

# RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

## 1986 Recompile

### NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION :  
OF RULES OF CIVIL

PROCEDURE : 8000 Misc.  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court, and the court being sufficiently advised, Mr. Chief Justice McManus, Mr. Justice Oman, Mr. Justice Stephenson, Mr. Justice Montoya and Mr. Justice Martinez concurring;

IT IS ORDERED that the Rules of Civil Practice for the Magistrate Courts be and the same are hereby adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective on the 1st day of October, 1974. Provided, that the rules hereby repealed shall continue to apply to all cases filed in magistrate courts prior to said effective date.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court be and she hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of these Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts in the manner and at the time prescribed by statute.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 15th day of July, 1974.

/s/ JOHN B. McMANUS, JR.  
Chief Justice

/s/ LaFEL E. OMAN  
Justice

/s/ DONNAN STEPHENSON  
Justice

/s/ JOE L. MARTINEZ  
Justice

### NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF

:

A NEW RULE OF CIVIL

PROCEDURE

:

8000 Misc.

FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

:

This matter coming on for consideration by the court, and the court being sufficiently advised, Mr. Chief Justice McManus, Mr. Justice Oman, Mr. Justice Stephenson and Mr. Justice Montoya concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rule 1.4 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same is hereby adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Rule 4.1 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective September 1, 1975.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court be and she hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of this rule in the manner and at the time prescribed by statute.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 24th day of June, 1975.

/s/ JOHN B. McMANUS, JR.

Chief Justice

/s/ LaFEL E. OMAN

Justice

/s/ DONNAN STEPHENSON

Justice

/s/ SAMUEL Z. MONTOYA

Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONS TO AND

:

AMENDMENTS OF THE RULES OF

CIVIL

:

8000 Misc.

PROCEDURE FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

:

This matter coming on for consideration by the court, and the court being sufficiently advised, Mr. Chief Justice Easley, Mr. Senior Justice Sosa, Mr. Justice Payne, Mr. Justice Federici and Mr. Justice Riordan concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 38, 39 and 40 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same are hereby adopted;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Rules 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 22, 23, 29, 30, 32 and 37 of the Rules of Civil Procedure

for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for all cases filed on or after September 1, 1981;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court be and she hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the additions to and the amendments of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the NMSA 1978.

DONE this 7th day of May, 1981.

/s/ MACK EASLEY

Chief Justice

/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.

Senior Justice

/s/ H. VERN PAYNE

Justice

/s/ WILLIAM R. FEDERICI

Justice

/s/ WILLIAM F. RIORDAN

Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF RULE 32.1 :  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR  
THE : 8000 Misc.  
MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court, and the court being sufficiently advised, Mr. Chief Justice Payne, Mr. Senior Justice Sosa, Mr. Justice Federici, Mr. Justice Riordan and Mr. Justice Stowers concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rule 32.1 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same is hereby adopted;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amendment of Rule 32.1 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for all cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after October 1, 1983;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court be and she hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the adoption of Rule 32.1 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the NMSA 1978.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 21st day of April, 1983.

/s/ H. VERN PAYNE

Chief Justice

/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.  
Senior Justice  
/s/ WILLIAM R. FEDERICI  
Justice  
/s/ WILLIAM RIORDAN  
Justice  
/s/ HARRY E. STOWERS, JR.  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT :  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL  
PROCEDURE : 8000 Misc.  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court, and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Federici, Senior Justice Sosa, Justice Riordan, Justice Stowers, and Justice Walters concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 8, 14 and 37 are hereby amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amendment of Rules 8, 14 and 37 shall be effective on or after October 1, 1984;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of these amendments by publishing the same in the NMSA 1978.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 4th day of April, 1984.

/s/ WILLIAM R. FEDERICI  
Chief Justice  
/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.  
Senior Justice  
/s/ WILLIAM RIORDAN  
Justice  
/s/ HARRY E. STOWERS, JR.  
Justice  
/s/ MARY C. WALTERS  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT :  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL  
PROCEDURE : 8000 Misc.  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Scarborough, Senior Justice Sosa, Justice Stowers, Justice Walters and Justice Ransom concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendment of Rule 2-107 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same is hereby approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after July 1, 1987;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the above Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the News and Views and in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 9th day of April, 1987.

/s/ TONY SCARBOROUGH  
Chief Justice  
/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.  
Senior Justice  
/s/ HARRY E. STOWERS, JR.  
Justice  
/s/ MARY C. WALTERS  
Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT OF RULES :  
2-105 AND 2-301 OF THE RULES OF  
CIVIL : 8000 Misc.  
PROCEDURE FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Scarborough, Senior Justice Sosa, Justice Stowers, Justice Walters and Justice Ransom concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendment of Rules 2-105 and 2-301 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate

Courts be and the same is hereby approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after October 1, 1987;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the above Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in News and Views and in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 17th day of August, 1987.

/s/ TONY SCARBOROUGH

Chief Justice

/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.

Senior Justice

/s/ HARRY E. STOWERS, JR.

Justice

/s/ MARY C. WALTERS

Justice

/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM

Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT AND :  
WITHDRAWAL OF RULES OF :  
CIVIL : 8000 Misc.  
PROCEDURE FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Scarborough, Senior Justice Sosa, Justice Stowers, Justice Walters and Justice Ransom concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendment of Rules 2-106, 2-107, 2-801, 2-802, 2-803 and the withdrawal of the Rule 2-804 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same are hereby approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after July 1, 1988;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the above Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 26th day of May, 1988.

/s/ TONY SCARBOROUGH

Chief Justice

/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.

Senior Justice

/s/ HARRY E. STOWERS, JR.

Justice

/s/ MARY C. WALTERS

Justice

/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM

Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE :  
AMENDMENT OF RULE 2-801 OF THE RULES OF :  
CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR THE MAGISTRATE :  
COURTS : 8000 Misc.

