thereof during such farming year, unless such reasonable rental shall have been collected by such purchaser or previous redemptioner and accounted for to the new redemptioner. [1987 c 442 § 709; 1899 c 53 § 13; RRS § 600. Formerly RCW 6.24.190.]

**6.23.100 Restraining waste during redemption period.** Until the expiration of the time allowed for redemption, the court may restrain the commission of waste on the property. But it is not waste for the person in possession of the property at the time of the sale or entitled to possession afterwards during the period allowed for redemption to continue to use it in the same manner in which it was previously used, or to use it in the ordinary course of husbandry, or to make the necessary repairs of buildings thereon, or to use wood or timber on the property therefor, or for the repairs of fences, or for fuel in his or her family while occupying the property. [1987 c 442 § 710; 1899 c 53 § 14; RRS § 601. Formerly RCW 6.24.200.]

(2022 Ed.)

**6.23.110 Possession during period of redemption.** (1) Except as provided in this section and RCW 6.23.090, the purchaser from the day of sale until a resale or redemption, and the redemptioner from the day of redemption until another redemption, shall be entitled to the possession of the property purchased or redeemed, unless the same be in the possession of a tenant holding under an unexpired lease, and in such case shall be entitled to receive from such tenant the rents or the value of the use and occupation thereof during the period of redemption.

(2) If a mortgage contains a stipulation that in case of foreclosure the mortgagor may remain in possession of the mortgaged premises after sale and until the period of redemption has expired, the court shall make its decree to that effect and the mortgagor shall have such right.

(3) As to any land so sold which is at the time of the sale used for farming purposes, or which is a part of a farm used, at the time of sale, for farming purposes, the judgment debtor shall be entitled to retain possession thereof during the period of redemption and the purchaser or his or her successor in interest shall, if the judgment debtor does not redeem, have a lien upon the crops raised or harvested thereon during said period of redemption, for interest on the purchase price at the rate of six percent per annum during said period of redemption and for taxes becoming delinquent during the period of redemption together with interest thereon.

(4) In case of any homestead as defined in chapter 6.13 RCW and occupied for that purpose at the time of sale, the judgment debtor shall have the right to retain possession thereof during the period of redemption without accounting for issues or for value of occupation. [2011 c 336 § 146; 1987 c 442 § 711; 1981 c 329 § 21; 1961 c 196 § 3; 1957 c 8 § 6; 1939 c 94 § 1; 1927 c 93 § 1; 1899 c 53 § 15; RRS § 602. Formerly RCW 6.24.210.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.23.120 Listing of property for sale during redemption period—Acceptance of qualifying offer if property unredeemed and deed issued—Procedure—Disposition of proceeds.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, during the period of redemption for any property that a person would be entitled to claim as a homestead, any licensed real estate broker within the county in which the property is located may nonexclusively list the property for sale whether or not there is a listing contract. If the property is not redeemed by the judgment debtor and a sheriff's deed is issued under RCW 6.21.120, then the property owner shall accept the highest current qualifying offer upon tender of full cash payment within two banking days after notice of the pending acceptance is received by the offeror. If timely tender is not made, such offer shall no longer be deemed to be current and the opportunity shall pass to the next highest current qualifying offer, if any. Notice of pending acceptance shall be given for the first highest current qualifying offer within five days after delivery of the sheriff's deed under RCW 6.21.120 and for each subsequent highest current qualifying offer within five days after the offer becoming the highest current qualifying offer. An offer is qualifying if the offer is made during the redemption period through a licensed real estate broker listing the property and is at least equal to the sum of: (a) One hundred twenty percent of the

redemption amount determined under RCW 6.23.020 and (b) the normal commission of the real estate broker or agent handling the offer.

(2) The proceeds shall be divided at the time of closing with: (a) One hundred twenty percent of the redemption amount determined under RCW 6.23.020 paid to the property owner, (b) the real estate broker's or agent's normal commission paid, and (c) any excess paid to the judgment debtor.

(3) Notice, tender, payment, and closing shall be made through the real estate broker or agent handling the offer.

(4) This section shall not apply to mortgage or deed of trust foreclosures under chapter 61.12 or 61.24 RCW. [2018 c 22 § 3; 1987 c 442 § 712; 1981 c 329 § 23. Formerly RCW 6.24.230.]

**Explanatory statement—2018 c 22:** See note following RCW 1.20.051.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### Chapter 6.25 RCW ATTACHMENT

#### Sections

6.25.010	Application of chapter to district courts.
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6.25.030	Issuance of writ—Grounds.
6.25.040	Grounds if debt not due.
6.25.050	Procedure when debt not due.
6.25.060	Application for writ—Affidavit.
6.25.070	Issuance of writ—Notice—Hearing—Issuance without notice—Forms for notice.
6.25.080	Issuance of writ—Attachment bond.
6.25.090	Bond—Additional security.
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6.25.110	Contents of writ—Levy of attachment.
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6.25.180	Motion to discharge attachment—Affidavits in opposition—Discharge.
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6.25.240	Subjection of attached property to judgment.
6.25.250	Procedure when attached property insufficient.
6.25.260	Procedure where execution unsatisfied.
6.25.270	Procedure when judgment is for defendant.
6.25.280	Chapter to be liberally construed—Amendments.

**6.25.010 Application of chapter to district courts.** Unless otherwise expressly provided, all the provisions of this chapter governing attachment of personal property apply to proceedings before district courts of this state, but the district courts shall not have power to issue writs of attachment against real property or any interest in real property or against vendors' interests under real estate contracts. [1987 c 442 § 801.]

**6.25.020 Time for granting.** The plaintiff at the time of commencing an action, or at any time afterward before judgment, may have the property of the defendant, or that of any one or more of several defendants, attached in the manner prescribed in this chapter, as security for the satisfaction of such judgment as the plaintiff may recover. [1987 c 442 § 802; 1886 p 39 § 1; RRS § 647. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47;

1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.010.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. CR 64.*

**6.25.030 Issuance of writ—Grounds.** The writ of attachment may be issued by the court in which the action is pending on one or more of the following grounds:

(1) That the defendant is a foreign corporation; or  
 (2) That the defendant is not a resident of this state; or  
 (3) That the defendant conceals himself or herself so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him or her; or

(4) That the defendant has absconded or absented himself or herself from his or her usual place of abode in this state, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him or her; or

(5) That the defendant has removed or is about to remove any of his or her property from this state, with intent to delay or defraud his or her creditors; or

(6) That the defendant has assigned, secreted, or disposed of, or is about to assign, secrete, or dispose of, any of his or her property, with intent to delay or defraud his or her creditors; or

(7) That the defendant is about to convert his or her property, or a part thereof, into money, for the purpose of placing it beyond the reach of his or her creditors; or

(8) That the defendant has been guilty of a fraud in contracting the debt or incurring the obligation for which the action is brought; or

(9) That the damages for which the action is brought are for injuries arising from the commission of some felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor; or

(10) That the object for which the action is brought is to recover on a contract, express or implied. [2011 c 336 § 147; 1987 c 442 § 803; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 16; 1923 c 159 § 1; 1886 p 39 § 2; RRS § 648. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.020.]

**Rules of court:** *CR 64.*

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of subsection (10) of this section, see *Lucas v. Stapp*, 6 Wn. App. 971, 497 P.2d 250 (1972).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.25.040 Grounds if debt not due.** An action may be commenced and the property of a debtor may be attached previous to the time when the debt becomes due, when nothing but time is wanting to fix an absolute indebtedness, and when the complaint and the affidavit allege, in addition to that fact, one or more of the following grounds:

(1) That the defendant is about to dispose or has disposed of his or her property in whole or in part with intent to defraud his or her creditors; or

(2) That the defendant is about to remove from the state and refuses to make any arrangements for securing the payment of the debt when it falls due, and the contemplated removal was not known to the plaintiff at the time the debt was contracted; or

(3) That the debt was incurred for property obtained under false pretenses. [2011 c 336 § 148; 1987 c 442 § 804; 1886 p 39 § 3; RRS § 649. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192;

1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.030.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. CR 64.*

**6.25.050 Procedure when debt not due.** If the debt or demand for which the attachment is sued out is not due at the time of the commencement of the action, the defendant is not required to file any pleadings until the maturity of such debt or demand, but the defendant may, in his or her discretion, do so, and go to trial as early as the cause is reached. No final judgment shall be rendered in such action until the debt or demand upon which it is based becomes due, unless the defendant consents by filing pleadings or otherwise. However, property of a perishable nature may be sold as provided in RCW 6.25.220. [1987 c 442 § 805; 1886 p 40 § 4; RRS § 650. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.040.]

**6.25.060 Application for writ—Affidavit.** (1) The plaintiff or someone on plaintiff's behalf shall apply for a writ of attachment by affidavit, alleging that the attachment is not sought and the action is not prosecuted to hinder, delay, or defraud any creditor of the defendant and also alleging that affiant has reason to believe and does believe the following, together with specific facts on which affiant's belief in the allegations is based: (a) That the defendant is indebted to the plaintiff (specifying the nature of the claim and the amount of such indebtedness over and above all just credits and offsets), and (b) that one or more of the grounds stated in RCW 6.25.030 for issuance of a writ of attachment exists.

(2) If the action is based on a debt not due, the ground alleged under subsection (1)(b) of this section must be one stated in RCW 6.25.040 for attachment on a debt not due, and affiant shall also allege reason to believe and belief that nothing but time is wanting to fix an absolute indebtedness due from defendant, together with specific facts on which the affiant's belief in the allegations is based. [1987 c 442 § 806.]

**6.25.070 Issuance of writ—Notice—Hearing—Issuance without notice—Forms for notice.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the court shall issue a writ of attachment only after prior notice to defendant, given in the manner prescribed in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, with an opportunity for a prior hearing at which the plaintiff shall establish the probable validity of the claim sued on and that there is probable cause to believe that the alleged ground for attachment exists.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, the court shall issue the writ without prior notice to defendant and an opportunity for a prior hearing only if:

(a)(i) The attachment is to be levied only on real property, or (ii) if it is to be levied on personal property, the ground alleged for issuance of attachment is one appearing in RCW 6.25.030 (5) through (7) or in RCW 6.25.040(1) or, if attachment is necessary for the court to obtain jurisdiction of the action, the ground alleged is one appearing in RCW 6.25.030 (1) through (4); and

(b) The court finds, on the basis of specific facts alleged in the affidavit, after an ex parte hearing, that there is probable cause to believe the allegations of plaintiff's affidavit.

(3) If a writ is issued under subsection (2) of this section without prior notice to defendant, after seizure of property under the writ the defendant shall be entitled to prompt notice of the seizure and of a right to an early hearing, if requested, at which the plaintiff shall establish the probable validity of the claim sued on and that there is probable cause to believe that the alleged ground for attachment exists. Such notice shall be given in the manner prescribed in subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

(4) When notice and a hearing are required under this section, notice may be given by a show cause order stating the date, time, and place of the hearing. Notice required under this section shall be jurisdictional and, except as provided for published notice in subsection (5) of this section, notice shall be served in the same manner as a summons in a civil action and shall be served together with: (a) A copy of the plaintiff's affidavit and a copy of the writ if already issued; (b) if the defendant is an individual, copies of homestead statutes, RCW 6.13.010, 6.13.030, and 6.13.040, if real property is to be attached, or copies of exemption statutes, RCW 6.15.010 and 6.15.060, if personal property is to be attached; and (c) if the plaintiff has proceeded under subsection (2) of this section, a copy of a "Notice of Right to Hearing" in substantially the following form:

#### NOTICE OF RIGHT TO HEARING

In a lawsuit against you, a Washington court has issued or will issue a Writ of Attachment against your property. Under the writ a sheriff or sheriff's deputy has or will put a lien against your real estate or has seized or will seize other property of yours to hold until the court decides the lawsuit.

Delivery of this notice of your rights is required by law.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A PROMPT HEARING. If notice of a hearing date and time is not served with this notice, you have a right to request the hearing. At the hearing, the plaintiff must give evidence that there is probable cause to believe that the statements in the enclosed affidavit are true and also that the claim stated in the lawsuit is probably valid, or else your property will be released.

If the defendant is an individual, the following paragraph shall be added to the notice:

YOU MAY ALSO HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR PROPERTY RELEASED if it is exempt property as described in the copies of statutes included with this notice and if you claim your exemptions in the way described in the statutes.

(5) If service of notice on the defendant must be effected by publication, only the following notice need be published under the caption of the case:

To Defendant:

A writ of attachment has been issued in the above-captioned case, directed to the Sheriff of . . . . . County, commanding the Sheriff as follows:

"WHEREAS, . . . [Quoting body of writ of attachment]"

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK FOR A HEARING. At the hearing, the plaintiff must give evidence that there is probable cause to believe that the ground for attachment alleged in an affidavit filed with the court exists and also that the claim stated in the lawsuit is probably valid, or else the attachment will be discharged.

If the defendant is an individual, the following paragraph shall be added to the published notice:

YOU MAY ALSO HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR PROPERTY RELEASED if it is exempt property as described in Washington exemption statutes, including sections 6.13.010, 6.13.030, 6.13.040, 6.15.010, and 6.15.060 of the Revised Code of Washington, in the manner described in those statutes.

[1988 c 231 § 15; 1987 c 442 § 807.]

**Reviser's note:** As to the constitutionality of certain applications of subsection (2) of this section, see *Tri-State Dev. v. Johnston*, 160 F.3d 528 (9th Cir. 1998) and *Van Blaricom v. Kronenberg*, 112 Wn. App. 501, 50 P.3d 266 (2002).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.25.080 Issuance of writ—Attachment bond.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, before the writ of attachment shall issue, the plaintiff, or someone in the plaintiff's behalf, shall execute and file with the clerk a surety bond or undertaking in the sum in no case less than three thousand dollars, in the superior court, nor less than five hundred dollars in the district court, and double the amount for which plaintiff demands judgment, or such other amount as the court shall fix, conditional that the plaintiff will prosecute the action without delay and will pay all costs that may be adjudged to the defendant, and all damages that the defendant may sustain by reason of the writ of attachment or of additional writs issued as permitted under RCW 6.25.120, not exceeding the amount specified in such bond or undertaking, as the penalty thereof, should the same be wrongfully, oppressively or maliciously sued out.

(2) If it is desired to attach real estate only, and such fact is stated in the affidavit for attachment, and the ground of attachment is that the defendant is a foreign corporation or is not a resident of the state, or conceals himself or herself or has absconded or is absent from his or her usual place of abode so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him or her, the writ of attachment shall issue without bond or undertaking by or on behalf of the plaintiff.

(3) If the plaintiff sues on an assigned claim and the plaintiff's immediate or any other assignor thereof retains or has any interest in the claim, then the plaintiff and every assignor who retains or has any interest therein shall be jointly and severally liable for all costs that may be adjudged to the defendant and for all damages that the defendant may

sustain by reason of the attachment, should the same be wrongfully, oppressively or maliciously sued out. [1988 c 231 § 16. Prior: 1987 c 442 § 808; 1987 c 202 § 128; 1957 c 51 § 1; 1903 c 41 § 1; 1886 p 40 § 6; RRS § 652; prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.060.]

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

*Corporate surety—Insurance:* Chapter 48.28 RCW.

*Court may fix amount of bond in civil actions:* RCW 4.44.470.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.25.090 Bond—Additional security.** The defendant may, at any time before judgment, move the court or judge for additional security on the part of the plaintiff, or for security if none was required under RCW 6.25.080, and if, on such motion, the court or judge is satisfied that security or additional security should be required or that the surety in the plaintiff's bond has removed from this state or is not sufficient, the attachment may be vacated, and restitution directed of any property taken under it, unless in a reasonable time, to be fixed by the court or judge, further security is given by the plaintiff in form as provided in RCW 6.25.080. [1987 c 442 § 809; 1886 p 40 § 7; RRS § 653. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.070.]

**6.25.100 Action on bond—Damages and attorney's fees.** In an action on such bond, if it is shown that the attachment was wrongfully sued out, the defendant may recover the actual damages sustained and reasonable attorney's fees to be fixed by the court. If it is shown that such attachment was sued out maliciously, the defendant may recover exemplary damages, and the defendant need not wait until the principal suit is determined before suing on the bond. [1987 c 442 § 810; 1886 p 41 § 8; RRS § 654. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.080.]

**6.25.110 Contents of writ—Levy of attachment.** The writ of attachment shall be directed to the sheriff of any county in which property of the defendant may be, and shall require the sheriff to attach and safely keep the property of such defendant within the county, to the requisite amount, which shall be stated in conformity with the affidavit. The sheriff shall in all cases attach the amount of property directed, if sufficient property not exempted from execution be found in the county, giving that in which the defendant has a legal and unquestionable title a preference over that in which title is doubtful or only equitable, and the sheriff shall as nearly as the circumstances of the case will permit, levy upon property fifty percent greater in valuation than the amount that the plaintiff in the affidavit claims to be due. When property is seized on attachment, the court may allow to the officer having charge thereof such compensation for the trouble and expenses in keeping the same as shall be reasonable and just. [1987 c 442 § 811; 1886 p 41 § 9; RRS § 655. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp

43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.090.]

**6.25.120 Writs to different counties—Successive writs.** If issuance of a writ of attachment has been ordered by the court in a case, other writs of attachment may be issued in the same case from the court to different counties, and several may, at the option of the plaintiff, be issued at the same time, or in succession and subsequently, until sufficient property has been attached; but only those executed shall be taxed in the costs, unless otherwise ordered by the court, and if more property is attached in the aggregate than the plaintiff is entitled to have held, the surplus must be abandoned and the plaintiff pay all costs incurred in relation to such surplus. After the first writ has issued, it shall not be necessary for the plaintiff to file any further affidavit or bond unless the court otherwise directs, but the plaintiff shall be entitled to as many writs as may be necessary to secure the amount claimed. [1988 c 231 § 17; 1987 c 442 § 812; 1886 p 41 § 10; RRS § 656. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.100.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.25.130 Writ—Notation of time received—Order of execution.** The sheriff or other officer shall indorse upon the writ of attachment in ink the day, hour, and minute when the writ first came into the officer's hands. Where there are several attachments against the same defendant, they shall be executed in the order in which they were received by the sheriff. [1987 c 442 § 813; 1886 p 41 § 11; RRS § 657. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.110.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. CR 64.*

**6.25.140 Manner of levy.** The sheriff shall levy on property to be attached in the same manner as provided for execution in RCW 6.17.160, 6.17.170, and 6.17.180. [1987 c 442 § 814.]

**6.25.150 Property may be followed to adjoining county.** If, after an attachment has been placed in the hands of the sheriff, any property of the defendant is moved from the county, the sheriff may pursue and attach the property in an adjoining county within twenty-four hours after removal. [1987 c 442 § 815; 1886 p 42 § 12; RRS § 658. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.120.]

**6.25.160 Sheriff's inventory—Return.** The sheriff shall make a full inventory of the property attached and return the inventory with the writ of attachment within twenty days of receipt of the writ, with a return of the proceedings indorsed on or attached to the writ. If the writ was issued at the same time as the summons, the sheriff shall return the writ with the summons. [1987 c 442 § 816; 1927 c 100 § 2; 1886 p 43 § 21; RRS § 666. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp

112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.200.]

**6.25.170 Examination of defendant as to property.** Whenever it appears by the affidavit of the plaintiff that the plaintiff has probable cause to believe that a ground for attachment exists and it appears by the plaintiff's affidavit or by the return of the attachment that no property is known to the plaintiff or officer on which the attachment can be executed, or not enough to satisfy the plaintiff's claim, and it being shown to the court or judge by affidavit that the defendant has property within the state not exempted, the defendant may be required by such court or judge to attend before the court or judge or referee appointed by the court or judge and give information on oath respecting the property. [1987 c 442 § 817; 1886 p 42 § 14; RRS § 660. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.140.]

**6.25.180 Motion to discharge attachment—Affidavits in opposition—Discharge.** (1) The defendant may at any time, after appearing in the action and before giving bond as provided in RCW 6.25.190, apply on motion, upon reasonable notice to the plaintiff, to the court in which the action is brought or to the judge thereof, that the writ of attachment be discharged on the ground that it was improperly or irregularly issued.