AND THE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT OF A :  
REVISED RULE 2-801 OF THE RULES OF CIVIL :  
PROCEDURE FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS. :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Scarborough, Senior Justice Sosa, Justice Stowers, Justice Walters and Justice Ransom concurring:

WHEREAS, on May 26, 1988, upon recommendation of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Committee, the Supreme Court approved the amendment of Rule 2-801 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts effective July 1, 1988; and

WHEREAS, to clarify certain procedures relating to the execution of judgments, the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Committee has recommended the substitution of the previously approved Rule;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the previously approved amendment of Rule 2-801 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be withdrawn and the attached amendment of Rule 2-801 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same is hereby approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of Rule 2-801 of Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after July 1, 1988;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby

authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the above Rule of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 4th day of August, 1988.

/s/ TONY SCARBOROUGH  
Chief Justice  
/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.  
Senior Justice  
/s/ HARRY E. STOWERS, JR.  
Justice  
/s/ MARY C. WALTERS  
Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT :  
OF RULE 2-705 OF THE RULES OF  
CIVIL : 8000 Misc.  
PROCEDURE FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Scarborough, Senior Justice Sosa, Justice Stowers, Justice Walters and Justice Ransom concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendment of Rule 2-705 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same is hereby approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of Rule 2-705 of Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after November 1, 1988;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the above Rule of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 10th day of August, 1988.

/s/ TONY SCARBOROUGH  
Chief Justice  
/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.  
Senior Justice  
/s/ HARRY E. STOWERS, JR.  
Justice



/s/ MARY C. WALTERS  
Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT :  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL :  
PROCEDURE : 8000 Misc.  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Sosa, Justice Stowers, Justice Scarborough, Justice Ransom and Justice Baca concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendment of Rules 2-105, 2-106, 2-202 and 2-603 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same is hereby approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of Rules 2-105, 2-106, and 2-603 of Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after September 1, 1989;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of Rule 2-202 of Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after January 1, 1990;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the above Rule of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 24th day of April, 1989.

/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.  
Chief Justice  
/s/ HARRY E. STOWERS, JR.  
Justice  
/s/ TONY SCARBOROUGH  
Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT :  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL  
PROCEDURE : 8000 Misc.  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Sosa, Justice Ransom, Justice Baca, Justice Montgomery and Justice Wilson concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendments of Rules 2-106, 2-107, 2-108, 2-202 and 2-703 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same are hereby approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendments of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after July 1, 1990;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the above amendments of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 14th day of February, 1990.

/s/ DAN SOSA, JR.  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Justice  
/s/ SETH D. MONTGOMERY  
Justice  
/s/ KENNETH B. WILSON  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT :  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL  
PROCEDURE : 8000 Misc.  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Ransom, Justice Baca, Justice Montgomery, Justice Franchini and Justice Frost concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 2-801, 2-802 and 2-803 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same are hereby amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after July 1, 1992;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 15th day of April, 1992.

/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM

Chief Justice

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA

Justice

/s/ SETH D. MONTGOMERY

Justice

/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI

Justice

/s/ STANLEY F. FROST

Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT :  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL :  
PROCEDURE : 8000 Misc.  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Ransom, Justice Baca, Justice Montgomery, Justice Franchini and Justice Frost concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 2-106, 2-107 and 2-301 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same are hereby amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after October 1,

1992;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 13th day of August, 1992.

/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM

Chief Justice

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA

Justice

/s/ SETH D. MONTGOMERY

Justice

/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI

Justice

/s/ STANLEY F. FROST

Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL

PROCEDURE

:

8000 Misc.

FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

:

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Ransom, Justice Baca, Justice Montgomery, Justice Franchini and Justice Frost concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 2-202 and 2-703 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same are hereby amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after January 1, 1993;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 13th day of August, 1992.

/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM

Chief Justice

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA

Justice

/s/ SETH D. MONTGOMERY  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ STANLEY F. FROST  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT :  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL :  
PROCEDURE : 8000 Misc.  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS :

This matter coming on for consideration by the court and the court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Ransom, Justice Baca, Justice Montgomery, Justice Franchini and Justice Frost concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 2-502, 2-605 and 2-705 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same are hereby amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after January 1, 1994;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the 1986 SCRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 27th day of August, 1993.

/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Chief Justice  
/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Justice  
/s/ SETH D. MONTGOMERY  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ STANLEY F. FROST  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

NO. 94-8300

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT OF  
THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR  
THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

This matter coming on for consideration by the Court and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Ransom, Justice Baca, Justice Montgomery, Justice Franchini and Justice Frost concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 2-202 and 2-502 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same hereby are amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after May 1, 1994;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the SCRA 1986.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 17th day of February, 1994.

/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Chief Justice

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Justice

/s/ SETH D. MONTGOMERY  
Justice

/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice

/s/ STANLEY F. FROST  
Justice

## **NMRA**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

NO. 94-8300

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

This matter coming on for consideration by the Court and the

Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Montgomery, Justice Ransom, Justice Baca, Justice Franchini and Justice Frost concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rule 2-701 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same hereby is amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after January 1, 1995;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the SCRA 1986.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 30th day of September, 1994.

/s/ SETH D. MONTGOMERY  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ STANLEY F. FROST  
Justice

## **NMRA**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
NO. 95-8300  
IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT OF  
THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR  
THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

### ORDER

This matter coming on for consideration by the Court upon recommendation of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Rules Committee to adopt amendments to Magistrate Court Civil Rules 2-105, 2-106, and 2-305, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Gene E. Franchini, Justice Stanley F. Frost, and Justice Pamela B. Minzner concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 2-105, 2-106, and

2-305 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same hereby are amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on and after November 1, 1995;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and SCRA 1986.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, the 12th day of September, 1995.

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ STANLEY F. FROST  
Justice  
/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER  
Justice

## **NMRA**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

No. 95-8300

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT OF  
THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR  
THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

### ORDER

This matter coming on for consideration by the Court upon recommendation of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Rules Committee to adopt amendments to Magistrate Court Civil Rules 2-801, 2-802, 2-803 and 2-804, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Gene E. Franchini, Justice Stanley F. Frost, and Justice Pamela B. Minzner concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rules 2-801, 2-802, 2-803 and 2-804 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same hereby are amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules



of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on or after January 1, 1996;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and SCRA 1986.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 6th day of November, 1995.

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA

Chief Justice

/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM

Justice

/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI

Justice

/s/ STANLEY F. FROST

Justice

/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER

Justice

## **NMRA**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

No. 95-8300

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT OF  
THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR  
THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

### ORDER

This matter coming on for consideration by the Court upon recommendation of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Rules Committee to adopt amendments to Magistrate Court Civil Rule 2-110 and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Gene E. Franchini, Justice Stanley F. Frost, and Justice Pamela B. Minzner concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rule 2-110 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts be and the same hereby is amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate Courts on and after January 1, 1996;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the

Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and SCRA 1986.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 6th day of November, 1995.

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ STANLEY F. FROST  
Justice  
/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER  
Justice

## **NMRA**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
NO. 96-8300

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENTS OF RULES  
2-705, 3-706, 3-708, AND FORM 4-708 AND  
THE WITHDRAWAL OF RULES 3-707, 3-709, 3-710,  
3-711, AND 3-712 OF THE MAGISTRATE COURT AND  
METROPOLITAN COURT RULES GOVERNING APPEALS  
IN CIVIL CASES TO THE DISTRICT COURT

### ORDER

This matter coming on for consideration by the Court upon the recommendation of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Rules Committee to adopt amendments to Rules 2-705, 3-706, 3-708 and Form 4-708, and to withdraw Rules 3-707, 3-709, 3-710, 3-711, and 3-712, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Stanley F. Frost, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Gene E. Franchini, and Justice Pamela B. Minzner concurring:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendments of Rules 2-705, 3-706, 3-708, and Form 4-708 of the Magistrate Court and Metropolitan Court rules governing appeals in civil cases to the District Court hereby are approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the withdrawal of Rules 3-707, 3-709, 3-710, 3-711, and 3-712, hereby is approved and effective July 1, 1996;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amendments of Rules 2-705, 3-706, 3-708, and Form 4-708 shall be effective for appeals filed on and after July 1, 1996;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the adoption of the above-referenced rules by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and in the SCRA 1986.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 18th day of April, 1996.

/s/ STANLEY F. FROST  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER  
Justice

## **NMRA**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
NO. 96-8300  
IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT OF  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

### ORDER

This matter coming on for consideration by the Court upon recommendation of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Rules Committee to adopt the amendment to Rule 2-602, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Gene E. Franchini, Justice Pamela B. Minzner, and Justice Dan A. McKinnon, III, concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rule 2-602 of the Rules of Courts of Limited Jurisdiction be and the same hereby is amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of Rule 2-602 shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate, Metropolitan, and Municipal Courts on and after October 1, 1996;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the rule by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and NMRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 26th day of August, 1996.

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM

Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER  
Justice  
/s/ DAN A. MCKINNON, III  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
NO. 96-8300  
IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT OF  
OF THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

### ORDER

This matter coming on for consideration by the Court upon recommendation of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Rules Committee to adopt the amendment to Rule 2-107, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Gene E. Franchini, Justice Pamela B. Minzner, and Justice Dan A. McKinnon, III, concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Rule 2-107 of the Rules of Courts of Limited Jurisdiction be and the same hereby is amended;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above amendment of the rule shall be effective for cases filed in the Magistrate and Metropolitan Courts on and after October 1, 1996;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the rule by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and NMRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 26th day of August, 1996.

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER  
Justice  
/s/ DAN A. MCKINNON, III  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
NO. 96-8300  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION  
OF NMRA, 2-204 OF THE  
RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

### ORDER

WHEREAS, this matter came on for consideration by the Court upon the recommendation of the Task Force on Electronic Filings, a subcommittee of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts Committee, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Gene E. Franchini, Justice Pamela B. Minzner, and Justice Dan A. McKinnon, III, concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the adoption of Rule 2-204 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts hereby is approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the adoption of Rule 2-204 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective on and after January 1, 1997;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the adoption of the above rule by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and NMRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 11th day of October, 1996.

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER  
Justice  
/s/ DAN A. MCKINNON, III  
Justice

## NMRA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

NO. 96-8300  
IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT  
OF NMRA, 2-301 OF THE  
RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE  
FOR THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

ORDER

WHEREAS, this matter came on for consideration by the Court upon the recommendation of the Task Force on Electronic Filings, a subcommittee of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts Committee, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Gene E. Franchini, Justice Pamela B. Minzner, and Justice Dan A. McKinnon, III, concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendment of Rule 2-301 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts hereby is approved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amendment of Rule 2-301 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts shall be effective on and after January 1, 1997;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the amendment of the above rule by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and NMRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 11th day of October, 1996.

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER  
Justice  
/s/ DAN A. MCKINNON, III  
Justice

**NMRA**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
NO. 96-8300  
IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENTS  
OF RULES 2-703, 3-704, AND  
FORM 9-507 OF THE MAGISTRATE COURTS  
AND METROPOLITAN COURT RULES

ORDER

WHEREAS, this matter came on for consideration by the Court upon recommendation of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Rules Committee to adopt amendments to Rules 2-703, 3-704, and Form 9-507, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Joseph F. Baca, Justice Richard E. Ransom, Justice Gene E. Franchini, Justice Pamela B. Minzner, and Justice Dan A. McKinnon, III, concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the amendments of Rules 2-703, 3-704, and Form 9-507 of the Magistrate Court and Metropolitan Court rules hereby are approved and shall be effective January 1, 1997;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of the amendments of the above-referenced rules and form by publishing the same in the Bar Bulletin and NMRA.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 11th day of October, 1996.

/s/ JOSEPH F. BACA  
Chief Justice  
/s/ RICHARD E. RANSOM  
Justice  
/s/ GENE E. FRANCHINI  
Justice  
/s/ PAMELA B. MINZNER  
Justice  
/s/ DAN A. MCKINNON, III  
Justice

## ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 2-101. Scope and title.

A. **Scope.** These rules shall govern the civil procedure in all magistrate courts.

B. **Construction.** These rules shall be liberally construed to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of every magistrate court action. They shall not be construed to extend or limit the jurisdiction of any court, or to abridge, enlarge or modify the substantive rights of any litigant.