(2) If the motion is made on affidavits on the part of the defendant, the plaintiff may oppose the same by affidavits in addition to those on which the attachment was issued or by other evidence, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(3) If upon application it satisfactorily appears that the writ of attachment was improperly or irregularly issued, it must be discharged.

(4) Whenever an order has been made discharging or releasing an attachment upon real property, a certified copy of such order may be recorded with the recording officer of the county in which the writ of attachment has been recorded. [1987 c 442 § 818; 1927 c 131 § 1; 1886 p 45 § 31; RRS § 673. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.270.]

**Rules of court:** *CR 7(b), 64.*

**6.25.190 Discharge of attachment—Bond—Judgment on bond.** If the defendant, at any time before judgment, causes a bond to be executed to the plaintiff with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the officer having the attachment or after the return thereof by the clerk, conditional on the performance of the judgment of the court, the attachment shall be discharged and restitution made of property taken or proceeds thereof. The execution of such bond shall be deemed an appearance of such defendant to the action. The bond shall be part of the record and, if judgment goes against the defendant, the judgment shall be entered against the defendant and the sureties. [1987 c 442 § 819; 1886 p 45 § 29; RRS § 671. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.250.]

**6.25.220 Sale of property before judgment.** If any property attached be perishable or in danger of serious and immediate waste or decay, the sheriff shall sell the same in the manner in which such property is sold on execution. Whenever it shall be made to appear satisfactorily to the court or judge that the interest of the parties to the action will be subserved by a sale of any attached property, the court or judge may order such property to be sold in the same manner as like property is sold under execution. Such order shall be made only upon notice to the adverse party or that party's attorney in case such party shall have been personally served with a summons in the action. [1987 c 442 § 822; 1957 c 51 § 2; 1886 p 42 § 16; RRS § 662. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.160.]

**6.25.230 Custody of property or proceeds.** All moneys received by the sheriff under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid to the clerk of the court that issued the writ, to be held to be applied to any judgment that may be recovered in the action, and all other attached property shall be retained by the sheriff to be applied to any judgment that may be recovered in the action. [1987 c 442 § 823; 1886 p 43 § 17; RRS § 663. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.170.]

**6.25.240 Subjection of attached property to judgment.** If judgment is recovered by the plaintiff, it shall be paid out of any proceeds held by the clerk of the court and out of the property retained by the sheriff if it is sufficient for that purpose as follows:

(1) By applying on the execution issued on said judgment the proceeds of all sales of perishable or other property sold, or so much as shall be necessary to satisfy the judgment.

(2) If any balance remains due, the sheriff shall sell under the execution so much of the personal property attached as may be necessary to satisfy the balance and, if there is not sufficient personal property to satisfy the balance, the sheriff shall sell so much of any real property attached as is necessary to satisfy the judgment.

Notice of sale shall be given and sale conducted as in other cases of sales on execution. [1987 c 442 § 824; 1957 c 51 § 4; 1886 p 44 § 25; RRS § 667. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.210.]

**6.25.250 Procedure when attached property insufficient.** If, after the proceeds of all the property attached have been applied to the payment of the judgment, any balance remains due, the sheriff shall proceed as upon an execution in other cases. Whenever the judgment has been paid, the sheriff, upon reasonable demand, shall deliver to the defendant the attached property remaining and the clerk shall pay to the defendant any remaining proceeds of the property attached that have not been applied on the judgment. [1987 c 442 § 825; 1957 c 51 § 5; 1886 p 44 § 26; RRS § 668. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9,

10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.220.]

**6.25.260 Procedure where execution unsatisfied.** If the execution is returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part, the plaintiff may proceed as in other cases upon the return of an execution. [1987 c 442 § 826; 1886 p 45 § 27; RRS § 669. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.230.]

**6.25.270 Procedure when judgment is for defendant.** If the defendant recovers judgment against the plaintiff, all the proceeds of sales and money collected by the sheriff and deposited with the clerk and all the property attached and retained by the sheriff shall be delivered to the defendant or the defendant's agent. The order of attachment shall be discharged and the property released therefrom. [1987 c 442 § 827; 1886 p 45 § 28; RRS § 670. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.240.]

**6.25.280 Chapter to be liberally construed—Amendments.** This chapter shall be liberally construed, and the plaintiff, at any time when objection is made thereto, shall be permitted to amend any defect in the complaint, affidavit, bond, writ or other proceeding, and no attachment shall be quashed or dismissed, or the property attached released, if the defect in any of the proceedings has been or can be amended so as to show that a legal cause for the attachment existed at the time it was issued, and the court shall give the plaintiff a reasonable time to perfect such defective proceedings. [1987 c 442 § 828; 1886 p 46 § 35; RRS § 677. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.310.]

## Chapter 6.26 RCW PREJUDGMENT GARNISHMENT

### Sections

6.26.010	Prejudgment writs of garnishment—Grounds.
6.26.020	Issuance of writ—Bond—Fee.
6.26.025	Writs of garnishment to different garnishees.
6.26.030	Action on bond for wrongful garnishment—Damages and attorney's fees.
6.26.040	Action against plaintiff for wrongful garnishment—Damages and attorney's fees.
6.26.050	Application for prejudgment writ of garnishment—Affidavit.
6.26.060	Issuance of writ—Notice—Hearing—Issuance without prior notice—Forms for notice.
6.26.070	Application of chapter 6.27 RCW to prejudgment garnishments.

**Rules of court:** CR 64.

**6.26.010 Prejudgment writs of garnishment—Grounds.** Except as limited by RCW 6.27.040, relating to the state and other public entities, and RCW 6.27.330, relating to continuing liens on earnings, the plaintiff at the time of commencing an action, or at any time thereafter before judgment in an action, may obtain a prejudgment writ of garnishment from a superior or district court of this state before which the action is pending on the following grounds:

(1) If the writ is issued for a purpose other than garnishing a defendant's earnings as defined in RCW 6.27.010, (a) on the ground that an attachment has been issued in accordance with chapter 6.25 RCW, (b) on the ground that the plaintiff sues on a debt that is due and owing and unpaid, or (c) on one or more of the grounds for issuance of attachment stated in RCW 6.25.030 or 6.25.040; or

(2) If the writ is directed to an employer for the purpose of garnishing earnings of a defendant, on the grounds that the defendant:

(a) Is not a resident of this state, or is about to move from this state; or

(b) Has concealed himself or herself, absconded, or absented himself or herself so that ordinary process of law cannot be served on him or her; or

(c) Has removed or is about to remove any of his or her property from this state, with intent to delay or defraud his or her creditors. [1988 c 231 § 18; 1987 c 442 § 901.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.26.020 Issuance of writ—Bond—Fee.** In all cases of garnishment before judgment, before the writ shall issue, the plaintiff shall pay the fee described in RCW 6.27.060 and shall execute and file with the clerk a bond with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the clerk of the court issuing the writ, payable to the defendant in the suit, in double the amount of the debt claimed therein, or such other amount as the court shall fix, conditioned that the plaintiff will prosecute the suit without delay and pay all damages and costs that may be adjudged against him or her for wrongfully suing out such garnishment. [1988 c 231 § 19; 1987 c 442 § 902; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 3. Formerly RCW 7.33.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.26.025 Writs of garnishment to different garnishees.** If issuance of a writ of garnishment or of a writ of attachment has been ordered by the court in a case, other writs of garnishment to different garnishees may be issued in the same case under the circumstances and restrictions stated in RCW 6.25.120 for issuance of successive writs of attachment. [1988 c 231 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.26.030 Action on bond for wrongful garnishment—Damages and attorney's fees.** In an action on the bond under RCW 6.26.020, if it is shown that the garnishment was wrongfully sued out, the defendant may recover the actual damages sustained and reasonable attorney's fees to be fixed by the court. If it is shown that such garnishment was sued out maliciously, the defendant may also recover exemplary damages, and the defendant need not wait until the principal suit is determined before suing on the bond by counterclaim in the original action or in a separate action. [1987 c 442 § 903.]

**6.26.040 Action against plaintiff for wrongful garnishment—Damages and attorney's fees.** In all actions in which a prejudgment writ of garnishment has been issued by a court and served upon a garnishee, in the event judgment is not entered for the plaintiff on the claim sued upon by plaintiff, and the claim has not voluntarily been settled or other-

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wise satisfied, the defendant shall have an action for damages against the plaintiff. The defendant's action for damages may be brought by way of a counterclaim in the original action or in a separate action and, in the action the trier of fact, in addition to other actual damages sustained by the defendant, may award the defendant reasonable attorney's fees. [1987 c 442 § 904; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 34. Formerly RCW 7.33.340.]

**6.26.050 Application for prejudgment writ of garnishment—Affidavit.** The plaintiff or someone on the plaintiff's behalf shall apply for a prejudgment writ of garnishment by affidavit, alleging that the garnishment is not sought and the action is not prosecuted to hinder, delay, or defraud any creditor of the defendant and also alleging that the affiant has reason to believe and does believe the following, together with specific facts on which the affiant's belief in the allegations is based: (1) That the defendant is indebted to the plaintiff (specifying the nature of the claim and the amount of such indebtedness over and above all just credits and offsets); (2) that one or more of the grounds for prejudgment garnishment established in RCW 6.26.010 exists; (3) that the plaintiff has reason to believe, and does believe, that the garnishee, stating the garnishee's name and residence or place of business, is indebted to the defendant in amounts exceeding those exempted from garnishment by any state or federal law, or that the garnishee has possession or control of personal property or effects belonging to the defendant which are not exempted from garnishment by any state or federal law; (4) whether or not the garnishee is the employer of the defendant; and (5) if the action is based on a debt not due, that nothing but time is wanting to fix an absolute indebtedness due from the defendant. [1987 c 442 § 905.]

**6.26.060 Issuance of writ—Notice—Hearing—Issuance without prior notice—Forms for notice.** (1) When application is made for a prejudgment writ of garnishment, the court shall issue the writ in substantially the form prescribed in RCW 6.27.070 and 6.27.100 directing that the garnishee withhold an amount as prescribed in RCW 6.27.090, but, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the court shall issue the writ only after prior notice to the defendant, given in the manner prescribed in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, with an opportunity for a prior hearing at which the plaintiff shall establish the probable validity of the plaintiff's claim and that there is probable cause to believe that the alleged ground for garnishment exists.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, the court shall issue the writ without prior notice to the defendant and without an opportunity for a prior hearing only if:

(a) A ground alleged in the plaintiff's affidavit is: (i) A ground appearing in RCW 6.26.010(2)(c) if the writ is to be directed to an employer for the purpose of garnishing the defendant's earnings; or (ii) a ground appearing in RCW 6.25.030 (5) through (7) or in RCW 6.25.040(1) of the attachment chapter; or (iii) if garnishment is necessary to permit the court to acquire jurisdiction over the action, the ground alleged is one appearing in RCW 6.25.030 (1) through (4) or in RCW 6.26.010(2) (a) or (b); and

(b) The court finds on the basis of specific facts, after an ex parte hearing, that there is probable cause to believe the allegations of the plaintiff's affidavit.

(3) If a writ is issued under subsection (2) of this section without prior notice to the defendant, after service of the writ on the garnishee, the defendant shall be entitled to prompt notice of the garnishment and a right to an early hearing, if requested, at which the plaintiff shall establish the probable validity of the claim sued on and that there is probable cause to believe that the alleged ground for garnishment exists.

(4) When notice and a hearing are required under this section, notice may be given by a show cause order stating the date, time, and place of the hearing. Notice required under this section shall be jurisdictional and, except as provided for published notice in subsection (5) of this section, notice required under this section shall be served in the same manner as a summons in a civil action and shall be served together with (a) a copy of plaintiff's affidavit and a copy of the writ if already issued, and (b) a copy of the following "Notice of Right to a Hearing" in substantially the following form or, if defendant is an individual, a copy of the claim form and the "Notice of Garnishment and of Your Rights" prescribed by RCW 6.27.140, in which the following notice is substituted for the first paragraph of said Notice:

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO HEARING

A writ of garnishment has been or will be issued by a Washington court and has been or will be served on the garnishee defendant. It will require the garnishee defendant to withhold payment of money that may be due to you and to withhold other property of yours that the garnishee may hold or control until a lawsuit in which you are a defendant has been decided by the court. Service of this notice of your rights is required by law.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A PROMPT HEARING. If notice of a hearing date and time is not served with this notice, you have the right to request the hearing. At the hearing, the plaintiff must give evidence that there is probable cause to believe that the statements in the enclosed affidavit are true and also that the claim stated in the lawsuit is probably valid, or else the garnishment will be released.

(5) If service of notice on the defendant must be effected by publication, only the following notice need be published under the caption of the case:

To, Defendant:

A writ of prejudgment garnishment has been issued in the above captioned case, directed to . . . . . as Garnishee Defendant, commanding the Garnishee to withhold amounts due you or to withhold any of your property in the Garnishee's possession or control for application to any judgment that may be entered for plaintiff in the case.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK FOR A HEARING. At the hearing, the plaintiff must give evidence that there is probable cause to believe that the ground for garnishment alleged in an affidavit filed

with the court exists and also that the claim stated in the lawsuit is probably valid, or else the garnishment will be released.

If the defendant is an individual, the following paragraph shall be added to the published notice:

YOU MAY ALSO HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE THE GARNISHMENT RELEASED if amounts or property withheld are exempt under federal or state statutes, for example, bank accounts in which benefits such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, United States pension, Unemployment Compensation, or Veterans' benefits have been deposited or certain personal property described in section 6.15.010 of the Revised Code of Washington.

[1997 c 59 § 1; 1988 c 231 § 20; 1987 c 442 § 906.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**6.26.070 Application of chapter 6.27 RCW to prejudgment garnishments.** Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of chapter 6.27 RCW governing garnishments apply to prejudgment garnishments. [1987 c 442 § 907.]

Chapter 6.27 RCW
GARNISHMENT

Sections
6.27.005 Legislative intent.
6.27.010 Definitions.
6.27.020 Grounds for issuance of writ—Time of issuance of prejudgment writs.
6.27.030 Application of chapter to district courts.
6.27.040 State and municipal corporations subject to garnishment—Service of writ.
6.27.050 Garnishment of money held by officer—Of judgment debtor—Of personal representative.
6.27.060 Application for writ—Affidavit—Fee.
6.27.070 Issuance of writ—Form—Dating—Attestation.
6.27.080 Writ directed to financial institution—Form and service.
6.27.090 Amount garnishee required to hold.
6.27.095 Garnishee's processing fees.
6.27.100 Form of writ of garnishment.
6.27.105 Form of writ for continuing lien on earnings.
6.27.110 Service of writ generally—Forms—Requirements for person serving writ—Return.
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6.27.150 Exemption of earnings—Amount.
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6.27.210 Answer of garnishee may be controverted by plaintiff or defendant.
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6.27.270 Decree directing garnishee to deliver up effects—Disposition.
6.27.280 Procedure upon failure of garnishee to deliver.
6.27.290 Similarity of names—Procedure.



- 6.27.300 Garnishee protected against claim of defendant.
- 6.27.310 Dismissal of writ after one year—Notice—Exception.
- 6.27.320 Dismissal of garnishment—Duty of plaintiff—Procedure—Penalty—Costs.
- 6.27.330 Continuing lien on earnings—Authorized.
- 6.27.340 Continuing lien on earnings—Forms for answer to writ.
- 6.27.350 Continuing lien on earnings—When lien becomes effective—Termination—Second answer.
- 6.27.360 Continuing lien on earnings—Priorities—Exceptions.
- 6.27.370 Notice to federal government as garnishee defendant—Deposit, payment, and endorsement of funds received by the clerk—Fees as recoverable cost.
- 6.27.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Rules of court: CR 64.*

**6.27.005 Legislative intent.** The legislature recognizes that a garnishee has no responsibility for the situation leading to the garnishment of a debtor's wages, funds, or other property, but that the garnishment process is necessary for the enforcement of obligations debtors otherwise fail to honor, and that garnishment procedures benefit the state and the business community as creditors. The state should take whatever measures that are reasonably necessary to reduce or offset the administrative burden on the garnishee consistent with the goal of effectively enforcing the debtor's unpaid obligations. [2000 c 72 § 1; 1998 c 227 § 1; 1997 c 296 § 1.]

**6.27.010 Definitions.** (1) As used in this chapter, the term "earnings" means compensation paid or payable to an individual for personal services, whether denominated as wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, and includes periodic payments pursuant to a governmental or nongovernmental pension or retirement program.

(2) As used in this chapter, the term "disposable earnings" means that part of earnings remaining after the deduction from those earnings of any amounts required by law to be withheld. [2012 c 159 § 1; 2003 c 222 § 16; 1987 c 442 § 1001.]

**6.27.020 Grounds for issuance of writ—Time of issuance of prejudgment writs.** (1) The clerks of the superior courts and district courts of this state may issue writs of garnishment returnable to their respective courts for the benefit of a judgment creditor who has a judgment wholly or partially unsatisfied in the court from which the garnishment is sought.

(2) Writs of garnishment may be issued in district court with like effect by the attorney of record for the judgment creditor, and the form of writ shall be substantially the same as when issued by the court except that it shall be subscribed only by the signature of such attorney.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 6.27.040 and 6.27.330, the superior courts and district courts of this state may issue prejudgment writs of garnishment to a plaintiff at the time of commencement of an action or at any time afterward, subject to the requirements of chapter 6.26 RCW. [2003 c 222 § 1; 1987 c 442 § 1002; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 1. Formerly RCW 7.33.010.]

*Rules of court: Cf. CR 64.*

**6.27.030 Application of chapter to district courts.** All the provisions of this chapter shall apply to proceedings before district courts of this state. [1987 c 442 § 1003; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 2. Formerly RCW 7.33.020.]

(2022 Ed.)

**6.27.040 State and municipal corporations subject to garnishment—Service of writ.** (1) The state of Washington, all counties, cities, towns, school districts and other municipal corporations shall be subject to garnishment after judgment has been entered in the principal action, but not before, in the superior and district courts, in the same manner and with the same effect, as provided in the case of other garnishees.

(2) The venue of any such garnishment proceeding shall be the same as for the original action, and the writ shall be issued by the clerk of the court having jurisdiction of such original action or by the attorney of record for the judgment creditor in district court.

(3) The writ of garnishment shall be served upon the same officer as is required for service of summons upon the commencement of a civil action against the state, county, city, town, school district, or other municipal corporation, as the case may be. [2003 c 222 § 2. Prior: 1987 c 442 § 1004; 1987 c 202 § 134; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 6. Formerly RCW 7.33.060.]

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

**6.27.050 Garnishment of money held by officer—Of judgment debtor—Of personal representative.** A sheriff or other peace officer who holds money of the defendant is subject to garnishment, excepting only for money or property taken from a person arrested by such officer, at the time of the arrest. A judgment debtor of the defendant is subject to garnishment when the judgment has not been previously assigned on the record or by writing filed in the office of the clerk of the court that entered the judgment and minuted by the clerk as an assignment in the execution docket. An executor or administrator is subject to garnishment for money due from the decedent to the defendant. [1987 c 442 § 1005; 1927 c 101 § 1; 1886 p 43 § 19; RRS § 664. Prior: Code 1881 §§ 174-192; 1877 pp 35-40; 1873 pp 43-50; 1871 pp 9, 10; 1869 pp 41-47; 1863 pp 112-120; 1860 pp 30-36; 1854 pp 155-162. Formerly RCW 7.12.180.]

**6.27.060 Application for writ—Affidavit—Fee.** The judgment creditor as the plaintiff or someone in the judgment creditor's behalf shall apply for a writ of garnishment by affidavit, stating the following facts: (1) The plaintiff has a judgment wholly or partially unsatisfied in the court from which the writ is sought; (2) the amount alleged to be due under that judgment; (3) the plaintiff has reason to believe, and does believe that the garnishee, stating the garnishee's name and residence or place of business, is indebted to the defendant in amounts exceeding those exempted from garnishment by any state or federal law, or that the garnishee has possession or control of personal property or effects belonging to the defendant which are not exempted from garnishment by any state or federal law; and (4) whether or not the garnishee is the employer of the judgment debtor.