C. **Title.** These rules shall be known as the Rules of Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Courts.

D. **Citation form.** These rules shall be cited by set and rule numbers, as in NMRA, Rule 2-\_\_\_\_\_.

[As amended, effective January 1, 1987.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For magistrate court juries and jurors, see 35-8-1 to 35-8-5 NMSA 1978.

For attachment in magistrate courts, see 35-9-1 to 35-9-8 NMSA 1978.

For forcible entry or unlawful detainer, see 35-10-1 to 35-10-6 NMSA 1978.

For replevin, see 35-11-1 to 35-11-3 NMSA 1978.

For garnishment, see 35-12-1 to 35-12-19 NMSA 1978.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 20 Am. Jur. 2d Courts § 53.

Power of court to adopt general rule requiring pretrial conference as distinguished from exercising its discretion in each case separately, 2 A.L.R.2d 1061.

21 C.J.S. Courts §§ 124 to 134.

## 2-102. Conduct of court proceedings.

A. **Judicial proceedings.** The purpose of judicial proceedings is to ascertain the truth. Such proceedings should be conducted with fitting dignity and decorum, in a manner conducive to undisturbed deliberation, indicative of their importance to the people and to the litigants, and in an atmosphere that bespeaks the responsibilities of those who are charged with the administration of justice. The taking of photographs in the courtroom during the progress of judicial proceedings or during any recess thereof and the transmitting or sound recording of such proceedings for broadcasting by radio or television introduce extraneous influences which tend to have a detrimental psychological effect on the participants and to divert them from the proper objectives of the trial; they shall not be done or permitted.

B. **Nonjudicial proceedings.** Proceedings, other than judicial proceedings, designed and carried out primarily as ceremonies, and conducted with dignity by judges in open court, may properly be photographed in or broadcast from the courtroom with the permission and under the supervision of the court.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 75 Am. Jur. 2d Trial § 180 et seq.



88 C.J.S. Trial §§ 36 to 54.

## **2-103. Rules and forms.**

A. **Rules.** Each magistrate court or division thereof may from time to time make and amend rules governing its practice not inconsistent with law, these rules or regulations prescribed by the administrative office of the courts. Such rules may relate to office hours and procedures, to the performance of clerical duties by clerical assistants, and to other procedures for effecting a just, speedy and inexpensive determination of causes pending before such court. Proposed rules or amendments shall be submitted to the director of the administrative office of the courts and shall not become effective until approved by him.

B. **Forms.** Forms used in the magistrate courts shall be substantially in the form approved by the supreme court.

[As amended, effective January 1, 1987.]

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For civil and criminal forms for the district courts and courts of limited jurisdiction, see Rules 4-101 et seq. and 9-101 et seq.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 20 Am. Jur. 2d Courts § 48 et seq.

Power of court to prescribe rules of pleadings, practice or procedure, 110 A.L.R. 22, 158 A.L.R. 705.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statutes or rules of court which permit setting aside a plea and giving judgment by default, or dismissing suit, because of disobedience of order, summons or subpoena duces tecum requiring production of documents, 144 A.L.R. 372.

Pretrial conference, power of court to adopt general rule requiring, 2 A.L.R.2d 1061.

Consent as ground of vacating judgment, or granting new trial, in civil case, after expiration of term or time prescribed by statute or rules of court, 3 A.L.R.3d 1191.

Contempt based on violation of court order where another court has issued contrary order, 36 A.L.R.4th 978.

## **2-104. Time.**

A. **Computation.** In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by these rules, by the local rules of any magistrate court, by order of court, or by any applicable statute, the day of the act, event or default from which the designated period of time begins to

run shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be included, unless it is a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday.

**B. Enlargement.** When by these rules or by a notice given thereunder or by order of court, an act is required or allowed to be done at or within a specified time, the court for cause shown may at any time in its discretion:

(1) with or without motion or notice, order the period enlarged if request therefor is made before the expiration of the period originally prescribed or as extended by a previous order; or

(2) upon motion made after the expiration of the specified period, permit the act to be done, but it may not extend the time for commencement of trial under Rule 2-305 or for taking an appeal under Rule 2-705.

**C. For motions; affidavits.** A written motion, other than one which may be heard ex parte, and notice of the hearing thereon shall be served not later than five (5) days before the time specified for the hearing, unless a different period is fixed by these rules or by order of the court. Such an order may for cause shown be made on ex parte application. When a motion is supported by affidavit, the affidavit shall be served with the motion; and opposing affidavits may be served not later than one (1) day before the hearing, unless the court permits them to be served at some other time.

**D. Additional time after service by mail.** Whenever a party has the right or is required to do some act or take some proceedings within a prescribed period after the service of a notice or other paper upon him and the notice or paper is served upon him by mail, three (3) days shall be added to the prescribed period.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Motions, Rules, and Orders § 10; 62B Am. Jur. 2d Process §§ 114 to 125.

Difference between date of affidavit for service by publication and date of filing or of order for publication as affecting validity of service, 46 A.L.R.2d 1364.

Inclusion or exclusion of first and last day in computing the time for performance of an act or event which must take place a certain number of days before future date, 98 A.L.R.2d 1331.

Vacating judgment or granting new trial in civil case, consent as ground of after expiration of term or time prescribed by statute or rules of court, 3 A.L.R.3d 1191.

Attorney's inaction as excuse for failure to timely prosecute action, 15 A.L.R.3d 674.

What circumstances excuse failure to submit will for probate within time limit set by statute, 17 A.L.R.3d 1361.

Construction and effect of contractual or statutory provisions fixing time within which arbitration award must be made, 56 A.L.R.3d 815.

Validity of service of summons or complaint on Sunday or holiday, 63 A.L.R.3d 423.

Amendment, after expiration of time for filing motion for new trial, in civil case, or motion made in due time, 69 A.L.R.3d 845.

60 C.J.S. Motions and Orders § 8; 66 C.J.S. Notice § 18; 71 C.J.S. Pleading §§ 98, 114, 219; 72 C.J.S. Process §§ 41, 55.

## **2-105. Assignment and designation of judges.**

### **A. Procedure for replacing a magistrate upon excusal or recusal.**

(1) In magistrate districts which have a presiding magistrate, upon receipt of a notice of excusal or upon recusal, the magistrate or clerk of the magistrate court shall give written notice to the parties to the action. Within ten (10) days after service of a notice of excusal or notice of recusal, the parties or their counsel may agree to another judge of the magistrate district to try the case. If the parties fail to agree upon a new judge, the presiding magistrate of the district shall, by random selection, assign another magistrate to try the case. If all magistrates in the district have been excused or have recused themselves, within ten (10) days after service of the last notice of excusal or recusal, the presiding magistrate shall certify that fact by letter to the district court of the county in which the action is pending and the district court shall designate another magistrate to conduct any further proceedings. The district court shall send notice of its designation to the parties or their counsel, to the excused or recused magistrate and to the designated magistrate.

(2) In magistrate districts which do not have a presiding magistrate, upon receipt of a notice of excusal or upon recusal, the magistrate shall give written notice to the parties to the action. Within ten (10) days after service of the notice of excusal or recusal, the parties or their counsel may agree to another judge of the magistrate district to try the case. If the excused or recused magistrate has not received notice of such an agreement within ten (10) days after service of the notice of excusal or recusal, the excused or recused magistrate shall certify that fact by letter to the district court of the county in which the action is pending and the district court shall designate another magistrate to conduct any further proceedings. The district court shall send notice of its designation to the parties or their counsel, to the excused magistrate and to the designated magistrate.

**B. Subsequent proceedings.** All proceedings shall be conducted in the original magistrate court. The clerk of the original magistrate court shall continue to be

responsible for the court file and shall perform such further duties as may be required. Within five (5) days after assignment or designation of a new judge, the clerk shall make a copy of the court file for the designated judge.

[As amended, effective May 1, 1986; October 1, 1987; September 1, 1989; November 1, 1995.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For jurisdiction of magistrate to sit in any action arising in another magistrate district when designated by district judge because of unavailability of a magistrate in that magistrate district, see 35-3-6 NMSA 1978.

For disqualification of magistrate, see 35-3-7 NMSA 1978.

For form on certification of disqualification or recusal, see Rule 4-102.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after September 1, 1989, deleted references to "notice of recusal" following "notice of excusal" in Paragraphs B(1) and B(2); in the second sentence in Paragraph B(1), substituted "five (5) days" for "ten (10) days" and "notice of excusal" for "statement of excusal"; in the second sentence in Paragraph B(2), deleted "or recused" following "the excused"; added present Paragraph C; rewrote former Paragraph C and redesignated it as present Paragraph D; and made minor stylistic changes.

**The 1995 amendment**, effective November 1, 1995, rewrote the rule to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 46 Am. Jur. 2d Judges §§ 86, 248 et seq.

Interlocutory ruling or order of one judge as binding on another in same case, 132 A.L.R. 14.

Requiring successor judge to journalize finding or decision of predecessor, 4 A.L.R.2d 584.

Power of successor judge taking office during term time to vacate, etc., judgment entered by his predecessor, 11 A.L.R.2d 1117.

Receipt of verdict in civil case in absence of trial judge, 20 A.L.R.2d 281.

Power of successor or substituted judge, in civil case, to render decision or enter judgment on testimony heard by predecessor, 22 A.L.R.3d 922.

Disqualification of original trial judge to sit on retrial after reversal or mistrial, 60 A.L.R.3d 176.

Disqualification of judge, justice of the peace or similar judicial officer for pecuniary interest in fines, forfeitures or fees payable by litigants, 72 A.L.R.3d 375.

48A C.J.S. Judges §§ 36, 98 to 185.

## **2-106. Excusal; recusal; disability.**

A. **Excusal.** Whenever a party to any civil action or proceeding of any kind files a notice of excusal, the magistrate's jurisdiction over the cause terminates immediately.

B. **Limitation on excusals.** No party shall excuse more than one judge. A party may not excuse a judge after the party has requested that judge to perform any discretionary act other than an order for free process or a determination of indigency.

C. **Excusal procedure.** A party may exercise the statutory right to excuse the magistrate judge before whom the case is pending by filing with the clerk of the court a notice of excusal. The notice of excusal must be:

(1) signed by a party plaintiff or that party's attorney and filed within ten (10) days after the later of:

(a) the filing of the complaint; or

(b) service by the court of notice of assignment or reassignment of the case to a judge;

(2) signed by any other party or any other party's attorney and filed within ten (10) days after the later of:

(a) the filing of the answer pursuant to Rule 2-302 by that party; or

(b) service by the court of notice of assignment or reassignment of the case to a judge;  
or

(3) by each party plaintiff and defendant in a restitution case, including an action in forcible entry or detainer, by filing a notice of excusal within five (5) days after service.

D. **Notice of reassignment; service of excusal.** After the filing of the complaint, if the case is reassigned to a different judge, the court shall give notice of the reassignment to all parties. Any party electing to excuse a judge shall serve notice of such election on all parties.

E. **Recusal; procedure.** No magistrate shall sit in any action in which the judge's impartiality may reasonably be questioned under the provisions of the Constitution of New Mexico or the Code of Judicial Conduct, and the judge shall file a recusal in any such action. Upon recusal, another magistrate shall be assigned or designated to

conduct any further proceedings in the action in the manner provided by Rule 2-105 of these rules.

**F. Failure to recuse.** If a party believes that the judge's impartiality may reasonably be questioned under the provisions of the Constitution of New Mexico or the Code of Judicial Conduct, the party may file a notice of excusal. The notice shall specifically set forth the grounds alleged. Upon receipt of the notice, the judge shall file a certificate of excusal or recusal in the action. If the judge fails or refuses to recognize the disqualification, any party may certify that fact by letter to the district court of the county in which the action is pending. The district court shall make such investigation as it deems warranted and enter an order in the action, either prohibiting the magistrate court judge from proceeding further and designating another judge or striking the notice of excusal as ineffective or groundless.

**G. Inability of a judge to proceed.** If a trial or hearing has been commenced and the judge is unable to proceed, any other judge of the district may proceed with it upon certifying familiarity with the record and determining that the proceedings in the case may be completed without prejudice to the parties. The successor judge may recall any witness. If no other judge is available in the district, either party may certify that fact by letter to the district court of the county in which the action is pending. The district court may make such investigation as it deems warranted and, if it finds that the magistrate is in fact disabled or unavailable, shall thereupon designate another judge to preside over the case.