The judgment creditor shall pay to the clerk of the superior court the fee provided by RCW 36.18.016(6), or to the clerk of the district court the fee provided by RCW 3.62.060. [2018 c 22 § 4; 2003 c 222 § 17; 1988 c 231 § 22. Prior: 1987 c 442 § 1006; 1987 c 202 § 133; 1981 c 193 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 4. Formerly RCW 7.33.040.]

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**Explanatory statement—2018 c 22:** See note following RCW 1.20.051.

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

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.27.070 Issuance of writ—Form—Dating—Attestation.** (1) When application for a writ of garnishment is made by a judgment creditor and the requirements of RCW 6.27.060 have been complied with, the clerk shall docket the case in the names of the judgment creditor as plaintiff, the judgment debtor as defendant, and the garnishee as garnishee defendant, and shall immediately issue and deliver a writ of garnishment to the judgment creditor in the form prescribed in RCW 6.27.100, directed to the garnishee, commanding the garnishee to answer said writ on forms served with the writ and complying with RCW 6.27.190 within twenty days after the service of the writ upon the garnishee. The clerk shall likewise docket the case when a writ of garnishment issued by the attorney of record of a judgment creditor is filed. Whether a writ is issued by the clerk or an attorney, the clerk shall bear no responsibility for errors contained in the writ.

(2) The writ of garnishment shall be dated and attested as in the form prescribed in RCW 6.27.100. The name and office address of the plaintiff's attorney shall be indorsed thereon or, in case the plaintiff has no attorney, the name and address of the plaintiff shall be indorsed thereon. The address of the clerk's office shall appear at the bottom of the writ. [2003 c 222 § 3; 1987 c 442 § 1007; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 1. Prior: 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 5. Formerly RCW 7.33.050.]

**6.27.080 Writ directed to financial institution—Form and service.** (1) A writ of garnishment directed to a bank, savings and loan association, or credit union that maintains branch offices shall identify either a particular branch of the financial institution or the financial institution as the garnishee defendant. The head office of a financial institution shall be considered a separate branch for purposes of this section. The statement required by subsection (2) of this section may be incorporated in the writ or served separately.

(2) Service shall be as required by RCW 6.27.110 (1) and (3) and shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested, directed to or by personal service, in the same manner as a summons in a civil action is served, on the manager, cashier, or assistant cashier of the financial institution, except that, if the financial institution, and not a branch, is named as garnishee defendant, service shall be either on the head office or on the place designated by the financial institution for receipt of service of process. There shall be served with the writ, as part of the service, a statement in writing signed by the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, stating (a) the defendant's place of residence and business, occupation, trade, or profession, or (b) the defendant's federal tax identification number, or (c) the defendant's account number, if such information is not incorporated in the writ. If the statement is not served with the writ and such information is not included in the writ, the service shall be deemed incomplete and the garnishee shall not be held liable for funds owing to the defendant or property of the defendant in the possession of or under the control of the garnishee defendant that it fails to discover.

(3) A writ naming the financial institution as the garnishee defendant shall be effective only to attach deposits of the defendant in the financial institution and compensation payable for personal services due the defendant from the financial institution. A writ naming a branch as garnishee defendant shall be effective only to attach the deposits, accounts, credits, or other personal property of the defendant (excluding compensation payable for personal services) in the possession or control of the particular branch to which the writ is directed and on which service is made.

A writ of garnishment is effective against property in the possession or control of a financial institution only if the writ of garnishment is directed to and names a branch as garnishee defendant. [1988 c 231 § 23; 1987 c 442 § 1008.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.27.090 Amount garnishee required to hold.** (1) The writ of garnishment shall set forth in the first paragraph the amount that garnishee is required to hold, which shall be an amount determined as follows: (a)(i) If after judgment, the amount of the judgment remaining unsatisfied on the clerk of the court's execution docket, if any, plus interest to the date of garnishment, as provided in RCW 4.56.110, plus estimated interest that may accrue during the garnishment process on a per diem basis under subsection (3) of this section plus taxable costs and attorneys' fees, or (ii) if before judgment, the amount prayed for in the complaint plus estimated taxable costs of suit and attorneys' fees, together with, (b) whether before or after judgment, estimated costs of garnishment as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The court may, by order, set a higher amount to be held upon a showing of good cause by plaintiff.

(2) Costs recoverable in garnishment proceedings, to be estimated for purposes of subsection (1) of this section, include filing and ex parte fees, service and affidavit fees, postage and costs of certified mail, answer fee or fees, other fees legally chargeable to a plaintiff in the garnishment process, and a garnishment attorney fee in the amount of the greater of one hundred dollars or ten percent of (a) the amount of the judgment remaining unsatisfied or (b) the amount prayed for in the complaint. The garnishment attorney fee shall not exceed three hundred dollars.

(3) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the plaintiff must indicate in the writ a specific dollar amount of estimated interest that may accrue during the garnishment process per day. The amount must be based on an interest rate of twelve percent or the interest rate set forth in the judgment, whichever rate is less. [2012 c 159 § 2; 2000 c 72 § 2; 1988 c 231 § 24; 1987 c 442 § 1009; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 9. Formerly RCW 7.33.090.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.27.095 Garnishee's processing fees.** (1) The garnishee of a writ for a continuing lien on earnings may deduct a processing fee from the remainder of the obligor's earnings after withholding the required amount under the writ. The processing fee may not exceed twenty dollars for the first answer and ten dollars at the time the garnishee submits the second answer.

(2) If the writ of garnishment is not a writ for a continuing lien on earnings, the garnishee is entitled to check or

money order payable to the garnishee in the amount of twenty dollars at the time the writ of garnishment is served on the garnishee as required under RCW 6.27.110(1). [1998 c 227 § 2; 1997 c 296 § 3.]

**6.27.100 Form of writ of garnishment. (Effective until July 1, 2025.)** (1) A writ issued for a continuing lien on earnings shall be substantially in the form provided in RCW 6.27.105. All other writs of garnishment shall be substantially in the following form, but:

(a) If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for child support, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for child support";

(b) If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for private student loan debt, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for private student loan debt";

(c) If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for consumer debt, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for consumer debt"; and

(d) If the writ is issued by an attorney, the writ shall be revised as indicated in subsection (2) of this section:

"IN THE . . . . COURT  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR  
THE COUNTY OF . . . . .

.....  
Plaintiff, No. ....  
vs.  
..... WRIT OF  
Defendant, GARNISHMENT  
.....  
Garnishee  
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: .....  
Garnishee  
AND TO: .....  
Defendant

The above-named plaintiff has applied for a writ of garnishment against you, claiming that the above-named defendant is indebted to plaintiff and that the amount to be held to satisfy that indebtedness is \$ . . . . ., consisting of:

Balance on Judgment or Amount of Claim	\$ . . . .
Interest under Judgment from . . . . to . . . .	\$ . . . .
Per Day Rate of Estimated Interest	\$ . . . . per day
Taxable Costs and Attorneys' Fees	\$ . . . .
Estimated Garnishment Costs:	
Filing and Ex Parte Fees	\$ . . . .
Service and Affidavit Fees	\$ . . . .
Postage and Costs of Certified Mail	\$ . . . .
Answer Fee or Fees	\$ . . . .
Garnishment Attorney Fee	\$ . . . .

Other \$ . . . .

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, unless otherwise directed by the court, by the attorney of record for the plaintiff, or by this writ, not to pay any debt, whether earnings subject to this garnishment or any other debt, owed to the defendant at the time this writ was served and not to deliver, sell, or transfer, or recognize any sale or transfer of, any personal property or effects of the defendant in your possession or control at the time when this writ was served. Any such payment, delivery, sale, or transfer is void to the extent necessary to satisfy the plaintiff's claim and costs for this writ with interest.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to answer this writ according to the instructions in this writ and in the answer forms and, within twenty days after the service of the writ upon you, to mail or deliver the original of such answer to the court, one copy to the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, and one copy to the defendant, at the addresses listed at the bottom of this writ.

If you owe the defendant a debt payable in money in excess of the amount set forth in the first paragraph of this writ, hold only the amount set forth in the first paragraph and any processing fee if one is charged and release all additional funds or property to defendant.

FOR ALL DEBTS EXCEPT PRIVATE STUDENT LOAN DEBT AND CONSUMER DEBT:

If you are a bank or other institution in which the defendant has accounts to which the exemption under RCW 6.15.010(1)(d)(ii)(A) applies and the total of the amounts held in all of the defendant's accounts is less than or equal to \$500, release all funds or property to the defendant and do not hold any amount.

If you are a bank or other institution in which the defendant has accounts to which the exemption under RCW 6.15.010(1)(d)(ii)(A) applies and the total of the amounts held in all of the defendant's accounts is in excess of \$500, release at least \$500, hold no more than the amount set forth in the first paragraph of this writ and any processing fee if one is charged, and release additional funds or property, if any, to the defendant.

FOR PRIVATE STUDENT LOAN DEBT AND CONSUMER DEBT:

If you are a bank or other institution in which the defendant has accounts to which the exemption under RCW 6.15.010(1)(d)(ii) (B) or (C) applies and the total of the amounts held in all of the defendant's accounts is less than or equal to \$1,000, release all funds or property to the defendant and do not hold any amount.

If you are a bank or other institution in which the defendant has accounts to which the exemption under RCW 6.15.010(1)(d)(ii) (B) or (C) applies and the total of the amounts held in all of the defendant's accounts is in excess of \$1,000, release at least \$1,000, hold no more than the amount set forth in the first paragraph of this writ and any processing fee if one is charged, and release additional funds or property, if any, to the defendant.

IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER THIS WRIT AS COMMANDED, A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM AGAINST THE DEFENDANT

WITH ACCRUING INTEREST, ATTORNEY FEES, AND COSTS WHETHER OR NOT YOU OWE ANYTHING TO THE DEFENDANT. IF YOU PROPERLY ANSWER THIS WRIT, ANY JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WILL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ANY NONEXEMPT DEBT OR THE VALUE OF ANY NONEXEMPT PROPERTY OR EFFECTS IN YOUR POSSESSION OR CONTROL.

JUDGMENT MAY ALSO BE ENTERED AGAINST THE DEFENDANT FOR COSTS AND FEES INCURRED BY THE PLAINTIFF.

Witness, the Honorable . . . . ., Judge of the above-entitled Court, and the seal thereof, this . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . (year)

[Seal]

Attorney for Plaintiff (or Plaintiff, if no attorney)
Clerk of the Court
Address By
Name of Defendant Address"
Address of Defendant

(2) If an attorney issues the writ of garnishment, the final paragraph of the writ, containing the date, and the subscribed attorney and clerk provisions, shall be replaced with text in substantially the following form:

"This writ is issued by the undersigned attorney of record for plaintiff under the authority of chapter 6.27 of the Revised Code of Washington, and must be complied with in the same manner as a writ issued by the clerk of the court.

Dated this . . . . .day of . . . . ., . . . . (year)
Attorney for Plaintiff
Address Address of the Clerk of the Court"
Name of Defendant
Address of Defendant

[2021 c 50 § 3; 2019 c 371 § 4; 2018 c 199 § 204; 2012 c 159 § 3; 2003 c 222 § 4; 2000 c 72 § 3; 1998 c 227 § 3; 1997 c 296 § 2; 1988 c 231 § 25; 1987 c 442 § 1010; 1981 c 193 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 11. Formerly RCW 7.33.110.]

Findings—Intent—Expiration date—2021 c 50: See notes following RCW 6.15.010.

Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199: See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.27.100 Form of writ of garnishment. (Effective July 1, 2025.) (1) A writ issued for a continuing lien on earnings shall be substantially in the form provided in RCW 6.27.105. All other writs of garnishment shall be substantially in the following form, but:

- (a) If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for child support, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for child support";
(b) If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for private student loan debt, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for private student loan debt";
(c) If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for consumer debt, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for consumer debt"; and
(d) If the writ is issued by an attorney, the writ shall be revised as indicated in subsection (2) of this section:

"IN THE . . . . COURT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR
THE COUNTY OF . . . . .

Plaintiff, No. . . . .
vs.
Defendant, WRIT OF GARNISHMENT
Garnishee
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: . . . . . Garnishee
AND TO: . . . . . Defendant

The above-named plaintiff has applied for a writ of garnishment against you, claiming that the above-named defendant is indebted to plaintiff and that the amount to be held to satisfy that indebtedness is \$ . . . . ., consisting of:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include: Balance on Judgment or Amount of Claim, Interest under Judgment from . . . to . . . , Per Day Rate of Estimated Interest, Taxable Costs and Attorneys' Fees, Estimated Garnishment Costs (Filing and Ex Parte Fees, Service and Affidavit Fees, Postage and Costs of Certified Mail, Answer Fee or Fees, Garnishment Attorney Fee, Other).

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, unless otherwise directed by the court, by the attorney of record for the plaintiff, or by this writ, not to pay any debt, whether earnings subject to this garnishment or any other debt, owed to the defen-

dant at the time this writ was served and not to deliver, sell, or transfer, or recognize any sale or transfer of, any personal property or effects of the defendant in your possession or control at the time when this writ was served. Any such payment, delivery, sale, or transfer is void to the extent necessary to satisfy the plaintiff's claim and costs for this writ with interest.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to answer this writ according to the instructions in this writ and in the answer forms and, within twenty days after the service of the writ upon you, to mail or deliver the original of such answer to the court, one copy to the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, and one copy to the defendant, at the addresses listed at the bottom of this writ.

If you owe the defendant a debt payable in money in excess of the amount set forth in the first paragraph of this writ, hold only the amount set forth in the first paragraph and any processing fee if one is charged and release all additional funds or property to defendant.

IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER THIS WRIT AS COMMANDED, A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM AGAINST THE DEFENDANT WITH ACCRUING INTEREST, ATTORNEY FEES, AND COSTS WHETHER OR NOT YOU OWE ANYTHING TO THE DEFENDANT. IF YOU PROPERLY ANSWER THIS WRIT, ANY JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WILL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ANY NONEXEMPT DEBT OR THE VALUE OF ANY NONEXEMPT PROPERTY OR EFFECTS IN YOUR POSSESSION OR CONTROL.

JUDGMENT MAY ALSO BE ENTERED AGAINST THE DEFENDANT FOR COSTS AND FEES INCURRED BY THE PLAINTIFF.

Witness, the Honorable . . . . ., Judge of the above-entitled Court, and the seal thereof, this . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . (year)

[Seal]

.....
Attorney for Plaintiff (or Plaintiff, if no attorney)
.....
Address
.....
Name of Defendant
.....
Address of Defendant
.....
Clerk of the Court
By
Address"

(2) If an attorney issues the writ of garnishment, the final paragraph of the writ, containing the date, and the subscripted attorney and clerk provisions, shall be replaced with text in substantially the following form:

"This writ is issued by the undersigned attorney of record for plaintiff under the authority of chapter 6.27 of the Revised Code of Washington, and must be complied with in the same manner as a writ issued by the clerk of the court.

Dated this . . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . . (year)

Attorney for Plaintiff

Address

Address of the Clerk of the Court"

Name of Defendant

Address of Defendant

[2019 c 371 § 4; 2018 c 199 § 204; 2012 c 159 § 3; 2003 c 222 § 4; 2000 c 72 § 3; 1998 c 227 § 3; 1997 c 296 § 2; 1988 c 231 § 25; 1987 c 442 § 1010; 1981 c 193 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 11. Formerly RCW 7.33.110.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199: See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.27.105 Form of writ for continuing lien on earnings. (1) A writ that is issued for a continuing lien on earnings shall be substantially in the following form, but:

(a) If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for private student loan debt, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for private student loan debt";

(b) If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for consumer debt, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for consumer debt"; and

(c) If the writ is issued by an attorney, the writ shall be revised as indicated in subsection (2) of this section:

"IN THE . . . . COURT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR
THE COUNTY OF . . . . .

.....
Plaintiff, No. ....
vs.
..... WRIT OF
Defendant GARNISHMENT FOR
CONTINUING LIEN ON
..... EARNINGS
Garnishee
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO:.....
Garnishee
AND TO: .....
Defendant

The above-named plaintiff has applied for a writ of garnishment against you, claiming that the above-named defendant is indebted to plaintiff and that the amount to be held to satisfy that indebtedness is \$ . . . . ., consisting of:

Balance on Judgment or Amount of Claim \$ ....
Interest under Judgment from . . . . to . . . . \$ ....

Per Day Rate of Estimated Interest	\$ . . . .
	per day
Taxable Costs and Attorneys' Fees	\$ . . . .
Estimated Garnishment Costs:	
Filing and Ex Parte Fees	\$ . . . .
Service and Affidavit Fees	\$ . . . .
Postage and Costs of Certified Mail	\$ . . . .
Answer Fee or Fees	\$ . . . .
Garnishment Attorney Fee	\$ . . . .
Other	\$ . . . .

THIS IS A WRIT FOR A CONTINUING LIEN. THE GARNISHEE SHALL HOLD the nonexempt portion of the defendant's earnings due at the time of service of this writ and shall also hold the defendant's nonexempt earnings that accrue through the last payroll period ending on or before SIXTY days after the date of service of this writ. HOWEVER, IF THE GARNISHEE IS PRESENTLY HOLDING THE NONEXEMPT PORTION OF THE DEFENDANT'S EARNINGS UNDER A PREVIOUSLY SERVED WRIT FOR A CONTINUING LIEN, THE GARNISHEE SHALL HOLD UNDER THIS WRIT only the defendant's nonexempt earnings that accrue from the date the previously served writ or writs terminate and through the last payroll period ending on or before sixty days after the date of termination of the previous writ or writs. IN EITHER CASE, THE GARNISHEE SHALL STOP WITHHOLDING WHEN THE SUM WITHHELD EQUALS THE AMOUNT STATED IN THIS WRIT OF GARNISHMENT.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, unless otherwise directed by the court, by the attorney of record for the plaintiff, or by this writ, not to pay any debt, whether earnings subject to this garnishment or any other debt, owed to the defendant at the time this writ was served and not to deliver, sell, or transfer, or recognize any sale or transfer of, any personal property or effects of the defendant in your possession or control at the time when this writ was served. Any such payment, delivery, sale, or transfer is void to the extent necessary to satisfy the plaintiff's claim and costs for this writ with interest.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to answer this writ according to the instructions in this writ and in the answer forms and, within twenty days after the service of the writ upon you, to mail or deliver the original of such answer to the court, one copy to the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, and one copy to the defendant, at the addresses listed at the bottom of this writ.

If, at the time this writ was served, you owed the defendant any earnings (that is, wages, salary, commission, bonus, tips, or other compensation for personal services or any periodic payments pursuant to a nongovernmental pension or retirement program), the defendant is entitled to receive amounts that are exempt from garnishment under federal and state law. You must pay the exempt amounts to the defendant on the day you would customarily pay the compensation or other periodic payment. As more fully explained in the answer, the basic exempt amount is the greater of seventy-five percent of disposable earnings or a minimum amount determined by reference to the employee's pay period, to be

calculated as provided in the answer. However, if this writ carries a statement in the heading of "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for private student loan debt," the basic exempt amount is the greater of eighty-five percent of disposable earnings or fifty times the minimum hourly wage of the highest minimum wage law in the state at the time the earnings are payable; and if this writ carries a statement in the heading of "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for consumer debt," the basic exempt amount is the greater of eighty percent of disposable earnings or thirty-five times the state minimum hourly wage.

YOU MAY DEDUCT A PROCESSING FEE FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS AFTER WITHHOLDING UNDER THIS WRIT. THE PROCESSING FEE MAY NOT EXCEED TWENTY DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST ANSWER AND TEN DOLLARS AT THE TIME YOU SUBMIT THE SECOND ANSWER.

If you owe the defendant a debt payable in money in excess of the amount set forth in the first paragraph of this writ, hold only the amount set forth in the first paragraph and any processing fee if one is charged and release all additional funds or property to defendant.

IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER THIS WRIT AS COMMANDED, A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM AGAINST THE DEFENDANT WITH ACCRUING INTEREST, ATTORNEY FEES, AND COSTS WHETHER OR NOT YOU OWE ANYTHING TO THE DEFENDANT. IF YOU PROPERLY ANSWER THIS WRIT, ANY JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WILL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ANY NONEXEMPT DEBT OR THE VALUE OF ANY NONEXEMPT PROPERTY OR EFFECTS IN YOUR POSSESSION OR CONTROL.

JUDGMENT MAY ALSO BE ENTERED AGAINST THE DEFENDANT FOR COSTS AND FEES INCURRED BY THE PLAINTIFF.

Witness, the Honorable . . . . ., Judge of the above-entitled Court, and the seal thereof, this . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . . (year)

[Seal]

.....	.....
Attorney for Plaintiff (or Plaintiff, if no attorney)	Clerk of the Court
.....	.....
Address	By
.....	.....
Name of Defendant	Address"
.....	.....
Address of Defendant	

(2) If an attorney issues the writ of garnishment, the final paragraph of the writ, containing the date, and the subscripted attorney and clerk provisions, shall be replaced with text in substantially the following form:

"This writ is issued by the undersigned attorney of record for plaintiff under the authority of chapter 6.27 of the Revised Code of Washington, and must be complied with in the same manner as a writ issued by the clerk of the court.

Dated this .....day of ....., .... (year)

Attorney for Plaintiff

Address Address of the Clerk of the Court"

Name of Defendant

Address of Defendant

[2021 c 35 § 1; 2019 c 371 § 5; 2018 c 199 § 205; 2012 c 159 § 4.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199: See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

6.27.110 Service of writ generally—Forms—Requirements for person serving writ—Return. (1) Service of the writ of garnishment, including a writ for continuing lien on earnings, on the garnishee is invalid unless the writ is served together with: (a) An answer form as prescribed in RCW 6.27.190; and (b) a check or money order made payable to the garnishee in the amount of twenty dollars for the answer fee if the writ of garnishment is not a writ for a continuing lien on earnings.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 6.27.080 for service on a bank, savings and loan association, or credit union, the writ of garnishment shall be mailed to the garnishee by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed in the same manner as a summons in a civil action, and will be binding upon the garnishee on the day set forth on the return receipt. In the alternative, the writ shall be served by the sheriff of the county in which the garnishee lives or has its place of business or by any person qualified to serve process in the same manner as a summons in a civil action is served.

(3) If a writ of garnishment is served by a sheriff, the sheriff shall file with the clerk of the court that issued the writ a signed return showing the time, place, and manner of service and that the writ was accompanied by an answer form, and check or money order if required by this section, and noting thereon fees for making the service. If service is made by any person other than a sheriff, such person shall file an affidavit including the same information and showing qualifications to make such service. If a writ of garnishment is served by mail, the person making the mailing shall file an affidavit showing the time, place, and manner of mailing and that the writ was accompanied by an answer form, and check or money order if required by this section, and shall attach the return receipt or electronic return receipt delivery confirmation to the affidavit. [2012 c 159 § 6; 1998 c 227 § 4; 1997 c 296 § 4; 1988 c 231 § 26; 1987 c 442 § 1011; 1981 c 193 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 8; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 11; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 13. Formerly RCW 7.33.130.]

Rules of court: Cf. SPR 91.04W(a), (b), and (e).

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.27.120 Effect of service of writ. (1) From and after the service of a writ of garnishment, it shall not be lawful, except as provided in this chapter or as directed by the court, for the garnishee to pay any debt owing to the defendant at the time of such service, or to deliver, sell or transfer, or recognize any sale or transfer of, any personal property or effects belonging to the defendant in the garnishee's possession or under the garnishee's control at the time of such service; and any such payment, delivery, sale or transfer shall be void and of no effect as to so much of said debt, personal property or effects as may be necessary to satisfy the plaintiff's demand.

(2) This section shall have no effect as to any portion of a debt that is exempt from garnishment.

(3) The garnishee shall incur no liability for releasing funds or property in excess of the amount stated in the writ of garnishment if the garnishee continues to hold an amount equal to the amount stated in the writ of garnishment. [1987 c 442 § 1012; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 14. Formerly RCW 7.33.140.]

6.27.130 Mailing of writ and judgment or affidavit to judgment debtor—Mailing of notice and claim form if judgment debtor is an individual—Service—Return. (1)

When a writ is issued under a judgment, on or before the date of service of the writ on the garnishee, the judgment creditor shall mail or cause to be mailed to the judgment debtor, by certified mail, addressed to the last known post office address of the judgment debtor, (a) a copy of the writ and a copy of the judgment creditor's affidavit submitted in application for the writ, and (b) if the judgment debtor is an individual, the notice and claim form prescribed in RCW 6.27.140. In the alternative, on or before the day of the service of the writ on the garnishee or within two days thereafter, the stated documents shall be served on the judgment debtor in the same manner as is required for personal service of summons upon a party to an action.

(2) The requirements of this section shall not be jurisdictional, but (a) no disbursement order or judgment against the garnishee defendant shall be entered unless there is on file the return or affidavit of service or mailing required by subsection (3) of this section, and (b) if the copies of the writ and judgment or affidavit, and the notice and claim form if the defendant is an individual, are not mailed or served as herein provided, or if any irregularity appears with respect to the mailing or service, the court, in its discretion, on motion of the judgment debtor promptly made and supported by affidavit showing that the judgment debtor has suffered substantial injury from the plaintiff's failure to mail or otherwise to serve such copies, may set aside the garnishment and award to the judgment debtor an amount equal to the damages suffered because of such failure.

(3) If the service on the judgment debtor is made by a sheriff, the sheriff shall file with the clerk of the court that issued the writ a signed return showing the time, place, and manner of service and that the copy of the writ was accompanied by a copy of a judgment or affidavit, and by a notice and claim form if required by this section, and shall note thereon fees for making such service. If service is made by any person

other than a sheriff, such person shall file an affidavit including the same information and showing qualifications to make such service. If service on the judgment debtor is made by mail, the person making the mailing shall file an affidavit including the same information as required for return on service and, in addition, showing the address of the mailing and attaching the return receipt or the mailing should it be returned to the sender as undeliverable. [2003 c 222 § 5; 1988 c 231 § 27; 1987 c 442 § 1013; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 32. Formerly RCW 7.33.320.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**6.27.140 Form of returns under RCW 6.27.130. (1)**

The notice required by RCW 6.27.130(1) to be mailed to or served on an individual judgment debtor shall be in the following form, printed or typed in no smaller than size twelve point font:

**NOTICE OF GARNISHMENT  
AND OF YOUR RIGHTS**

A Writ of Garnishment issued in a Washington court has been or will be served on the garnishee named in the attached copy of the writ. After receipt of the writ, the garnishee is required to withhold payment of any money that was due to you and to withhold any other property of yours that the garnishee held or controlled. This notice of your rights is required by law.

**YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING EXEMPTION RIGHTS:**

**WAGES.** If the garnishee is your employer who owes wages or other personal earnings to you, your employer is required to pay amounts to you that are exempt under state and federal laws, as explained in the writ of garnishment. You should receive a copy of your employer's answer, which will show how the exempt amount was calculated. A garnishment against wages or other earnings for child support may not be issued under chapter 6.27 RCW. If the garnishment is for private student loan debt, the exempt amount paid to you will be the greater of the following: A percent of your disposable earnings, which is eighty-five percent of the part of your earnings remaining after your employer deducts those amounts which are required by law to be withheld, or fifty times the minimum hourly wage of the highest minimum wage law in the state at the time the earnings are payable. If the garnishment is for consumer debt, the exempt amount paid to you will be the greater of the following: A percent of your disposable earnings, which is eighty percent of the part of your earnings remaining after your employer deducts those amounts which are required by law to be withheld, or thirty-five times the state minimum hourly wage.

**BANK ACCOUNTS.** If the garnishee is a bank or other institution with which you have an account in which you have deposited benefits such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental

Security Income (SSI), Social Security, veterans' benefits, unemployment compensation, or any federally qualified pension, such as a state or federal pension, individual retirement account (IRA), or 401K plan, you may claim the account as fully exempt if you have deposited only such benefit funds in the account. It may be partially exempt even though you have deposited money from other sources in the same account. An exemption is also available under RCW 26.16.200, providing that funds in a community bank account that can be identified as the earnings of a stepparent are exempt from a garnishment on the child support obligation of the parent.

**OTHER EXEMPTIONS.** If the garnishee holds other property of yours, some or all of it may be exempt under RCW 6.15.010, a Washington statute that exempts certain property of your choice (including up to \$2,500.00 in a bank account if you owe on private student loan debts; up to \$2,000.00 in a bank account if you owe on consumer debts; or up to \$500.00 in a bank account for all other debts) and certain other property such as household furnishings, tools of trade, and a motor vehicle (all limited by differing dollar values).

**HOW TO CLAIM EXEMPTIONS.** Fill out the enclosed claim form and mail or deliver it as described in instructions on the claim form. If the plaintiff does not object to your claim, the funds or other property that you have claimed as exempt must be released not later than 10 days after the plaintiff receives your claim form. If the plaintiff objects, the law requires a hearing not later than 14 days after the plaintiff receives your claim form, and notice of the objection and hearing date will be mailed to you at the address that you put on the claim form.

**THE LAW ALSO PROVIDES OTHER EXEMPTION RIGHTS. IF NECESSARY, AN ATTORNEY CAN ASSIST YOU TO ASSERT THESE AND OTHER RIGHTS, BUT YOU MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID LOSS OF RIGHTS BY DELAY.**

(2)(a) If the writ is to garnish funds or property held by a financial institution, the claim form required by RCW 6.27.130(1) to be mailed to or served on an individual judgment debtor shall be in the following form, printed or typed in no smaller than size twelve point font:

[Caption to be filled in by judgment creditor or plaintiff before mailing.]

Name of Court

..... No .....

Plaintiff,

vs.

..... EXEMPTION CLAIM



Defendant,  
Garnishee Defendant

Print: Your name

If married or in a state registered domestic partnership, name of husband/wife/state registered domestic partner

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Read this whole form after reading the enclosed notice. Then put an X in the box or boxes that describe your exemption claim or claims and write in the necessary information on the blank lines. If additional space is needed, use the bottom of the last page or attach another sheet.
- 2. Make two copies of the completed form. Deliver the original form by first-class mail or in person to the clerk of the court, whose address is shown at the bottom of the writ of garnishment. Deliver one of the copies by first-class mail or in person to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are shown at the bottom of the writ. Keep the other copy. **YOU SHOULD DO THIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 28 DAYS (4 WEEKS) AFTER THE DATE ON THE WRIT.**

.....

Your signature

Signature of husband, wife, or state registered domestic partner

.....

Address

Address  
(if different from yours)

.....

Telephone number

Telephone number  
(if different from yours)

I/We claim the following money or property as exempt:

IF BANK ACCOUNT IS GARNISHED:

- The account contains payments from:
  - Temporary assistance for needy families, SSI, or other public assistance. I receive \$ . . . . monthly.
  - Social Security. I receive \$ . . . . monthly.
  - Veterans' Benefits. I receive \$ . . . . monthly.
  - Federally qualified pension, such as a state or federal pension, individual retirement account (IRA), or 401K plan. I receive \$ . . . . monthly.
  - Unemployment Compensation. I receive \$ . . . . monthly.
  - Child support. I receive \$ . . . . monthly.
  - Other. Explain . . . . .
  - \$2,500 exemption for private student loan debts.
  - \$2,000 exemption for consumer debts.
  - \$500 exemption for all other debts.

CAUTION: If the plaintiff objects to your claim, you will have to go to court and give proof of your claim. For example, if you claim that a bank account is exempt, you may have to show the judge your bank statements and papers that show the source of the money you deposited in the bank. Your claim may be granted more quickly if you attach copies of such proof to your claim.

IF THE JUDGE DENIES YOUR EXEMPTION CLAIM, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PLAINTIFF'S COSTS. IF THE JUDGE DECIDES THAT YOU DID NOT MAKE THE CLAIM IN GOOD FAITH, HE OR SHE MAY DECIDE THAT YOU MUST PAY THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY FEES.

(b) If the writ is directed to an employer to garnish earnings, the claim form required by RCW 6.27.130(1) to be mailed to or served on an individual judgment debtor shall be in the following form, printed or typed in no smaller than size twelve point font type:

[Caption to be filled in by judgment creditor or plaintiff before mailing.]

.....

Name of Court

No . . . . .

Plaintiff,

vs.

Defendant,

EXEMPTION CLAIM

Garnishee Defendant

IF EXEMPTION IN BANK ACCOUNT IS CLAIMED, ANSWER ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- No money other than from above payments are in the account.
- Moneys in addition to the above payments have been deposited in the account. Explain . . . . .

OTHER PROPERTY:

- Describe property . . . . .
- (If you claim other personal property as exempt, you must attach a list of all other personal property that you own.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read this whole form after reading the enclosed notice. Then put an X in the box or boxes that describe your exemption claim or claims and write in the necessary information on the blank lines. If additional space is needed, use the bottom of the last page or attach another sheet.
2. Make two copies of the completed form. Deliver the original form by first-class mail or in person to the clerk of the court, whose address is shown at the bottom of the writ of garnishment. Deliver one of the copies by first-class mail or in person to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are shown at the bottom of the writ. Keep the other copy. YOU SHOULD DO THIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 28 DAYS (4 WEEKS) AFTER THE DATE ON THE WRIT.

I/We claim the following money or property as exempt:

IF PENSION OR RETIREMENT BENEFITS ARE GARNISHED:

Name and address of employer who is paying the benefits: .....

.....

IF EARNINGS ARE GARNISHED FOR PRIVATE STUDENT LOAN DEBT:

I claim maximum exemption.

IF EARNINGS ARE GARNISHED FOR CONSUMER DEBT:

I claim maximum exemption.

.....	.....
Print: Your name	If married or in a state registered domestic partnership, name of husband/wife/state registered domestic partner
.....	.....
Your signature	Signature of husband, wife, or state registered domestic partner
.....	.....
.....	.....
Address	Address (if different from yours)
.....	.....
Telephone number	Telephone number (if different from yours)

CAUTION: If the plaintiff objects to your claim, you will have to go to court and give proof of your claim. For example, if you claim that a bank account is exempt, you may have to show the judge your bank statements and papers that show the source of the money you deposited in the bank. Your claim may be granted more quickly if you attach copies of such proof to your claim.

IF THE JUDGE DENIES YOUR EXEMPTION CLAIM, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PLAINTIFF'S COSTS. IF THE JUDGE DECIDES THAT YOU DID NOT MAKE THE CLAIM IN GOOD FAITH, HE OR SHE MAY DECIDE THAT YOU MUST PAY THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY FEES.

(c) If the writ under (b) of this subsection is not a writ for the collection of private student loan debt, the exemption language pertaining to private student loan debt may be omitted.

(d) If the writ under (b) of this subsection is not a writ for the collection of consumer debt, the exemption language pertaining to consumer debt may be omitted. [2021 c 35 § 2; 2019 c 371 § 6; 2018 c 199 § 206; 2012 c 159 § 8; (2012 c 159 § 7 expired January 1, 2018); 2011 c 162 § 6; 2011 c 162 § 5; 2010 1st sp.s. c 26 § 2; 2009 c 521 § 15; 2003 c 222 § 6; 1997 c 59 § 2; 1987 c 442 § 1014.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199:** See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

**Effective date—2012 c 159 § 8:** "Section 8 of this act takes effect January 1, 2018." [2012 c 159 § 30.]

**Expiration date—2012 c 159 § 7:** "Section 7 of this act expires January 1, 2018." [2012 c 159 § 29.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.27.150 Exemption of earnings—Amount.** (1)

Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, if the garnishee is an employer owing the defendant earnings, then for each week of such earnings, an amount shall be exempt from garnishment which is the greatest of the following:

- (a) Thirty-five times the federal minimum hourly wage in effect at the time the earnings are payable; or
- (b) Seventy-five percent of the disposable earnings of the defendant.

(2) In the case of a garnishment based on a court order for spousal maintenance, other than a mandatory wage assignment order pursuant to chapter 26.18 RCW, or a mandatory assignment of retirement benefits pursuant to chapter 41.50 RCW, the exemption shall be fifty percent of the disposable earnings of the defendant.

(3) In the case of a garnishment based on a judgment or other order for the collection of private student loan debt, for each week of such earnings, an amount shall be exempt from garnishment which is the greater of the following:

- (a) Fifty times the minimum hourly wage of the highest minimum wage law in the state at the time the earnings are payable; or
- (b) Eighty-five percent of the disposable earnings of the defendant.

(4) In the case of a garnishment based on a judgment or other order for the collection of consumer debt, for each week of such earnings, an amount shall be exempt from garnishment which is the greater of the following:

- (a) Thirty-five times the state minimum hourly wage; or
- (b) Eighty percent of the disposable earnings of the defendant.

(5) The exemptions stated in this section shall apply whether such earnings are paid, or are to be paid, weekly, monthly, or at other intervals, and whether earnings are due the defendant for one week, a portion thereof, or for a longer period.

(6) Unless directed otherwise by the court, the garnishee shall determine and deduct exempt amounts under this section as directed in the writ of garnishment and answer, and shall pay these amounts to the defendant.

(7) No money due or earned as earnings as defined in RCW 6.27.010 shall be exempt from garnishment under the provisions of RCW 6.15.010, as now or hereafter amended. [2021 c 35 § 3; 2019 c 371 § 7; 2018 c 199 § 207; 2012 c 159 § 9; 1991 c 365 § 26; 1987 c 442 § 1015; 1981 c 193 § 6; 1971 c 6 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 28. Formerly RCW 7.33.280.]

Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 199: See notes following RCW 67.08.100.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.27.160 Claiming exemptions—Form—Hearing—Attorney's fees—Costs—Release of funds or property.

(1) A defendant may claim exemptions from garnishment in the manner specified by the statute that creates the exemption or by delivering to or mailing by first-class mail to the clerk of the court out of which the writ was issued a declaration in substantially the following form or in the form set forth in RCW 6.27.140 and mailing a copy of the form by first-class mail to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney at the address shown on the writ of garnishment, all not later than twenty-eight days after the date stated on the writ except that the time shall be extended to allow a declaration mailed or delivered to the clerk within twenty-one days after service of the writ on the garnishee if service on the garnishee is delayed more than seven days after the date of the writ.

[NAME OF COURT]

..... No. ....

Plaintiff

.....

Defendant

..... CLAIM OF EXEMPTION

Garnishee

I/We claim the following described property or money as exempt from execution:

.....  
.....  
.....

I/We believe the property is exempt because:

.....  
.....  
.....

Print name                      Print name of spouse, if married

Signature                      Signature

Address                      Address  
.....  
.....  
Telephone number              Telephone number  
.....

(2) A plaintiff who wishes to object to an exemption claim must, not later than seven days after receipt of the claim, cause to be delivered or mailed to the defendant by first-class mail, to the address shown on the exemption claim, a declaration by self, attorney, or agent, alleging the facts on which the objection is based, together with notice of date, time, and place of a hearing on the objection, which hearing the plaintiff must cause to be noted for a hearing date not later than fourteen days after the receipt of the claim. After a hearing on an objection to an exemption claim, the court shall award costs to the prevailing party and may also award an attorney's fee to the prevailing party if the court concludes that the exemption claim or the objection to the claim was not made in good faith. The defendant bears the burden of proving any claimed exemption, including the obligation to provide sufficient documentation to identify the source and amount of any claimed exempt funds.

(3) If the plaintiff elects not to object to the claim of exemption, the plaintiff shall, not later than ten days after receipt of the claim, obtain from the court and deliver to the garnishee an order directing the garnishee to release such part of the debt, property, or effects as is covered by the exemption claim. If the plaintiff fails to obtain and deliver the order as required or otherwise to effect release of the exempt funds or property, the defendant shall be entitled to recover fifty dollars from the plaintiff, in addition to actual damages suffered by the defendant from the failure to release the exempt property. The attorney of record for the plaintiff may, as an alternative to obtaining a court order releasing exempt funds, property, or effects, deliver to the garnishee and file with the court an authorization to release claimed exempt funds, property, or effects, signed by the attorney, in substantially the following form:

[NAME OF COURT]

....., No. ....

Plaintiff,

vs.                      RELEASE OF WRIT OF GARNISHMENT

.....,

Defendant

.....,

Garnishee.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED GARNISHEE

You are hereby directed by the attorney for plaintiff, under the authority of chapter 6.27 of the Revised Code of Washington, to release the writ of garnishment issued in this cause on ....., as follows: ..... [indicate full

or partial release, and if partial the extent to which the garnishment is released]

You are relieved of your obligation to withhold funds or property of the defendant to the extent indicated in this release. Any funds or property covered by this release which have been withheld, should be returned to the defendant.

Date: ..... Attorney for Plaintiff

[2003 c 222 § 7; 2002 c 265 § 3; 1988 c 231 § 28; 1987 c 442 § 1016.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.27.170 Garnished employee not to be discharged—Exception. No employer shall discharge an employee for the reason that a creditor of the employee has subjected or attempted to subject unpaid earnings of the employee to a writ of garnishment directed to the employer: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this provision shall not apply if garnishments on three or more separate indebtednesses are served upon the employer within any period of twelve consecutive months. [1987 c 442 § 1017; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 16. Formerly RCW 7.33.160.]

6.27.180 Bond to discharge writ. If the defendant in the principal action causes a bond to be executed to the plaintiff with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the officer having the writ of garnishment or by the clerk of the court out of which the writ was issued, conditioned that the defendant will perform the judgment of the court, the writ of garnishment shall, upon the filing of said bond with the clerk, be immediately discharged, and all proceedings under the writ shall be vacated: PROVIDED, That the garnishee shall not be thereby deprived from recovering any costs in said proceeding, to which the garnishee would otherwise be entitled under this chapter. The bond shall be part of the record and, if judgment is against the defendant, it shall be entered against defendant and the sureties. [1988 c 231 § 29; 1987 c 442 § 1018; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 17. Formerly RCW 7.33.170.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.27.190 Answer of garnishee—Contents—Forms.

(1) The answer of the garnishee shall be signed by the garnishee or attorney or if the garnishee is a corporation, by an officer, attorney or duly authorized agent of the garnishee, under penalty of perjury, and the original and copies delivered, either personally or by mail, as instructed in the writ.

(2) If the writ of garnishment is for a continuing lien, the answer forms shall be as prescribed in RCW 6.27.340 and 6.27.350.

(3) If the writ is not directed to an employer for the purpose of garnishing the defendant's wages, the answer shall be substantially in the following form:

IN THE ..... COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF .....

NO. ....

Plaintiff vs. ANSWER TO WRIT OF GARNISHMENT Defendant Garnishee Defendant

SECTION I. On the date the writ of garnishment was issued as indicated by the date appearing on the last page of the writ:

(A) The defendant: (check one) . . . . was, . . . . was not employed by garnishee. If not employed and you have no possession or control of any funds of defendant, indicate the last day of employment: . . . . .; and complete section III of this answer and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the writ;

(B) The defendant: (check one) . . . . did, . . . . did not maintain a financial account with garnishee; and

(C) The garnishee: (check one) . . . . did, . . . . did not have possession of or control over any funds, personal property, or effects of the defendant. (List all of defendant's personal property or effects in your possession or control on the last page of this answer form or attach a schedule if necessary.)

SECTION II. At the time of service of the writ of garnishment on the garnishee there was due and owing from the garnishee to the above-named defendant \$ . . . . .

If there is any uncertainty about your answer, give an explanation on the last page or on an attached page.

SECTION III. An attorney may answer for the garnishee.

Under penalty of perjury, I affirm that I have examined this answer, including accompanying schedules, and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete.

Signature of Garnishee Defendant Date

Signature of person answering for garnishee Connection with garnishee

Print name of person signing Address of garnishee

[2012 c 159 § 10; 2003 c 222 § 8; 2000 c 72 § 4; 1997 c 296 § 5; 1988 c 231 § 30; 1987 c 442 § 1019; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 15. Formerly RCW 7.33.150.]

Rules of court: Cf. SPR 91.04W(c).

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.27.200 Default judgment—Reduction upon motion of garnishee—Attorney's fees.

If the garnishee fails to answer the writ within the time prescribed in the writ, after the time to answer the writ has expired and after required returns or affidavits have been filed, showing service on the garnishee and service on or mailing to the defendant, it shall

be lawful for the court to render judgment by default against such garnishee, after providing a notice to the garnishee by personal service or first-class mail deposited in the mail at least ten calendar days prior to entry of the judgment, for the full amount claimed by the plaintiff against the defendant, or in case the plaintiff has a judgment against the defendant, for the full amount of the plaintiff's unpaid judgment against the defendant with all accruing interest and costs as prescribed in RCW 6.27.090: PROVIDED, That upon motion by the garnishee at any time within seven days following service on, or mailing to, the garnishee of a copy of the first writ of execution or writ of garnishment under such judgment, the judgment against the garnishee shall be reduced to the amount of any nonexempt funds or property which was actually in the possession of the garnishee at the time the writ was served, plus the cumulative amount of the nonexempt earnings subject to the lien provided for in RCW 6.27.350, or the sum of one hundred dollars, whichever is more, but in no event to exceed the full amount claimed by the plaintiff or the amount of the unpaid judgment against the principal defendant with all accruing interest and costs and attorney's fees as prescribed in RCW 6.27.090, plus the accruing interest and costs and attorneys' fees as prescribed in RCW 6.27.090 for any garnishment on the judgment against the garnishee, and in addition the plaintiff shall be entitled to a reasonable attorney's fee for the plaintiff's response to the garnishee's motion to reduce said judgment against the garnishee under this proviso and the court may allow additional attorney's fees for other actions taken because of the garnishee's failure to answer. [2012 c 159 § 11; 2003 c 222 § 9; 1997 c 296 § 6; 1988 c 231 § 31; 1987 c 442 § 1020; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 19. Formerly RCW 7.33.190.]

**Rules of court:** CR 55, JCR 55.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.27.210 Answer of garnishee may be controverted by plaintiff or defendant.** If the garnishee files an answer, either the plaintiff or the defendant, if not satisfied with the answer of the garnishee, may controvert within twenty days after the filing of the answer, by filing an affidavit in writing signed by the controverting party or attorney or agent, stating that the affiant has good reason to believe and does believe that the answer of the garnishee is incorrect, stating in what particulars the affiant believes the same is incorrect. Copies of the affidavit shall be served on or mailed by first-class mail to the garnishee at the address indicated on the answer or, if no address is indicated, at the address to or at which the writ was mailed or served, and to the other party, at the address shown on the writ if the defendant controverts, or at the address to or at which the copy of the writ of garnishment was mailed or served on the defendant if the plaintiff controverts, unless otherwise directed in writing by the defendant or defendant's attorney. [1987 c 442 § 1021; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 24. Formerly RCW 7.33.240.]

**6.27.220 Controversion—Procedure.** If the answer of the garnishee is controverted, as provided in RCW 6.27.210, the garnishee may respond by affidavit of the garnishee, the garnishee's attorney or agent, within twenty days of the filing of the controverting affidavit, with copies served on or mailed by first-class mail to the plaintiff at the address shown

on the writ and to the defendant as provided in RCW 6.27.210. Upon the expiration of the time for garnishee's response, the matter may be noted by any party for hearing before a commissioner or presiding judge for a determination whether an issue is presented that requires a trial. If a trial is required, it shall be noted as in other cases, but no pleadings shall be necessary on such issue other than the affidavit of the plaintiff, the answer of the garnishee and the reply of the plaintiff or defendant controverting such answer, unless otherwise ordered by the court. [1987 c 442 § 1022; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 26. Formerly RCW 7.33.260.]

**6.27.230 Controversion—Costs and attorney's fees.**

Where the answer is controverted, the costs of the proceeding, including a reasonable compensation for attorney's fees, shall be awarded to the prevailing party: PROVIDED, That no costs or attorney's fees in such contest shall be taxable to the defendant in the event of a controversion by the plaintiff. [1987 c 442 § 1023; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 29. Formerly RCW 7.33.290.]

**6.27.240 Discharge of garnishee.** If it appears from the answer of the garnishee that the garnishee was not indebted to the defendant when the writ of garnishment was served, and that the garnishee did not have possession or control of any personal property or effects of the defendant, and if an affidavit controverting the answer of the garnishee is not filed within twenty days of the filing of the answer, as provided in this chapter, the garnishee shall stand discharged without further action by the court or the garnishee and shall have no further liability. [1987 c 442 § 1024; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 18. Formerly RCW 7.33.180.]

**6.27.250 Judgment against garnishee—Procedure if debt not mature.**

(1)(a) If it appears from the answer of the garnishee or if it is otherwise made to appear that the garnishee was indebted to the defendant in any amount, not exempt, when the writ of garnishment was served, and if the required return or affidavit showing service on or mailing to the defendant is on file, the court shall render judgment for the plaintiff against such garnishee for the amount so admitted or found to be due to the defendant from the garnishee, unless such amount exceeds the amount of the plaintiff's claim or judgment against the defendant with accruing interest and costs and attorney's fees as prescribed in RCW 6.27.090, in which case it shall be for the amount of such claim or judgment, with said interest, costs, and fees. If there is no unresolved exemption claim and no controversion, the plaintiff may apply for the judgment and order to pay *ex parte*. In the case of a superior court garnishment, the court shall order the garnishee to pay to the plaintiff or to the plaintiff's attorney through the registry of the court the amount of the judgment against the garnishee, the clerk of the court shall note receipt of any such payment, and the clerk of the court shall disburse the payment to the plaintiff. In the case of a district court garnishment, the court shall order the garnishee to pay the judgment amount directly to the plaintiff or to the plaintiff's attorney. In either case, the court shall inform the garnishee that failure to pay the amount may result in execution of the judgment, including garnishment.

(b) If, prior to judgment, the garnishee tenders to the plaintiff or to the plaintiff's attorney or to the court any amounts due, such tender will support judgment against the garnishee in the amount so tendered, subject to any exemption claimed within the time required in RCW 6.27.160 after the amounts are tendered, and subject to any controversion filed within the time required in RCW 6.27.210 after the amounts are tendered. Any amounts tendered to the court by or on behalf of the garnishee or the defendant prior to judgment shall be disbursed to the party entitled to same upon entry of judgment or order, and any amounts so tendered after entry of judgment or order shall be disbursed upon receipt to the party entitled to same.

(2) If it shall appear from the answer of the garnishee and the same is not controverted, or if it shall appear from the hearing or trial on controversion or by stipulation of the parties that the garnishee is indebted to the principal defendant in any sum, but that such indebtedness is not matured and is not due and payable, and if the required return or affidavit showing service on or mailing to the defendant is on file, the court shall make an order requiring the garnishee to pay such sum into court when the same becomes due, the date when such payment is to be made to be specified in the order, and in default thereof that judgment shall be entered against the garnishee for the amount of such indebtedness so admitted or found due. In case the garnishee pays the sum at the time specified in the order, the payment shall operate as a discharge, otherwise judgment shall be entered against the garnishee for the amount of such indebtedness, which judgment shall have the same force and effect, and be enforced in the same manner as other judgments entered against garnishees as provided in this chapter: PROVIDED, That if judgment is rendered in favor of the principal defendant, or if any judgment rendered against the principal defendant is satisfied prior to the date of payment specified in an order of payment entered under this subsection, the garnishee shall not be required to make the payment, nor shall any judgment in such case be entered against the garnishee.

(3) The court shall, upon request of the plaintiff at the time judgment is rendered against the garnishee or within one year thereafter, or within one year after service of the writ on the garnishee if no judgment is taken against the garnishee, render judgment against the defendant for recoverable garnishment costs and attorney fees. However, if it appears from the answer of garnishee or otherwise that, at the time the writ was issued, the garnishee held no funds, personal property, or effects of the defendant and, in the case of a garnishment on earnings, the defendant was not employed by the garnishee, or, in the case of a writ directed to a financial institution, the defendant maintained no account therein, then the plaintiff may not be awarded judgment against the defendant for such costs or attorney fees. [2012 c 159 § 12; 2003 c 222 § 10; 2000 c 72 § 5; 1988 c 231 § 32; 1987 c 442 § 1025; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 20. Formerly RCW 7.33.200.]

Rules of court: Cf. *SPR 91.04W(d)*.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.27.260 Execution on judgment against garnishee.**

Execution may be issued on the judgment against the garnishee in the same manner as upon any other judgment. The amount made upon any such execution shall be paid by the

officer executing it to the clerk of the court from which the execution was issued; and, in cases where judgment has been rendered against the defendant, the amount made on the execution shall be applied to the satisfaction of the judgment, interest and costs against the defendant. In case judgment has not been rendered against the defendant at the time execution issued against the garnishee is returned, any amount made on the execution shall be paid to the clerk of the court from which the execution issued, who shall retain the same until judgment is rendered in the action between the plaintiff and defendant. In case judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff, the amount made on the execution against the garnishee shall be applied to the satisfaction of such judgment and the surplus, if any, shall be paid to the defendant. In case judgment is rendered in favor of the defendant, the amount made on the execution against the garnishee shall be paid to the defendant. [1987 c 442 § 1026; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 21. Formerly RCW 7.33.210.]

**6.27.265 Form for judgment against garnishee.** The judgment on garnishee's answer or tendered funds, and for costs against defendant, and the order to pay funds shall be substantially in the following form:

IN THE . . . . COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF . . . .

..... No. ....  
Plaintiff  
vs. JUDGMENT AND ORDER  
TO PAY  
(Clerk's Action Required)  
.....  
Defendant  
.....  
Garnishee

Judgment Summary

Judgment Creditor	.....
Garnishment Judgment Debtor	.....
Garnishment Judgment Amount	.....
Costs Judgment Debtor	.....
Costs Judgment Amount	.....
Judgments to bear interest at	..... %
Attorney for Judgment Creditor	.....

IT APPEARING THAT garnishee was indebted to defendant in the nonexempt amount of \$ . . . . ; that at the time the writ of garnishment was issued defendant was employed by or maintained a financial institution account with garnishee, or garnishee had in its possession or control funds, personal property, or effects of defendant; and that plaintiff has incurred recoverable costs and attorney fees of \$ . . . . ; now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that plaintiff is awarded judgment against garnishee in the amount of \$ . . . . ; that plaintiff is awarded judgment against defendant in the amount of \$ . . . . for recoverable costs; that, if this is a superior court order, garnishee shall pay its judgment amount

to plaintiff [or to plaintiff's attorney] through the registry of the court, and the clerk of the court shall note receipt thereof and forthwith disburse such payment to plaintiff [or to plaintiff's attorney]; that, if this is a district court order, garnishee shall pay its judgment amount to plaintiff directly [or to plaintiff's attorney], and if any payment is received by the clerk of the court, the clerk shall forthwith disburse such payment to plaintiff [or to plaintiff's attorney]. Garnishee is advised that the failure to pay its judgment amount may result in execution of the judgment, including garnishment.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this . . . . . day of . . . . , 20. .

.....  
Judge/Court Commissioner

Presented by:

.....  
Attorney for Plaintiff

[2003 c 222 § 11; 2000 c 72 § 6.]

**6.27.270 Decree directing garnishee to deliver up effects—Disposition.** If it appears from the garnishee's answer or otherwise that the garnishee had possession or control, when the writ was served, of any personal property or effects of the defendant liable to execution, and if the required return or affidavit showing service on or mailing to the defendant is on file, the court shall render a decree requiring the garnishee to deliver up to the sheriff on demand, and after making arrangements with the sheriff as to time and place of delivery, such personal property or effects or so much of them as may be necessary to satisfy the plaintiff's claim. If a judgment has been rendered in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant, such personal property or effects may be sold in the same manner as any other property is sold upon an execution issued on said judgment. If judgment has not been rendered in the principal action, the sheriff shall retain possession of the personal property or effects until the rendition of judgment therein, and, if judgment is thereafter rendered in favor of the plaintiff, said personal property or effects, or sufficient of them to satisfy such judgment, may be sold in the same manner as other property is sold on execution, by virtue of an execution issued on the judgment in the principal action. If judgment is rendered in the action against the plaintiff and in favor of the defendant, such effects and personal property shall be returned to the defendant by the sheriff: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if such effects or personal property are of a perishable nature, or the interests of the parties will be subserved by making a sale thereof before judgment, the court may order a sale thereof by the sheriff in the same manner as sales upon execution are made, and the proceeds of such sale shall be paid to the clerk of the court that issued the writ, and the same disposition shall be made of the proceeds at the termination of the action as would have been made of the personal property or effects under the provisions of this section in case the sale had not been made. [1988 c 231 § 33; 1987 c 442 § 1027; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 22. Formerly RCW 7.33.220.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.27.280 Procedure upon failure of garnishee to deliver.** If the garnishee, adjudged to have effects or personal property of the defendant in possession or under control as provided in RCW 6.27.270, fails or refuses to deliver them to the sheriff on such demand, the officer shall immediately make return of such failure or refusal, whereupon, on motion of the plaintiff, the garnishee shall be cited to show cause why he or she should not be found in contempt of court for such failure or refusal, and should the garnishee fail to show some good and sufficient excuse for such failure and refusal, he or she shall be fined for such contempt and imprisoned until he or she shall deliver such personal property or effects. [1987 c 442 § 1028; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 23. Formerly RCW 7.33.230.]

**6.27.290 Similarity of names—Procedure.** (1) If the garnishee in the answer states that the garnishee at the time of the service of the writ was indebted to or had possession or control of personal property or effects belonging to a person with a name the same as or similar to the name of the defendant, and stating the place of business or residence of said person, and that the garnishee does not know whether or not such person is the same person as the defendant, and prays the court to determine whether or not the person is the same person as the defendant, the court, before rendering judgment against the garnishee defendant as hereinbefore provided, shall conduct a hearing to take proof as to the identity of said persons.

(2) Before the hearing on the question of identity, the plaintiff shall cause the court to issue a citation directed to the person identified in the garnishee's answer, commanding that person to appear before the court from which the citation is issued within ten days after the service of the same, and to answer on oath whether or not he or she is the same person as the defendant in said action. The citation shall be dated and attested in the same manner as a writ of garnishment and be delivered to the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney and shall be served in the same manner as a summons in a civil action is served.

(3) If the court finds after hearing that the persons are not the same, the garnishee shall be discharged and shall recover costs against the plaintiff. If the court finds that the persons are the same, it shall make the same kind of judgment as in other cases in which the garnishee is held upon the garnishee's answer, including provision for garnishee's costs.

(4) If the court finds after the hearing that the defendant or judgment debtor is the same person as the person identified in the garnishee's answer, it shall be sufficient answer to any claim of said person against the garnishee founded on any indebtedness of the garnishee or on the possession or control by the garnishee of any personal property or effects for the garnishee to show that the indebtedness was paid or the personal property or effects were delivered under the judgment of the court in accordance with the provisions in this chapter. [1987 c 442 § 1029; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 33. Formerly RCW 7.33.330.]

**6.27.300 Garnishee protected against claim of defendant.** It shall be a sufficient answer to any claim of the defendant against the garnishee founded on any indebtedness of the garnishee or on the possession or control by the garnishee

of any personal property or effects, for the garnishee to show that such indebtedness was paid or such personal property or effects were delivered under the judgment of the court in accordance with this chapter. [1987 c 442 § 1030; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 30. Formerly RCW 7.33.300.]

**6.27.310 Dismissal of writ after one year—Notice—Exception.** In all cases where it shall appear from the answer of the garnishee that the garnishee was indebted to the defendant when the writ of garnishment was served, no controversy is pending, there has been no discharge or judgment against the garnishee entered, and one year has passed since the filing of the answer of the garnishee, the court, after ten days' notice in writing to the plaintiff, shall enter an order dismissing the writ of garnishment and discharging the garnishee: PROVIDED, That this provision shall have no effect if the cause of action between plaintiff and defendant is pending on the trial calendar, or if any party files an affidavit that the action is still pending. [1987 c 442 § 1031; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 27. Formerly RCW 7.33.270.]