[As amended, effective May 1, 1986; July 1, 1988; September 1, 1989; July 1, 1990; October 1, 1992; November 1, 1995.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For disqualification of magistrate, see 35-3-7 NMSA 1978.

For recusal of magistrate, see N.M. Const., art. VI, § 18, Rule 21-400, Code Jud. Cond., and 35-3-8 NMSA 1978.

For disqualification of judge in proceedings where his impartiality might be questioned, see Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 21-400.

For form on certification of disqualification or recusal, see Rule 4-102.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after September 1, 1989, in Paragraph A, substituted references to notice of excusal for references to statement of excusal in three places; in Paragraph C, substituted "notice of peremptory excusal" for "notice of election to excuse" near the end; in Paragraph E, substituted "may disqualify the judge by filing a notice of excusal" for "may file a statement to that effect" near the beginning of the first sentence and "notice of excusal" for "disqualification statement" in the last sentence; and substituted present Paragraph

G for former Paragraph G, which read "No costs or fees of any kind shall be collected by any court for any filing or proceeding under this rule".

**The 1990 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1990, substituted present Paragraph C for former Paragraph C, which read "If a party has excused a judge as provided herein, any party who has not excused one judge and who wishes to excuse any other judge who could be assigned to preside over the trial, must, within ten (10) days of the clerk's written notice, file a written notice of peremptory excusal with the clerk of the court naming the judge to be excused."; inserted present Paragraph D; and redesignated former Paragraphs D through G as present Paragraphs E through H.

**The 1992 amendment**, effective October 1, 1992, inserted "including an action in forcible entry or detainer," in Subparagraph (3) of Paragraph C.

**The 1995 amendment**, effective November 1, 1995, rewrote the rule to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 46 Am. Jur. 2d Judges §§ 86, 248 et seq.

Disqualifying relationship by affinity in case of judge or juror as affected by dissolution of marriage, 117 A.L.R. 800.

Relationship of judge to one who is party in an official or representative capacity as disqualification, 10 A.L.R.2d 1307.

Receipt of verdict in civil case in absence of trial judge, 20 A.L.R.2d 281.

Mandamus as remedy to compel assertedly disqualified judge to recuse self or certify his disqualification, 45 A.L.R.2d 937, 56 A.L.R. Fed. 494.

Relationship to attorney in case as disqualifying judge, 50 A.L.R.2d 143.

Prior representation or activity as attorney or counsel as disqualifying judge, 72 A.L.R.2d 443, 16 A.L.R.4th 550.

Power of successor or substituted judge, in civil case, to render decision or enter judgment on testimony heard by predecessor, 22 A.L.R.3d 922.

Disqualification of judge to relative's ownership of stock in corporation which is party to action or proceeding, 25 A.L.R.3d 1331.

Disqualification of original trial judge to sit on retrial after reversal or mistrial, 60 A.L.R.3d 176.

Disqualification of judge or one acting in judicial capacity to preside in a case in which he has a pecuniary interest in the fine, penalty or forfeiture imposed upon the defendant, 72 A.L.R.3d 375.

Membership in fraternal or social club or order affected by a case as ground for disqualification of judge, 75 A.L.R.3d 1021.

Disqualification of judge as affecting validity of decision in which other nondisqualified judges participated, 29 A.L.R.5th 722.

48A C.J.S. Judges §§ 36, 98 to 185.

## **2-107. Pro se and attorney appearance.**

**A. Pro se appearance by an individual.** A party to any civil action may appear, prosecute, defend and appeal any proceeding:

- (1) if the party is an individual party, in person;
- (2) if the property is community property, one spouse may appear for both spouses.

**B. Other authorized appearances.** A party to any civil action may appear, prosecute and defend any proceeding:

(1) on a writ of garnishment or attachment:

(a) by a general partner if the partnership is brought into the suit by a writ of garnishment or attachment;

(b) by an officer, director or general manager of the corporation upon the filing of a notarized certificate to so act on behalf of the corporation, if the corporation is brought into the suit by writ of garnishment or attachment;

(2) in an action brought pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Owner-Resident Relations Act or the Mobile Home Park Act if the appearance is by:

- (a) the "owner", as defined in the Uniform Owner-Resident Relations Act;
- (b) a "landlord", as defined in the Mobile Home Park Act;
- (c) a licensed real estate agent authorized by the owner of the property; or
- (d) the person authorized to manage the premises;

(3) if the party is a corporation whose voting shares are held by a single shareholder or closely knit group of shareholders all of whom are natural persons active in the conduct



of the business and the appearance is by an officer or general manager who has been authorized to appear on behalf of the corporation;

(4) if the party is a general partnership that meets all of the following qualifications:

(a) the partnership has less than ten partners, whether limited or general, except that a husband and wife are treated as one partner for this purpose;

(b) all partners, whether limited or general, are natural persons; and

(c) the appearance is by a general partner who has been authorized to appear by the general partners;

(5) if the party is a governmental entity and the appearance is by an employee of the governmental entity authorized by the entity to institute or cause to be instituted an action on behalf of the governmental entity; or

(6) if the party is a wage claimant, the director of the labor and industrial division of the Labor Department, as assignee, may appear on behalf of the claimant pursuant to Sections 50-4-11 and 50-4-12 NMSA 1978.

**C. Attorney appearance.** A party may appear, prosecute, defend and appeal any proceeding by an attorney. Whenever an attorney undertakes to represent a party, the attorney shall file a written entry of appearance showing the attorney's name, address and telephone number. For the purpose of this rule, the filing of any pleading signed by counsel constitutes an entry of appearance. If entry of appearance is made by the filing of a pleading on behalf of a party, the attorney shall set forth on the pleading the attorney's address and telephone number.

**D. Collection agencies.** Collection agencies may take assignments of claims in their own names as real parties in interest for the purpose of billing and collection and bringing suit in their own names; provided that no suit authorized by this section may be instituted on behalf of a collection agency in any court unless the collection agency appears by a licensed attorney-at-law.