**6.27.320 Dismissal of garnishment—Duty of plaintiff—Procedure—Penalty—Costs.** In any case where garnishee has answered that it is holding funds or property belonging to defendant and plaintiff shall obtain satisfaction of the judgment and payment of recoverable garnishment costs and attorney fees from a source other than the garnishment, upon written demand of the defendant or the garnishee, it shall be the duty of plaintiff to obtain an order dismissing the garnishment and to serve it upon the garnishee within twenty days after the demand or the satisfaction of judgment and payment of costs and fees, whichever shall be later. The attorney of record for the plaintiff may, as an alternative to obtaining a court order dismissing the garnishment, deliver to the garnishee and file with the court an authorization to dismiss the garnishment in whole or part, signed by the attorney, in substantially the form indicated in RCW 6.27.160(3). In the event of the failure of plaintiff to obtain and serve such an order or release, if garnishee continues to hold such funds or property, defendant shall be entitled to move for dismissal of the garnishment and shall further be entitled to a judgment against plaintiff of one hundred dollars plus defendant's costs and damages. Dismissal may be on ex parte motion of the plaintiff. [2003 c 222 § 12; 2000 c 72 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 264 § 31. Formerly RCW 7.33.310.]

**6.27.330 Continuing lien on earnings—Authorized.** (1) A judgment creditor may obtain a continuing lien on earnings by a garnishment pursuant to this chapter, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. (2) A continuing lien on earnings may not be issued pursuant to this chapter if the garnishment is based on a judgment or other order for child support. A judgment creditor may seek to withhold from earnings based on a judgment or other order for child support under chapter 26.18 RCW. [2021 c 35 § 4; 2012 c 159 § 13; 1987 c 442 § 1032; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 5. Formerly RCW 7.33.350.]

**6.27.340 Continuing lien on earnings—Forms for answer to writ.** (1) Service of a writ for a continuing lien shall comply fully with RCW 6.27.110.

(2) If the writ is directed to an employer for the purpose of garnishing the defendant's wages, the first answer shall accurately state, as of the date the writ of garnishment was issued as indicated by the date appearing on the last page of the writ, whether the defendant was employed by the garnishee defendant (and if not the date employment terminated), whether the defendant's earnings were subject to a preexisting writ of garnishment for continuing liens on earnings (and if so the date such writ will terminate and the current writ will be enforced), whether the defendant maintained a financial account with garnishee, and whether the garnishee defendant had possession of or control over any funds, personal property, or effects of the defendant (and if so the garnishee defendant shall list all of defendant's personal property or effects in its possession or control). The first answer shall further accurately state, as of the time of service of the writ of garnishment on the garnishee defendant, the amount due and owing from the garnishee defendant to the defendant, and the defendant's total earnings, allowable deductions, disposable earnings, exempt earnings, deductions for superior liens such as child support, and net earnings withheld under the writ. The first answer may be substantially in the following form:

IN THE . . . . COURT  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR  
THE COUNTY OF . . . . .

....., NO. ....  
Plaintiff,  
vs. FIRST ANSWER  
....., TO WRIT OF  
Defendant, GARNISHMENT  
..... FOR CONTINUING LIEN  
Garnishee Defendant ON EARNINGS

SECTION I. If you are withholding the defendant's nonexempt earnings under a previously served writ for a continuing lien, answer only sections I and III of this form and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the writ. Withhold from the defendant's future nonexempt earnings as directed in the writ, and a second set of answer forms will be forwarded to you later.

If you are NOT withholding the defendant's earnings under a previously served writ for a continuing lien, answer this ENTIRE form and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the writ. A second set of answer forms will be forwarded to you later for subsequently withheld earnings.

ANSWER: I am presently holding the defendant's nonexempt earnings under a previous writ served on . . . . . that will terminate not later than . . . . , 20 . . .

On the date the writ of garnishment was issued as indicated by the date appearing on the last page of the writ:

(A) The defendant: (check one) [ ] was, [ ] was not employed by garnishee. If not employed and you have no possession or control of any funds of defen-



dant, indicate the last day of employment: . . . . . ; and complete section III of this answer and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the writ;

(B) The defendant: (check one) [ ] did, [ ] did not maintain a financial account with garnishee; and

(C) The garnishee: (check one) [ ] did, [ ] did not have possession of or control over any funds, personal property, or effects of the defendant. (List all of defendant's personal property or effects in your possession or control on the last page of this answer form or attach a schedule if necessary.)

SECTION II. At the time of service of the writ of garnishment on the garnishee there was due and owing from the garnishee to the above-named defendant \$ . . . . .

This writ attaches a maximum of . . . . percent of the defendant's disposable earnings (that is, compensation payable for personal services, whether called wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, and including periodic payments pursuant to a nongovernmental pension or retirement program).

Calculate the attachable amount as follows:

- Gross Earnings . . . . . \$ . . . . . (1)
- Less deductions required by law (social security, federal withholding tax, etc. Do not include deductions for child support orders or government liens here. Deduct child support orders and liens on line 7): . . . . . \$ . . . . . (2)
- Disposable Earnings (subtract line 2 from line 1): . . . . . \$ . . . . . (3)
- Enter . . . . percent of line 3: . . . . . \$ . . . . . (4)
- Enter one of the following exempt amounts\*: . . . . . \$ . . . . . (5)

If paid: Weekly \$ . . . . .      Semi-monthly \$ . . . . .  
                     Bi-weekly \$ . . . . .      Monthly \$ . . . . .

\*These are minimum exempt amounts that the defendant must be paid. If your answer covers more than one pay period, multiply the preceding amount by the number of pay periods and/or fraction thereof your answer covers. If you use a pay period not shown, prorate the monthly exempt amount.

- Subtract the larger of lines 4 and 5 from line 3: . . . . . \$ . . . . . (6)
- Enter amount (if any) withheld for ongoing government liens such as child support: . . . . . \$ . . . . . (7)

Subtract line 7 from line 6. This amount must be held out for the plaintiff: . . . \$ . . . . . (8)

This is the formula that you will use for withholding each pay period over the required sixty day garnishment period. Deduct any allowable processing fee you may charge from the amount that is to be paid to the defendant.

If there is any uncertainty about your answer, give an explanation on the last page or on an attached page.

SECTION III. An attorney may answer for the garnishee.

Under penalty of perjury, I affirm that I have examined this answer, including accompanying schedules, and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete.

.....	.....
Signature of Garnishee Defendant	Date
.....	.....
Signature of Person Answering for Garnishee	Connection with Garnishee
.....	.....
Print Name of Person Signing	Address of Garnishee

(3) Prior to serving the answer forms for a writ for continuing lien on earnings, the plaintiff shall fill in the minimum exemption amounts for the different pay periods, and the maximum percentages of disposable earnings subject to lien and exempt from lien.

(4) In the event plaintiff fails to comply with this section, employer may elect to treat the garnishment as one not creating a continuing lien. [2012 c 159 § 5; 2003 c 222 § 13; 1988 c 231 § 34; 1987 c 442 § 1033; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 6. Formerly RCW 7.33.360.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.27.350 Continuing lien on earnings—When lien becomes effective—Termination—Second answer.**

(1) Where the garnishee's answer to a garnishment for a continuing lien reflects that the defendant is employed by the garnishee, the judgment or balance due thereon as reflected on the writ of garnishment shall become a lien on earnings due at the time of the effective date of the writ, as defined in this subsection, to the extent that they are not exempt from garnishment, and such lien shall continue as to subsequent non-exempt earnings until the total subject to the lien equals the amount stated on the writ of garnishment or until the expiration of the employer's payroll period ending on or before sixty days after the effective date of the writ, whichever occurs first, except that such lien on subsequent earnings shall terminate sooner if the employment relationship is terminated or if the underlying judgment is vacated, modified, or satisfied in full or if the writ is dismissed. The "effective date" of a writ is the date of service of the writ if there is no previously served writ; otherwise, it is the date of termination of a previously served writ or writs.

(2) At the time of the expected termination of the lien, the plaintiff shall mail to the garnishee one copy of the answer form prescribed in RCW 6.27.340. The plaintiff shall replace the text of section I of the answer form with a statement in substantially the following form: "ANSWER SECTION II OF THIS FORM WITH RESPECT TO THE

TOTAL AMOUNT OF EARNINGS WITHHELD UNDER THIS GARNISHMENT, INCLUDING THE AMOUNT, IF ANY, STATED IN YOUR FIRST ANSWER, AND WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THESE FORMS, MAIL OR DELIVER THEM AS DIRECTED IN THE WRIT."

Nonexempt amount due and owing stated in first answer \$ . . .
Nonexempt amount accrued since first answer \$ . . .
TOTAL AMOUNT WITHHELD \$ . . .

(3) Within twenty days of receipt of the second answer form the garnishee shall file a second answer, either in the form as provided in subsection (2) of this section, stating the total amount held subject to the garnishment, or otherwise containing the information required in subsection (2) of this section and a calculation indicating the total amount due and owing from the garnishee defendant to the defendant, the defendant's total earnings, allowable deductions, disposable earnings, exempt earnings, deductions for superior liens such as child support, and net earnings withheld under the writ. [2012 c 159 § 14; 2003 c 222 § 14; 1997 c 296 § 7; 1988 c 231 § 35; 1987 c 442 § 1034; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 7. Formerly RCW 7.33.370.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

6.27.360 Continuing lien on earnings—Priorities—

Exceptions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a lien obtained under RCW 6.27.350 shall have priority over any subsequent garnishment lien or wage assignment except that service of a writ shall not be effective to create a continuing lien with such priority if a writ in the same case is pending at the time of the service of the new writ.

(2) A lien obtained under RCW 6.27.350 shall have priority over any prior wage assignment, except an assignment for child support as provided in subsection (3) of this section and an assignment for legal financial obligations as provided under RCW 9.94A.760, 9.94A.7702, and 72.09.111.

(3) A lien obtained under RCW 6.27.350 shall not have priority over a notice of payroll deduction issued under \*RCW 26.23.060 or a wage assignment or other garnishment for child support issued under chapters 26.18 and 74.20A RCW. Should nonexempt wages remain after deduction of all amounts owing under a notice of payroll deduction, wage assignment, or garnishment for child support, the garnishee shall withhold the remaining nonexempt wages under the lien obtained under RCW 6.27.350. [2012 c 159 § 15; 1997 c 296 § 8; 1989 c 360 § 20; 1987 c 442 § 1035; 1970 ex.s. c 61 § 8. Formerly RCW 7.33.380.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 26.23.060 was amended by 2021 c 35 § 15, changing "notice of payroll deduction" to "income withholding order."

6.27.370 Notice to federal government as garnishee defendant—Deposit, payment, and endorsement of funds received by the clerk—Fees as recoverable cost. (1)

Whenever the federal government is named as a garnishee defendant, the attorney for the plaintiff, or the clerk of the court shall, upon submitting a notice in the appropriate form by the plaintiff, issue a notice which directs the garnishee defendant to disburse any nonexempt earnings to the court in

accordance with the garnishee defendant's normal pay and disbursement cycle.

(2) Funds received by the clerk from a garnishee defendant may be deposited into the registry of the court or, in the case of negotiable instruments, may be retained in the court file. Upon presentation of an order directing the clerk to disburse the funds received, the clerk shall pay or endorse the funds over to the party entitled to receive the funds. Except for good cause shown, the funds shall not be paid or endorsed to the plaintiff prior to the expiration of any minimum statutory period allowed to the defendant for filing an exemption claim.

(3) The plaintiff shall, in the same manner permitted for service of the writ of garnishment, provide to the garnishee defendant a copy of the notice issued under subsection (1) of this section, and shall supply to the garnished party a copy of the notice.

(4) Any answer or processing fees charged by the garnishee defendant to the plaintiff under federal law shall be a recoverable cost under RCW 6.27.090.

(5) The notice to the federal government garnishee shall be in substantially the following form:

IN THE . . . . . COURT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR . . . . . COUNTY
NO . . . . .
NOTICE TO FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT GARNISHEE
DEFENDANT
Plaintiff,
vs.
Defendant,
Garnishee Defendant.

TO: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ANY DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR DIVISION THEREOF

You have been named as the garnishee defendant in the above-entitled cause. A Writ of Garnishment accompanies this Notice. The Writ of Garnishment directs you to hold the nonexempt earnings of the named defendant, but does not instruct you to disburse the funds you hold.

BY THIS NOTICE THE COURT DIRECTS YOU TO WITHHOLD ALL NONEXEMPT EARNINGS AND DISBURSE THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR NORMAL PAY AND DISBURSEMENT CYCLE, TO THE FOLLOWING:

. . . . . County . . . . . Court Clerk
Cause No . . . . .
(Address)

PLEASE REFERENCE THE DEFENDANT EMPLOYEE'S NAME AND THE ABOVE CAUSE NUMBER ON ALL DISBURSEMENTS.

The enclosed Writ also directs you to respond to the Writ within twenty (20) days, but you are allowed thirty (30) days to respond under federal law.

DATED this . . . . day of . . . . ., 20 . . . .

.....
Clerk of the Court

(6) If the writ of garnishment is issued by the attorney of record for the judgment creditor, the following paragraph shall replace the clerk's signature and date:

This notice is issued by the undersigned attorney of record for plaintiff under the authority of RCW 6.27.370, and must be complied with in the same manner as a notice issued by the court.

Dated this . . . . .day of . . . . ., 20 . . . . .

.....
Attorney for Plaintiff

[2012 c 159 § 16; 1997 c 296 § 9.]

6.27.900 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 § 14.]

Chapter 6.28 RCW

COMMISSIONERS TO CONVEY REAL ESTATE

Sections

- 6.28.010 Court may appoint, when.
6.28.020 Contents of deed.
6.28.030 Effect of conveyance pursuant to judgment.
6.28.040 Effect of conveyance pursuant to order of sale.
6.28.050 Approval of court necessary.
6.28.060 Execution of conveyance.
6.28.070 Recording.
6.28.080 Compelling performance.

Rules of court: Cf. CR 70.

6.28.010 Court may appoint, when. The several superior courts may, whenever it is necessary, appoint a commissioner to convey real estate:

- (1) When by a judgment in an action, a party is ordered to convey real property to another, or any interest therein.
(2) When real property, or any interest therein, has been sold under a special order of the court and the purchase

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money paid therefor. [Code 1881 § 528; 1877 p 111 § 532; 1854 p 205 § 390; RRS § 605.]

6.28.020 Contents of deed. The deed of the commissioner shall so refer to the judgment authorizing the conveyance, that the same may be readily found, but need not recite the record in the case generally. [Code 1881 § 529; 1877 p 112 § 533; 1854 p 205 § 391; RRS § 606.]

6.28.030 Effect of conveyance pursuant to judgment. A conveyance made in pursuance of a judgment shall pass to the grantee the title of the parties ordered to convey the land. [Code 1881 § 530; 1877 p 112 § 534; 1854 p 205 § 392; RRS § 607.]

6.28.040 Effect of conveyance pursuant to order of sale. A conveyance made in pursuance of a sale ordered by the court, shall pass to the grantee the title of all the parties to the action or proceeding. [Code 1881 § 531; 1877 p 112 § 535; 1854 p 205 § 393; RRS § 608.]

6.28.050 Approval of court necessary. A conveyance by a commissioner shall not pass any right until it has been examined and approved by the court, which approval shall be indorsed on the conveyance and recorded with it. [Code 1881 § 532; 1877 p 112 § 536; 1854 p 205 § 394; RRS § 609.]

6.28.060 Execution of conveyance. It shall be sufficient for the conveyance to be signed by the commissioner only, without affixing the name of the parties whose title is conveyed, but the names of the parties shall be recited in the body of the conveyance. [Code 1881 § 533; 1877 p 112 § 537; 1854 p 205 § 395; RRS § 610.]

6.28.070 Recording. The conveyance shall be recorded in the office in which by law it should have been recorded had it been made by the parties whose title is conveyed by it. [Code 1881 § 534; 1877 p 112 § 538; 1854 p 205 § 396; RRS § 611.]

6.28.080 Compelling performance. In case of a judgment to compel a party to execute a conveyance of real estate, the court may enforce the judgment by attachment or sequestration, or appoint a commissioner to make the conveyance. [Code 1881 § 535; 1877 p 112 § 539; 1854 p 205 § 397; RRS § 612.]

Chapter 6.32 RCW

PROCEEDINGS SUPPLEMENTAL TO EXECUTION

Sections

- 6.32.010 Order for examination of judgment debtor—Plaintiff entitled to costs—Additional fees if debtor fails to answer or appear—When warrants permitted.
6.32.015 Order to require judgment debtor to answer interrogatories.
6.32.020 Warrant, how vacated.
6.32.030 Third parties may be brought in for examination.
6.32.040 Before whom examined.
6.32.050 Procedure on examination.
6.32.060 Referee's oath.
6.32.070 Order authorizing payment by debtor of judgment debtor.
6.32.080 Order requiring delivery of money or property to sheriff.
6.32.085 Order charging partnership interest or directing sale.
6.32.090 Powers of sheriff.

6.32.100	How money or property applied by sheriff.
6.32.110	Disposition of balance after judgment satisfied.
6.32.120	Transfer of property may be enjoined.
6.32.130	Service of orders.
6.32.140	Service of warrant.
6.32.150	Discontinuance or dismissal of proceedings.
6.32.160	Costs to judgment creditor.
6.32.170	Costs to judgment debtor, when.
6.32.180	Disobedience of order punishable as contempt.
6.32.190	Attendance of judgment debtor.
6.32.200	Party or witness not excused from answering.
6.32.210	Proceedings in case of joint debtors.
6.32.220	Continuances.
6.32.240	Proceedings, before whom instituted.
6.32.250	Property exempt from seizure.
6.32.260	Proceedings to be heard without jury.
6.32.270	Adjudication of title to property—Jury trial.
6.32.280	Fee of referee.

*Rules of court:* Cf. CR 69(b).

**6.32.010 Order for examination of judgment debtor—Plaintiff entitled to costs—Additional fees if debtor fails to answer or appear—When warrants permitted.** (1) At any time within ten years after entry of a judgment for the sum of twenty-five dollars or over, unless the time is extended in accordance with RCW 6.17.020(3), upon application by the judgment creditor such court or judge may, by an order, require the judgment debtor to appear at a specified time and place before the judge granting the order, or a referee appointed by the judge, to answer concerning the same.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the judge to whom application is made under this chapter may, if it is made to appear to him or her by the affidavit of the judgment creditor, his or her agent or attorney that there is danger of the debtor absconding, order the sheriff to arrest the debtor and bring him or her before the judge granting the order. Upon being brought before the judge, he or she may be ordered to enter into a bond, with sufficient sureties, that he or she will attend from time to time before the judge or referee, as shall be directed, during the pendency of the proceedings and until the final termination thereof.

(3) If the judgment debtor or other persons against whom the special proceedings are instituted has been served with these proceedings, the plaintiff shall be entitled to costs of service, notary fees, and an appearance fee of twenty-five dollars. If the judgment debtor or other persons fail to answer or appear, the plaintiff shall additionally be entitled to reasonable attorney fees. If a plaintiff institutes special proceedings and fails to appear, a judgment debtor or other person against whom the proceeding was instituted who appears is entitled to an appearance fee of twenty-five dollars and reasonable attorney fees.

(4) A plaintiff may not seek a warrant for the arrest of a judgment debtor for any act or failure to act that arises out of or relates to a judgment for medical debt, unless the act or failure to act constitutes a crime under state law. [2019 c 227 § 2; 1994 c 189 § 4; 1985 c 215 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 45 § 6; 1980 c 105 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 211 § 1; 1957 c 8 § 7; 1899 c 93 § 1; 1893 c 133 § 1; RRS § 613.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.32.015 Order to require judgment debtor to answer interrogatories.** At any time within ten years after entry of a judgment for a sum of twenty-five dollars or over, unless the time is extended in accordance with RCW

6.17.020(3), upon application by the judgment creditor such court or judge may, by order served on the judgment debtor, require such debtor to answer written interrogatories, under oath, in such form as may be approved by the court. No such creditor shall be required to proceed under this section nor shall he or she waive his or her rights to proceed under RCW 6.32.010 by proceeding under this section. [1994 c 189 § 5; 1980 c 105 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 211 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.32.020 Warrant, how vacated.** A warrant issued as prescribed in RCW 6.32.010 may be vacated or modified by the judge making the same, or by the court out of which the execution was issued, upon giving three days' notice to the opposite party. [1893 c 133 § 2; RRS § 614.]