[As amended, effective July 1, 1987; July 1, 1988; July 1, 1990; October 1, 1992; October 1, 1996.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For Owner-Resident Relations Act, see Chapter 47, Article 8 NMSA 1978.

For Mobile Home Park Act, see Chapter 47, Article 10 NMSA 1978.

For wage claim actions, costs, jurisdiction, and representation by district attorney, see 50-4-12 NMSA 1978.

**The 1990 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1990, added the last three sentences in Paragraph C.

**The 1992 amendment**, effective October 1, 1992, rewrote Paragraph D.

**The 1996 amendment**, effective October 1, 1996, added "on a writ of garnishment or attachment" in Subparagraph B(1), designated the existing language of Subparagraph B(1) as Subparagraph B(1)(a) and rewrote that subparagraph, designated former Subparagraph B(2) as B(1)(b) and rewrote that subparagraph, designated former Subparagraphs B(3) to B(6) as Subparagraphs B(2) to B(5), substituted "in an action brought" for "if the action is brought" and "or the Mobile Home Park Act if the" for "and the" in Subparagraph B(2), substituted "in the" for "by the provisions of the" in Subparagraph B(2)(a), added Subparagraph B(2)(b) and redesignated the remaining subparagraphs accordingly, substituted "by the owner of the property" for "such owner" in Subparagraph B(2)(c), and added Subparagraph B(6) and made minor stylistic changes in Subparagraph B(4) and Paragraph D.

## **2-108. Withdrawal or substitution of attorneys.**

A. **Consent and notice.** No attorney or firm who has appeared in a cause may withdraw from it without written consent of the magistrate court, filed with the clerk. Such consent may be conditioned upon substitution of other counsel or the filing by a party of an address at which service may be made upon him, with proof of service thereof on all other parties, or otherwise. Following withdrawal by counsel, an unrepresented party shall have twenty (20) days within which to secure counsel or be deemed to have entered an appearance pro se. Notice of withdrawal or substitution of counsel shall be given to all parties either by withdrawing counsel or by substituted counsel and proof of service filed with the clerk.

B. **Withdrawal without consent.** If an attorney ceases to act in a cause for a reason other than withdrawal or consent, upon motion of any party, the court may require the taking of such steps as may be advised to insure that the cause will proceed with promptness and dispatch.

C. **Service upon attorneys of record.** Attorneys of record shall continue to be subject to service for ninety (90) days after entry of final judgment. This rule does not preclude the earlier withdrawal of counsel as provided above.

D. **Service upon responding party.** In the event of further legal proceedings between the parties after the ninety (90) days have elapsed, the moving party shall effect service of process upon the responding party in the manner prescribed by Rule 2-202.

[As amended, effective July 1, 1990.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 1990 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1990, designated the former first paragraph as Paragraph A, added the present heading of that paragraph, and inserted the present third sentence therein; designated the former second paragraph as Paragraph B, adding the present heading thereto; and added present Paragraphs C and D.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 7 Am. Jur. 2d Attorneys At Law §§ 168 to 178.

Construction and effect of statutory provision requiring adverse party to give notice when attorney ceases to act as such, 42 A.L.R. 1347.

Necessity of order of substitution where new attorney is employed to prosecute an appeal, 70 A.L.R. 834.

Adjustment or determination of compensation of discharged attorney as condition of substitution of attorney by court order, 124 A.L.R. 725.

7A C.J.S. Attorney and Client §§ 218 to 233.

### **2-109. Record.**

As used in these rules, "record" shall mean:

A. **Transcript.** Stenographic notes which must be transcribed when a "record" is required to be filed;

B. **Stipulated facts.** A statement of facts and proceedings stipulated to by the parties for purposes of review; or

C. **Other recording.** Any mechanical, electrical or other recording, including a videotape recording when such method of mechanical, electrical or other recording has been approved by the court administrator. No broadcast or reproduction of any mechanical, electrical or other recording shall be made for any person other than an official of the court without the express written consent of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 29A Am. Jur. 2d Evidence § 1324 et seq.

31A C.J.S. Evidence §§ 56, 273 et seq.; 32A C.J.S. Evidence § 882.

### **2-110. Contempt.**

A. **Jurisdiction.** A magistrate has jurisdiction to punish for contempt only for:

(1) disorderly behavior in the presence of the court or close enough to the court that it obstructs the administration of justice;

(2) misconduct of court officers in official transactions;

(3) disobedience or resistance to any lawful order, rule or process of the court.

B. **Disposition upon notice and hearing.** A contempt, except as provided in Paragraph C of this rule, shall be punished only after notice and hearing. The notice shall state the essential facts constituting the contempt charged. The notice may be given:

(1) orally by the judge in open court in the presence of the defendant;

(2) by a summons;

(3) by a bench warrant; or

(4) by an order to show cause.

The defendant shall be entitled to bail as provided in the Rules of Criminal Procedure for the Magistrate Courts. The defendant shall be given sufficient notice of hearing to permit the preparation of a defense. If the defendant is found guilty of contempt, the court shall enter judgment and sentence within the limits of its jurisdiction.

C. **Direct contempt.** A direct contempt may be punished summarily at the time of the contempt if the judge by written order certifies to having seen or heard the conduct constituting the contempt and that it was committed in the presence of the court. The written order of contempt shall recite the facts and shall be signed by the judge and entered of record.

D. **Appeal.** Any person found guilty of contempt may appeal to the district court pursuant to the rules of procedure governing appeals from the magistrate court in criminal cases.

[As amended, effective January 1, 1996.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For jurisdiction for contempt, see 35-3-9 NMSA 1978.

For rules of procedure governing criminal actions in magistrate court, see Rule 6-101 et seq.

**The 1996 amendment**, effective January 1, 1996, designated the existing provisions as Paragraph A and rewrote that paragraph, and added Paragraphs B through D.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 17 Am. Jur. 2d Contempt §§ 52, 53.

Misconduct of officers in selection or summoning of jurors or grand jurors as contempt of court, 7 A.L.R. 345.

Assault as contempt of court, 18 A.L.R. 212, 55 A.L.R. 1230, 52 A.L.R.2d 1297.