**6.32.030 Third parties may be brought in for examination.** Any person may be made a party to a supplemental proceeding by service of a like order in like manner as that required to be served upon the judgment debtor, and upon proof by affidavit or otherwise, to the satisfaction of the judge, that execution has been issued and return made thereon wholly or partially unsatisfied, and also that any person or corporation has personal property of the judgment debtor of the value of twenty-five dollars or over, or is indebted to him or her in said amount, or is holding the title to real estate for the judgment debtor, or has knowledge concerning the property interests of the judgment debtor, the judge may make an order requiring such person or corporation, or an officer thereof, to appear at a specified time and place before him or her, or a referee appointed by him or her, and answer concerning the same. [2011 c 336 § 149; 1923 c 160 § 1; 1893 c 133 § 3; RRS § 615.]

**6.32.040 Before whom examined.** An order requiring a person to attend and be examined, made pursuant to any provision of this chapter, must require him or her so to attend and be examined either before the judge to whom the order is returnable or before a referee designated therein. Where the examination is taken before a referee, he or she must certify to the judge to whom the order is returnable all of the evidence and other proceedings taken before him or her. [2011 c 336 § 150; 1893 c 133 § 4; RRS § 616.]

**6.32.050 Procedure on examination.** Upon an examination made under this chapter, the answer of the party or witness examined must be under oath. A corporation must attend by and answer under the oath of an officer thereof, and the judge may, in his or her discretion, specify the officer. Either party may be examined as a witness in his or her own behalf, and may produce and examine other witnesses as upon the trial of an action. The judge or referee may adjourn any proceedings under this chapter, from time to time, as he or she thinks proper. [2011 c 336 § 151; 1893 c 133 § 5; RRS § 617.]

**6.32.060 Referee's oath.** Unless the parties expressly waive the referee's oath, a referee appointed as prescribed in this chapter must, before entering upon an examination or taking testimony, subscribe and take an oath that he or she will faithfully and fairly discharge his or her duty upon the

reference, and make a just and true report according to the best of his or her understanding. The oath must be returned to the judge with the report of the testimony. [2011 c 336 § 152; 1893 c 133 § 6; RRS § 618.]

**6.32.070 Order authorizing payment by debtor of judgment debtor.** At any time after the commencement of a special proceeding authorized by this chapter, and before the appointment of a receiver therein, or the extension of a receivership thereto, the judge by whom the order or warrant was granted or to whom it is made returnable, may in his or her discretion upon proof by affidavit to his or her satisfaction that a person or corporation is indebted to the judgment debtor, and upon such notice given to such person or corporation as he or she deems just, or without notice make an order permitting the person or corporation to pay the sheriff designated in the order a sum on account of the alleged indebtedness not exceeding the sum which will satisfy the execution. A payment thus made is to the extent thereof a discharge of the indebtedness except as against a transferee from the judgment debtor in good faith, and for a valuable consideration, of whose rights the person or corporation had actual or constructive notice when the payment was made. [2011 c 336 § 153; 1893 c 133 § 7; RRS § 619.]

**6.32.080 Order requiring delivery of money or property to sheriff.** Where it appears from the examination or testimony taken in the special proceedings authorized by this chapter that the judgment debtor has in his or her possession or under his or her control money or other personal property belonging to him or her, or that one or more articles of personal property capable of manual delivery, his or her right to the possession whereof is not substantially disputed, are in the possession or under the control of another person, the judge by whom the order or warrant was granted, or to whom it is returnable, may in his or her discretion, and upon such notice given to such persons as he or she deems just, or without notice, make an order directing the judgment debtor, or other person, immediately to pay the money or deliver the articles of personal property to a sheriff designated in the order, unless a receiver has been appointed or a receivership has been extended to the special proceedings, and in that case to the receiver. [2011 c 336 § 154; 1893 c 133 § 8; RRS § 620.]

**6.32.085 Order charging partnership interest or directing sale.** If it appears from the examination or testimony taken in the special proceedings authorized by this chapter that the judgment debtor owns an interest in a partnership, the judge who granted the order or warrant or to whom it is returnable may in his or her discretion, upon such notice to other partners as the judge deems just, and to the extent permitted by Title 25 RCW, (1) enter an order charging the partnership interest with payment of the judgment, directing that all or any part of distributions or other amounts becoming due to the judgment debtor, other than earnings as defined in RCW 6.27.010, be paid to a receiver if one has been appointed, otherwise to the clerk of the court that entered the judgment, for application to payment of the judgment in the same manner as proceeds from sale on execution and, in aid of the charging order, the court may make

such other orders as a case requires, or (2) enter an order directing sale of the partnership interest in the same manner as personal property is sold on execution. [1987 c 442 § 1114.]

**6.32.090 Powers of sheriff.** If the sheriff to whom money is paid or other property is delivered, pursuant to an order made as prescribed in RCW 6.32.080, does not then hold an execution upon the judgment against the property of the judgment debtor, he or she has the same rights and power, and is subject to the same duties and liabilities with respect to the money or property, as if the money had been collected or the property had been levied upon by him or her by virtue of such an execution, except as provided in RCW 6.32.100. [2011 c 336 § 155; 1893 c 133 § 9; RRS § 621.]

**6.32.100 How money or property applied by sheriff.** Unless a receiver has been appointed or extended with respect to money or property in the hands of the sheriff, the judge may direct the sheriff to apply the money, the property, or the proceeds of the property, upon an execution in favor of the judgment creditor issued either before or after the payment or delivery to the sheriff. [2004 c 165 § 34; 1893 c 133 § 10; RRS § 622.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165:** See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

**6.32.110 Disposition of balance after judgment satisfied.** Where money is paid or property is delivered as prescribed in RCW 6.32.070, 6.32.080, 6.32.090, and 6.32.100 and afterwards the special proceeding is discontinued or dismissed, or the judgment is satisfied without resorting to the money or property, or a balance of the money or of the proceeds of the property, or a part of the property remains in the sheriff's or receiver's hands after satisfying the judgment and the costs and expenses of the special proceeding, the judge must make an order directing the sheriff or receiver to pay the money or deliver the property so remaining in his or her hands to the debtor, or to such other person as appears to be entitled thereto, upon payment of his or her fees and all other sums legally chargeable against the same. [2011 c 336 § 156; 1893 c 133 § 11; RRS § 623.]

**6.32.120 Transfer of property may be enjoined.** The judge by whom the order or warrant was granted or to whom it is returnable may make an injunction order restraining any person or corporation, whether a party or not a party to the special proceeding, from making or suffering any transfer or other disposition of or interference with the property of the judgment debtor or the property or debt concerning which any person is required to attend and be examined, until further direction in the premises. Such an injunction may be made simultaneously with the order or warrant by which the special proceeding is instituted, and upon the same papers or afterwards, upon an affidavit showing sufficient grounds therefor. The judge or court may, as a condition of granting an application to vacate or modify the injunction order require the applicant to give security in such sum and in such manner as justice requires. [1893 c 133 § 12; RRS § 624.]

**6.32.130 Service of orders.** An injunction order or an order requiring a person to attend and be examined made as prescribed in this chapter must be served by delivering to the person to be served a certified copy of the original order and a copy of the affidavit on which it was made. In the case of an order requiring a person to attend and be examined and not imposing injunctive restraints, a noncertified copy may be served if the noncertified copy bears a stamp or notation indicating the name of the judge or commissioner who signed the original order, and a stamp or notation indicating the original order has been filed with the court.

Service upon a corporation is sufficient if made upon an officer, to whom a copy of a summons must be delivered. Where an order is personally served upon a corporation, unless the officer to be served is specially designated in the order, the order may be served upon any person upon whom a summons can be served. [1995 c 73 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 38 § 1; 1893 c 133 § 13; RRS § 625.]

**6.32.140 Service of warrant.** The sheriff, when he or she arrests a judgment debtor by virtue of a warrant issued as prescribed in this chapter, must deliver to him or her a copy of the warrant and of the affidavit upon which it was granted. [2011 c 336 § 157; 1893 c 133 § 14; RRS § 626.]

**6.32.150 Discontinuance or dismissal of proceedings.** A special proceeding instituted as prescribed in this chapter may be discontinued at any time upon such terms as justice requires, by an order of the judge made upon the application of the judgment creditor. Where the judgment creditor unreasonably delays or neglects to proceed, or where it appears that the judgment has been satisfied, the special proceedings may be dismissed upon like terms by a like order made upon the application of the judgment debtor, or of plaintiff in a judgment creditor's action against the debtor, or of a judgment creditor who has instituted either of the special proceedings authorized by this chapter. [2004 c 165 § 35; 1893 c 133 § 15; RRS § 627.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165:** See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

**6.32.160 Costs to judgment creditor.** The judge may make an order allowing to the judgment creditor a fixed sum as costs, consisting of his or her witness fees and referee's fees and other disbursements, and of a sum in addition thereto not exceeding twenty-five dollars, and directing the payment thereof out of any money which has come or may come to the hands of the receiver or of the sheriff within a time specified in the order. [2011 c 336 § 158; 1893 c 133 § 16; RRS § 628.]

**6.32.170 Costs to judgment debtor, when.** Where the judgment debtor or other person against whom the special proceeding is instituted has been examined, and property applicable to the payment of the judgment has not been discovered, the judge may make an order allowing him or her a sum, not to exceed twenty-five dollars, as costs, provided that any such sum so allowed the judgment debtor, shall be set off against the amount due the judgment creditor on his or her judgment. [2011 c 336 § 159; 1923 c 160 § 2; 1893 c 133 § 17; RRS § 629.]

**6.32.180 Disobedience of order punishable as contempt.** A person who refuses, or without sufficient excuse neglects, to obey an order of a judge or referee made pursuant to any of the provisions of this chapter, and duly served upon him or her, or an oral direction given directly to him or her by a judge or referee in the course of the special proceeding, or to attend before a judge or referee according to the command of a subpoena duly served upon him or her, may be punished by the judge of the court out of which the execution issued, as for contempt. [2011 c 336 § 160; 1893 c 133 § 18; RRS § 630.]

**6.32.190 Attendance of judgment debtor.** A judgment debtor who resides or does business in the state cannot be compelled to attend pursuant to an order made under the provisions of this chapter at a place without the county where his or her residence or place of business is situated. Where the judgment debtor to be examined under this chapter is a corporation the court may cause such corporation to appear and be examined by making like order or orders as are prescribed in this chapter, directed to any officer or officers thereof. [2011 c 336 § 161; 1893 c 133 § 19; RRS § 631.]

**6.32.200 Party or witness not excused from answering.** A party or witness examined in a special proceeding authorized by this chapter is not excused from answering a question on the ground that his or her examination will tend to convict him or her of a commission of a fraud, or to prove that he or she has been a party to or privy to or knowing of a conveyance, assignment, transfer, or other disposition of property for any purpose; or that he, she, or another person claims to be entitled as against the judgment creditor or receiver appointed or to be appointed in the special proceeding to hold property derived from or through the judgment debtor, or to be discharged from the payment of a debt which was due to the judgment debtor or to a person in his or her behalf. But an answer cannot be used as evidence against the person so answering in a criminal action or criminal proceeding. [2011 c 336 § 162; 1893 c 133 § 20; RRS § 632.]

**6.32.210 Proceedings in case of joint debtors.** When, in proceedings under this chapter, personal service of the summons in the action was not made on all of the defendants, a debt due to, or other personal property owned by, one or more of the defendants not summoned jointly with the defendants summoned, or with any of them, may be reached by proceedings under this chapter. [1893 c 133 § 21; RRS § 633.]

**6.32.220 Continuances.** A special proceeding under this chapter instituted before one judge may be continued from time to time before another judge of the same court with like effect as if it had been instituted or commenced before the judge who last heard the same. [1893 c 133 § 22; RRS § 634.]

**6.32.240 Proceedings, before whom instituted.** Special proceedings under this chapter may be instituted and prosecuted before the superior or district court of the county in which the judgment was entered or any judge thereof, or before the superior or district court of any county to the sher-

iff of which an execution has been issued or in which a transcript of said judgment has been filed in the office of the clerk of said court or before any judge thereof. [1981 c 193 § 2; 1899 c 93 § 2; 1893 c 133 § 24; RRS § 636.]

**6.32.250 Property exempt from seizure.** This chapter does not authorize the seizure of, or other interference with, (1) any property which is expressly exempt by law from levy and sale by virtue of an execution, attachment, or garnishment; or (2) any money, thing in action or other property held in trust for a judgment debtor where the trust has been created by, or the fund so held in trust has proceeded from, a person other than the judgment debtor; or (3) the earnings of the judgment debtor for personal services to the extent they would be exempt against garnishment of the employer under RCW 6.27.150. For purposes of this section, a person shall not be treated as having made a disposition in trust for the use of that person by reason of a lapse of a power of withdrawal over the income or corpus of a trust created by another person. For this purpose, notification to the trustee of the trust of an intent not to exercise the power of withdrawal shall not be treated as a release of the power of withdrawal, but shall be treated as a lapse of the power. [2006 c 360 § 13; 1987 c 442 § 1115; 1893 c 133 § 25; RRS § 637.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**6.32.260 Proceedings to be heard without jury.** Proceedings under this chapter are special proceedings, and shall be heard by the judge or referee before whom the same are returnable without a jury, except as provided in RCW 6.32.270. [1923 c 160 § 3; 1893 c 133 § 26; RRS § 638.]

**6.32.270 Adjudication of title to property—Jury trial.** In any supplemental proceeding, where it appears to the court that a judgment debtor may have an interest in or title to any real property, and such interest or title is disclaimed by the judgment debtor or disputed by another person, or it appears that the judgment debtor may own or have a right of possession to any personal property, and such ownership or right of possession is substantially disputed by another person, the court may, if the person or persons claiming adversely be a party to the proceeding, adjudicate the respective interests of the parties in such real or personal property, and may determine such property to be wholly or in part the property of the judgment debtor. If the person claiming adversely to the judgment debtor be not a party to the proceeding, the court shall by show cause order or otherwise cause such person to be brought in and made a party thereto, and shall set such proceeding for hearing on the first open date in the trial calendar. Any person so made a party, or any party to the original proceeding, may have such issue determined by a jury upon demand therefor and payment of a jury fee as in other civil actions: PROVIDED, That such person would be entitled to a jury trial if the matter was adjudicated in a separate action. [1923 c 160 § 4; RRS § 638-1.]

**6.32.280 Fee of referee.** The fees of referees appointed in proceedings under this chapter shall be five dollars per day. [1893 c 133 § 27; RRS § 639.]

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## Chapter 6.36 RCW UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN JUDGMENTS ACT

### Sections

6.36.010	Definitions.
6.36.025	Filing of foreign judgment—Authorized—Effect.
6.36.035	Affidavit of last address of judgment debtor, creditor—Filing—Notice of filing of judgment—Contents—Effect.
6.36.045	Effect of appeal from or stay of execution of foreign judgment—Grounds for stay of enforcement.
6.36.130	Sale under levy.
6.36.140	Interest and costs.
6.36.150	Satisfaction of judgment.
6.36.160	Optional procedure.
6.36.900	Construction—1953 c 191.
6.36.910	Short title.

**Rules of court:** Cf. CR 69(a).

*Foreign judgments for debt, faith accorded:* RCW 5.44.020.

*Uniform judicial notice of foreign laws act:* Chapter 5.24 RCW.

**6.36.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter: (1) "Foreign judgment" means any judgment, decree or order of a court of the United States or of any state or territory which is entitled to full faith and credit in this state.

(2) "Register" means to file a foreign judgment in a court of this state.

(3) "Levy" means to take control of or create a lien upon property under any judicial writ or process whereby satisfaction of a judgment may be enforced against such property.

(4) "Judgment debtor" means the party against whom a foreign judgment has been rendered. [1953 c 191 § 1.]

**6.36.025 Filing of foreign judgment—Authorized—Effect.** (1) A copy of any foreign judgment authenticated in accordance with the act of congress or the statutes of this state may be filed in the office of the clerk of any superior court of any county of this state. The clerk shall treat the foreign judgment in the same manner as a judgment of the superior court of this state. A judgment so filed has the same effect and is subject to the same procedures, defenses, set-offs, counterclaims, cross-complaints, and proceedings for reopening, vacating, staying, or extending as a judgment of a superior court of this state and may be enforced, extended, or satisfied in like manner.

(2) Alternatively, a copy of any foreign judgment (a) authenticated in accordance with the act of congress or the statutes of this state, and (b) within the civil jurisdiction and venue of the district court as provided in RCW 3.66.020, 3.66.030, and 3.66.040, may be filed in the office of the clerk of any district court of this state. The clerk shall treat the foreign judgment in the same manner as a judgment of the district court of this state. A judgment so filed has the same effect and is subject to the same procedures, defenses, set-offs, counterclaims, cross-complaints, and proceedings for reopening, vacating, staying, transcribing, or extending as a judgment of a district court of this state, and may be enforced, transcribed, extended, or satisfied in like manner.

(3) The lien of any judgment filed under subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be governed by chapter 4.56 RCW and RCW 6.17.020. [2002 c 261 § 4; 1994 c 185 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 45 § 1.]

**6.36.035 Affidavit of last address of judgment debtor, creditor—Filing—Notice of filing of judgment—Contents—Effect.** (1) At the time of the filing of the foreign judgment, the judgment creditor or the judgment creditor's lawyer shall make and file with the clerk of court an affidavit setting forth the name and last known post office address of the judgment debtor, the judgment creditor, and the filing and expiration date of the judgment in the originating jurisdiction.

(2) Promptly upon the filing of the foreign judgment and the affidavit, the judgment creditor shall mail notice of the filing of the foreign judgment to the judgment debtor at the address given. The notice shall include the name and post office address of the judgment creditor and the judgment creditor's lawyer if any in this state. In addition, the judgment creditor shall file proof of mailing with the clerk.

(3)(a) No execution or other process for enforcement of a foreign judgment filed in the office of the clerk of a superior court shall be allowed until ten days after the proof of mailing has been filed with the clerk by the judgment creditor.

(b) No execution or other process for enforcement of a foreign judgment filed in the office of the clerk of a district court shall be allowed until fourteen days after the proof of mailing has been filed with the clerk by the judgment creditor.

(c) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to extend the expiration date of a foreign judgment beyond the expiration date under the laws of the jurisdiction where the judgment originated. [2003 c 43 § 2; 1997 c 358 § 1; 1994 c 185 § 7; 1979 c 97 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 45 § 2.]

**6.36.045 Effect of appeal from or stay of execution of foreign judgment—Grounds for stay of enforcement.**

(1)(a) If the judgment debtor shows the superior court of any county that an appeal from the foreign judgment is pending or will be taken, or that a stay of execution has been granted, the court shall stay enforcement of the foreign judgment until the appeal is concluded, the time for appeal expires, or the stay of execution expires or is vacated, upon proof that the judgment debtor has furnished the security for the satisfaction of the judgment required by the state in which it was rendered.

(b) If the judgment debtor shows the superior court of any county any ground upon which enforcement of a judgment of a superior court of any county of this state would be stayed, the court shall stay enforcement of the foreign judgment for an appropriate period, upon requiring the same security for satisfaction of the judgment which is required in this state.

(2)(a) If the judgment debtor shows the district court that an appeal from the foreign judgment is pending or will be taken, or that a stay of execution has been granted, the court shall stay enforcement of the foreign judgment until the appeal is concluded, the time for appeal expires, or the stay of execution expires or is vacated, upon proof that the judgment debtor has furnished the security for the satisfaction of the judgment required by the state in which it was rendered.

(b) If the judgment debtor shows the district court any ground upon which enforcement of a judgment of a district court of this state would be stayed, the court shall stay enforcement of the foreign judgment for an appropriate period, upon requiring the same security for satisfaction of

the judgment which is required in this state. [1994 c 185 § 8; 1977 ex.s. c 45 § 3.]

**6.36.130 Sale under levy.** Sale under the levy may be held at any time after final judgment, either personal or QUASI IN REM, but not earlier except as otherwise provided by law for sale under levy on perishable goods. Sale and distribution of the proceeds shall be made in accordance with the law of this state. [1953 c 191 § 13.]

**6.36.140 Interest and costs.** When a registered foreign judgment becomes a final judgment of this state, the court shall include as part of the judgment interest payable on the foreign judgment under the law of the state in which it was rendered, and the cost of obtaining the authenticated copy of the original judgment. The court shall include as part of its judgment court costs incidental to the proceeding in accordance with the law of this state. [1953 c 191 § 14.]

**6.36.150 Satisfaction of judgment.** Satisfaction, either partial or complete, of the original judgment or of a judgment entered thereupon in any other state shall operate to the same extent as satisfaction of the judgment in this state, except as to costs authorized by RCW 6.36.140. [1953 c 191 § 15.]

**6.36.160 Optional procedure.** The right of a judgment creditor to bring an action to enforce his or her judgment instead of proceeding under this chapter remains unimpaired. [2011 c 336 § 163; 1953 c 191 § 16.]

**6.36.900 Construction—1953 c 191.** This chapter shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it. [1953 c 191 § 17.]

**6.36.910 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the "Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act." [1953 c 191 § 18.]

### Chapter 6.40A RCW

#### UNIFORM FOREIGN-COUNTRY MONEY JUDGMENTS RECOGNITION ACT

##### Sections

6.40A.010	Definitions.
6.40A.020	Applicability.
6.40A.030	Recognition of foreign-country judgments—Grounds for non-recognition.
6.40A.040	Personal jurisdiction.
6.40A.050	Recognition—How raised.
6.40A.060	Judgments entitled to recognition—Enforceability.
6.40A.070	Stay in case of appeal.
6.40A.080	Time limitations for commencement of action.
6.40A.090	Savings clause.
6.40A.900	Uniformity of interpretation.
6.40A.901	Short title.
6.40A.902	Chapter applies to actions commenced on or after July 26, 2009.

**6.40A.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Foreign country" means a government other than:  
(a) The United States;



(b) A state, district, commonwealth, territory, or insular possession of the United States; or

(c) Any other government with regard to which the decision in this state as to whether to recognize a judgment of that government's courts is initially subject to determination under the full faith and credit clause of the United States Constitution.

(2) "Foreign-country judgment" means a judgment of a court of a foreign country. [2009 c 363 § 2.]

**6.40A.020 Applicability.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, this chapter applies to a foreign-country judgment to the extent that the judgment:

(a) Grants or denies recovery of a sum of money; and

(b) Under the law of the foreign country where rendered, is final, conclusive, and enforceable.

(2) This chapter does not apply to a foreign-country judgment, even if the judgment grants or denies recovery of a sum of money, to the extent that the judgment is:

(a) A judgment for taxes;

(b) A fine or other penalty; or

(c) A judgment for divorce, support, or maintenance, or other judgment rendered in connection with domestic relations.

(3) A party seeking recognition of a foreign-country judgment has the burden of establishing that this chapter applies to the foreign-country judgment. [2009 c 363 § 3.]

**6.40A.030 Recognition of foreign-country judgments—Grounds for nonrecognition.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a court of this state shall recognize a foreign-country judgment to which this chapter applies.

(2) A court of this state may not recognize a foreign-country judgment if:

(a) The judgment was rendered under a judicial system that does not provide impartial tribunals or procedures compatible with the requirements of due process of law;

(b) The foreign court did not have personal jurisdiction over the defendant; or

(c) The foreign court did not have jurisdiction over the subject matter.

(3) A court of this state need not recognize a foreign-country judgment if:

(a) The defendant in the proceeding in the foreign court did not receive notice of the proceeding in sufficient time to enable the defendant to defend;

(b) The judgment was obtained by fraud that deprived the losing party of an adequate opportunity to present its case;

(c) The judgment or the cause of action on which the judgment is based is repugnant to the public policy of this state or of the United States;

(d) The judgment conflicts with another final and conclusive judgment;

(e) The proceeding in the foreign court was contrary to an agreement between the parties under which the dispute in question was to be determined otherwise than by proceedings in that foreign court;

(f) In the case of jurisdiction based only on personal service, the foreign court was a seriously inconvenient forum for the trial of the action;

(g) The judgment was rendered in circumstances that raise substantial doubt about the integrity of the rendering court with respect to the judgment; or

(h) The specific proceeding in the foreign court leading to the judgment was not compatible with the requirements of due process of law.

(4) A party resisting recognition of a foreign-country judgment has the burden of establishing that a ground for nonrecognition stated in subsection (2) or (3) of this section exists. [2009 c 363 § 4.]

**6.40A.040 Personal jurisdiction.** (1) A foreign-country judgment may not be refused recognition for lack of personal jurisdiction if:

(a) The defendant was served with process personally in the foreign country;

(b) The defendant voluntarily appeared in the proceeding, other than for the purpose of protecting property seized or threatened with seizure in the proceeding or of contesting the jurisdiction of the court over the defendant;

(c) The defendant, before the commencement of the proceeding, had agreed to submit to the jurisdiction of the foreign court with respect to the subject matter involved;

(d) The defendant was domiciled in the foreign country when the proceeding was instituted or was a corporation or other form of business organization that had its principal place of business in, or was organized under the laws of, the foreign country;

(e) The defendant had a business office in the foreign country and the proceeding in the foreign court involved a cause of action arising out of business done by the defendant through that office in the foreign country; or

(f) The defendant operated a motor vehicle or airplane in the foreign country and the proceeding involved a cause of action arising out of that operation.

(2) The list of bases for personal jurisdiction in subsection (1) of this section is not exclusive. The courts of this state may recognize bases of personal jurisdiction other than those listed in subsection (1) of this section as sufficient to support a foreign-country judgment. [2009 c 363 § 5.]

**6.40A.050 Recognition—How raised.** (1) If recognition of a foreign-country judgment is sought as an original matter, the issue of recognition shall be raised by filing an action seeking recognition of the foreign-country judgment.

(2) If recognition of a foreign-country judgment is sought in a pending action, the issue of recognition may be raised by counterclaim, cross-claim, or affirmative defense. [2009 c 363 § 6.]

**6.40A.060 Judgments entitled to recognition—Enforceability.** If the court in a proceeding under RCW 6.40A.050 finds that the foreign-country judgment is entitled to recognition under this chapter then, to the extent that the foreign-country judgment grants or denies recovery of a sum of money, the foreign-country judgment is:

(1) Conclusive between the parties to the same extent as the judgment of a sister state entitled to full faith and credit in this state would be conclusive; and

(2) Enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as a judgment rendered in this state. [2009 c 363 § 7.]

**6.40A.070 Stay in case of appeal.** If a party establishes that an appeal from a foreign-country judgment is pending or will be taken, the court may stay any proceedings with regard to the foreign-country judgment until the appeal is concluded, the time for appeal expires, or the appellant has had sufficient time to prosecute the appeal and has failed to do so. [2009 c 363 § 8.]

**6.40A.080 Time limitations for commencement of action.** An action to recognize a foreign-country judgment must be commenced within the earlier of the time during which the foreign-country judgment is effective in the foreign country or fifteen years from the date that the foreign-country judgment became effective in the foreign country. [2009 c 363 § 9.]

**6.40A.090 Savings clause.** This chapter does not prevent the recognition under principles of comity or otherwise of a foreign-country judgment not within the scope of this chapter. [2009 c 363 § 12.]

**6.40A.900 Uniformity of interpretation.** In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it. [2009 c 363 § 10.]

**6.40A.901 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the uniform foreign-country money judgments recognition act. [2009 c 363 § 1.]

**6.40A.902 Chapter applies to actions commenced on or after July 26, 2009.** This chapter applies to all actions commenced on or after July 26, 2009, in which the issue of recognition of a foreign-country judgment is raised. [2009 c 363 § 11.]

### Chapter 6.44 RCW

#### UNIFORM FOREIGN-MONEY CLAIMS ACT

##### Sections

6.44.010	Definitions.
6.44.020	Scope.
6.44.030	Variation by agreement.
6.44.040	Determining money of the claim.
6.44.050	Determining amount of the money of certain contract claims.
6.44.060	Asserting and defending foreign-money claim.
6.44.070	Judgments and awards on foreign-money claims—Times of money conversion—Form of judgment.
6.44.080	Conversions of foreign money in distribution proceeding.
6.44.090	Prejudgment and judgment interest.
6.44.100	Enforcement of foreign judgments.
6.44.110	Determining United States dollar value of foreign-money claims for limited purposes.
6.44.120	Effect of currency revalorization.
6.44.130	Supplementary general principles of law.
6.44.140	Uniformity of application and construction.
6.44.901	Short title.
6.44.902	Effective date—1991 c 153.
6.44.904	Prospective application.

**6.44.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter:

(1) "Action" means a judicial proceeding or arbitration in which a payment in money may be awarded or enforced with respect to a foreign-money claim.

(2) "Bank-offered spot rate" means the spot rate of exchange at which a bank will sell foreign money at a spot rate.

(3) "Conversion date" means the banking day next preceding the date on which money, in accordance with this chapter, is:

(a) Paid to a claimant in an action or distribution proceeding;

(b) Paid to the official designated by law to enforce a judgment or award on behalf of a claimant; or

(c) Used to recoup, set off, or counterclaim in different moneys in an action or distribution proceeding.

(4) "Distribution proceeding" means a judicial or nonjudicial proceeding for the distribution of a fund in which one or more foreign-money claims is asserted and includes an accounting, an assignment for the benefit of creditors, a foreclosure, the liquidation or rehabilitation of a corporation or other entity, and the distribution of an estate, trust, or other fund.

(5) "Foreign money" means money other than money of the United States of America.

(6) "Foreign-money claim" means a claim upon an obligation to pay, or a claim for recovery of a loss, expressed in or measured by a foreign money.

(7) "Money" means a medium of exchange for the payment of obligations or a store of value authorized or adopted by a government or by intergovernmental agreement.

(8) "Money of the claim" means the money determined as proper pursuant to RCW 6.44.040.

(9) "Person" means an individual, corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, joint venture, partnership, association, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(10) "Rate of exchange" means the rate at which money of one country may be converted into money of another country in a free financial market convenient to or reasonably usable by a person obligated to pay or to state a rate of conversion. If separate rates of exchange apply to different kinds of transactions, the term means the rate applicable to the particular transaction giving rise to the foreign-money claim.

(11) "Spot rate" means the rate of exchange at which foreign money is sold by a bank or other dealer in foreign exchange for immediate or next day availability or for settlement by immediate payment in cash or equivalent, by charge to an account, or by an agreed delayed settlement not exceeding two days.

(12) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. [1991 c 153 § 1.]

**6.44.020 Scope.** (1) This chapter applies only to a foreign-money claim in an action or distribution proceeding.

(2) This chapter applies to foreign-money issues even if other law under the conflict of laws rules of this state applies to other issues in the action or distribution proceeding. [1991 c 153 § 2.]

**6.44.030 Variation by agreement.** (1) The effect of this chapter may be varied by agreement of the parties made before or after commencement of an action or distribution proceeding or the entry of judgment.

(2) Parties to a transaction may agree upon the money to be used in a transaction giving rise to a foreign-money claim and may agree to use different moneys for different aspects of the transaction. Stating the price in a foreign money for one aspect of a transaction does not alone require the use of that money for other aspects of the transaction. [1991 c 153 § 3.]

**6.44.040 Determining money of the claim.** (1) The money in which the parties to a transaction have agreed that payment is to be made is the proper money of the claim for payment.

(2) If the parties to a transaction have not otherwise agreed, the proper money of the claim, as in each case may be appropriate, is the money:

(a) Regularly used between the parties as a matter of usage or course of dealing;

(b) Used at the time of a transaction in international trade, by trade usage or common practice, for valuing or settling transactions in the particular commodity or service involved; or

(c) In which the loss was ultimately felt or will be incurred by the party claimant. [1991 c 153 § 4.]

**6.44.050 Determining amount of the money of certain contract claims.** (1) If an amount contracted to be paid in a foreign money is measured by a specified amount of a different money, the amount to be paid is determined on the conversion date.

(2) If an amount contracted to be paid in a foreign money is to be measured by a different money at the rate of exchange prevailing on a date before default, that rate of exchange applies only to payments made within a reasonable time after default, not exceeding thirty days. Thereafter, conversion is made at the bank-offered spot rate on the conversion date.

(3) A monetary claim is neither usurious nor unconscionable because the agreement on which it is based provides that the amount of the debtor's obligation to be paid in the debtor's money, when received by the creditor, must equal a specified amount of the foreign money of the country of the creditor. If, because of unexcused delay in payment of a judgment or award, the amount received by the creditor does not equal the amount of the foreign money specified in the agreement, the court or arbitrator shall amend the judgment or award accordingly. [1991 c 153 § 5.]

**6.44.060 Asserting and defending foreign-money claim.** (1) A person may assert a claim in a specified foreign money. If a foreign-money claim is not asserted, the claimant makes the claim in United States dollars.

(2) An opposing party may allege and prove that a claim, in whole or in part, is in a different money than that asserted by the claimant.

(3) A person may assert a defense, set-off, recoupment, or counterclaim in any money without regard to the money of other claims.

(4) The determination of the proper money of the claim is a question of law. [1991 c 153 § 6.]

(2022 Ed.)

**6.44.070 Judgments and awards on foreign-money claims—Times of money conversion—Form of judgment.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a judgment or award on a foreign-money claim must be stated in an amount of the money of the claim.

(2) A judgment or award on a foreign-money claim is payable in that foreign money or, at the option of the debtor, in the amount of United States dollars which will purchase that foreign money on the conversion date at a bank-offered spot rate.

(3) Assessed costs must be entered in United States dollars.

(4) Each payment in United States dollars must be accepted and credited on a judgment or award on a foreign-money claim in the amount of the foreign money that could be purchased by the dollars at a bank-offered spot rate of exchange at or near the close of business on the conversion date for that payment.

(5) A judgment or award made in an action or distribution proceeding on both (a) a defense, set-off, recoupment, or counterclaim, and (b) the adverse party's claim, must be netted by converting the money of the smaller into the money of the larger, and by subtracting the smaller from the larger, and specify the rates of exchange used.

(6) A judgment substantially in the following form complies with subsection (1) of this section:

IT IS ADJUDGED AND ORDERED, that defendant (insert name) pay to plaintiff (insert name) the sum of (insert amount in the foreign money) plus interest on that sum at the rate of (insert rate—see RCW 6.44.090) percent a year or, at the option of the judgment debtor, the number of United States dollars which will purchase the (insert name of foreign money) with interest due, at a bank-offered spot rate at or near the close of business on the banking day next before the day of payment, together with assessed costs of (insert amount) United States dollars.

(7) If a contract claim is of the type covered by RCW 6.44.050 (a) or (b) [(1) or (2)], the judgment or award must be entered for the amount of money stated to measure the obligation to be paid in the money specified for payment or, at the option of the debtor, the number of United States dollars which will purchase the computed amount of the money of payment on the conversion date at a bank-offered spot rate.

(8) A judgment must be filed or docketed and indexed in foreign money in the same manner, and has the same effect as a lien, as other judgments. It may be discharged by payment. [1991 c 153 § 7.]

**6.44.080 Conversions of foreign money in distribution proceeding.** The rate of exchange prevailing at or near the close of business on the day the distribution proceeding is initiated governs all exchanges of foreign money in a distribution proceeding. A foreign-money claimant in a distribution proceeding shall assert its claim in the named foreign money and show the amount of United States dollars resulting from a conversion as of the date the proceeding was initiated. [1991 c 153 § 8.]

**6.44.090 Prejudgment and judgment interest.** (1) With respect to a foreign-money claim, recovery of prejudgment or preaward interest and the rate of interest to be applied

in the action or distribution proceeding, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, are matters of the substantive law governing the right to recovery under the conflict of laws rules of this state.

(2) The court or arbitrator shall increase or decrease the amount of prejudgment or preaward interest otherwise payable in a judgment or award in foreign money to the extent required by the law of this state governing a failure to make or accept an offer of settlement or offer of judgment, or conduct by a party or its attorney causing undue delay or expense.

(3) A judgment or award on a foreign-money claim bears interest at the rate applicable to judgments of this state. [1991 c 153 § 9.]

**6.44.100 Enforcement of foreign judgments.** (1) If an action is brought to enforce a judgment of another jurisdiction expressed in a foreign money and the judgment is recognized in this state as enforceable, the enforcing judgment must be entered as provided in RCW 6.44.070, whether or not the foreign judgment confers an option to pay in an equivalent amount of United States dollars.

(2) A foreign judgment may be filed or docketed in accordance with any rule or statute of this state providing a procedure for its recognition and enforcement.

(3) A satisfaction or partial payment made upon the foreign judgment, on proof thereof, must be credited against the amount of foreign money specified in the judgment, notwithstanding the entry of judgment in this state.

(4) A judgment entered on a foreign-money claim only in United States dollars in another state must be enforced in this state in United States dollars only. [1991 c 153 § 10.]

**6.44.110 Determining United States dollar value of foreign-money claims for limited purposes.** (1) Computations under this section are for the limited purposes of this section and do not affect computation of the United States dollar equivalent of the money of the judgment for the purpose of payment.

(2) For the limited purpose of facilitating the enforcement of provisional remedies in an action, the value in United States dollars of assets to be seized or restrained pursuant to a writ of attachment, garnishment, execution, or other legal process, the amount of United States dollars at issue for assessing costs, or the amount of United States dollars involved for a surety bond or other court-required undertaking, must be ascertained as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

(3) A party seeking process, costs, bond, or other undertaking under subsection (2) of this section, shall compute in United States dollars the amount of the foreign money claimed from a bank-offered spot rate prevailing at or near the close of business on the banking day next preceding the filing of a request or application for the issuance of process or for the determination of costs, or an application for a bond or other court-required undertaking.

(4) A party seeking the process, costs, bond, or other undertaking under subsection (2) of this section shall file with each request or application an affidavit or certificate executed in good faith by its counsel or a bank officer, stating the market quotation used and how it was obtained, and set-

ting forth the calculation. Affected court officials incur no liability, after a filing of the affidavit or certificate, for acting as if the judgment were in the amount of United States dollars stated in the affidavit or certificate. [1991 c 153 § 11.]

**6.44.120 Effect of currency revalorization.** (1) If, after an obligation is expressed or a loss is incurred in a foreign money, the country issuing or adopting that money substitutes a new money in place of that money, the obligation or the loss is treated as if expressed or incurred in the new money at the rate of conversion the issuing country establishes for the payment of like obligations or losses denominated in the former money.

(2) If substitution under subsection (1) of this section occurs after a judgment or award is entered on a foreign-money claim, the court or arbitrator shall amend the judgment or award by a like conversion of the former money. [1991 c 153 § 12.]

**6.44.130 Supplementary general principles of law.** Unless displaced by particular provisions of this chapter, the principles of law and equity, including the law merchant, and the law relative to capacity to contract, principal and agent, estoppel, fraud, misrepresentation, duress, coercion, mistake, bankruptcy, or other validating or invalidating causes supplement its provisions. [1991 c 153 § 13.]

**6.44.140 Uniformity of application and construction.** 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. [1991 c 153 § 14.]

**6.44.901 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the uniform foreign-money claims act. [1991 c 153 § 15.]

**6.44.902 Effective date—1991 c 153.** This chapter shall take effect January 1, 1992. [1991 c 153 § 16.]

**6.44.904 Prospective application.** This chapter applies prospectively only and not retroactively. It applies only to causes of action which are commenced on or after January 1, 1992. [1991 c 153 § 18.]