Forcing party or prosecuting witness to withdraw or not to institute action or proceeding as contempt of court, 23 A.L.R. 187.

Communicating with grand jury as contempt, 29 A.L.R. 489.

Affidavit to disqualify judge as contempt, 29 A.L.R. 1273.

Criticism of attitude of the court or judge toward violations of liquor law as contempt, 58 A.L.R. 1001.

Criticism of court's appointment of receiver as contempt, 97 A.L.R. 903.

Refusal of attorney to disclose identity of, whereabouts of, or other information relating to, his client as contempt, 101 A.L.R. 470.

Refusal or failure of clerk of court to comply with direction of court or judge upon ground of its invalidity or supposed invalidity as contempt, 119 A.L.R. 1380.

Alteration, substitution, abstraction, withholding or destruction of pleadings and papers by attorneys as criminal contempt, 151 A.L.R. 750.

Bail jumping after conviction, failure to surrender or to appear for sentencing, and the like, as contempt, 34 A.L.R.2d 1100.

Assaulting, threatening or intimidating witness as contempt of court, 52 A.L.R.2d 1297.

Published article or broadcast as direct contempt of court, 69 A.L.R.2d 676.

Accused's right to, and prosecution's privilege against, disclosure of identity of informer, 76 A.L.R.2d 262.

False or inaccurate report of judicial proceedings as contempt, 99 A.L.R.2d 440.

Release of information concerning forthcoming or pending trial as ground for contempt proceedings or other disciplinary measures against member of the bar, 11 A.L.R.3d 1104.

Effect of witness's violation of order of exclusion, 14 A.L.R.3d 16.

Attack on judiciary as a whole as indirect contempt, 40 A.L.R.3d 1204.

Mortgagor's interference with property subject to order of foreclosure and sale as contempt of court, 54 A.L.R.3d 1242.

Picketing court or judge as contempt, 58 A.L.R.3d 1297.

Assault on attorney as contempt, 61 A.L.R.3d 500.

Addressing allegedly insulting remarks to court during course of trial as contempt, 68 A.L.R.3d 273.

Conduct of attorney in connection with making objections or taking exceptions as contempt of court, 68 A.L.R.3d 314.

Power of court to impose standard of personal appearance or attire, 73 A.L.R.3d 353.

Contempt for violation of compromise and settlement the terms of which were approved by court but not incorporated in court order, decree or judgment, 84 A.L.R.3d 1047.

Contempt based on violation of court order where another court has issued contrary order, 36 A.L.R.4th 978.

Intoxication of witness or attorney as contempt of court, 46 A.L.R.4th 238.

Contempt: state court's power to order indefinite coercive fine or imprisonment to exact promise of future compliance with court's order - anticipatory contempt, 81 A.L.R.4th 1008.

Profane or obscene language by party, witness, or observer during trial proceedings as basis for contempt citation, 29 A.L.R.5th 702.

Lack of notice to contemnor at time of contemptuous conduct of possible criminal contempt sanctions as affecting prosecution for contempt in federal court, 76 A.L.R. Fed. 797.

17 C.J.S. Contempt §§ 43 to 61.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION**

#### **2-201. Commencement of action.**

A. **How commenced.** A civil action is commenced by filing with the court a complaint consisting of a written statement of a claim or claims setting forth briefly the facts and circumstances giving rise to the action.

B. **Jurisdiction.** Magistrates have jurisdiction in all cases as may be provided by law.

C. **Form of complaint.** The complaint shall be in substantially the form approved by the court administrator and the supreme court.

D. **Verified accounts.** Accounts duly verified by the oath of the party claiming the same, or his agent, and promissory notes and other instruments in writing not barred by law are sufficient evidence in any suit to create a rebuttable presumption, sufficient to enable the plaintiff to recover judgment for the account thereof.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For jurisdiction of magistrate courts, see 35-3-3 NMSA 1978.

For form on civil complaint, see Rule 4-201.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - Conclusive election of remedies as predicated on commencement of action, or its prosecution short of judgment on the merits, 6 A.L.R.2d 10.

Tolling of statute of limitations where process is not served before expiration of limitation period, as affected by statutes defining commencement of action, or expressly relating to interruption of running of limitations, 27 A.L.R.2d 236.

72 C.J.S. Process § 3.

### **2-202. Summons.**

A. **Summons; issuance.** Upon receipt of a complaint and payment of the docket fee, the clerk or the magistrate shall docket the action and issue a summons and deliver it to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, who shall be responsible for prompt service of the summons and a copy of the complaint. Upon the request of the plaintiff, separate, additional or amended summons shall issue against any defendants. Any defendant may waive the service of summons by entering an appearance or filing an answer in the proceedings.

B. **Summons; how issued; form.** The summons shall be signed by the clerk, be directed to the defendant, be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court and must contain:

(1) the name of the court in which the action is brought, the name of the county in which the complaint is filed, the docket number of the case, the name of the first party on each

side, with an appropriate indication of the other parties, and the name of each party to whom the summons is directed;

(2) a direction that the defendant serve a responsive pleading or motion within twenty (20) days after service of the summons, and file the same, all as provided by law, and a notice that unless the defendant so serves and files a responsive pleading or motion, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint;

(3) the name and address of the plaintiff's attorney, if any, shall be shown on every summons, otherwise the plaintiff's address.

**C. Summons; service of copy.** A copy of the summons with a copy of complaint attached and a copy of the form for answer shall be served together. The plaintiff shall furnish the person making service with such copies as are necessary.

**D. Summons; by whom served.** In civil actions any process may be served by the sheriff of the county where the defendant may be found or by any other person who is over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the action, except for writs of attachment and writs of replevin, which shall be served by the sheriff or by any person not a party to the action over the age of eighteen (18) years who may be designated by the court to perform such service or by the sheriff of the county where the property or person may be found.

**E. Summons; service by mail.** A summons and complaint may be served upon a defendant of any class referred to in Subparagraph (1) or (2) of Paragraph F of this rule by mailing a copy of the summons and of the complaint (by first-class mail, postage prepaid) to the person to be served, together with two (2) copies of a notice and acknowledgement substantially conforming with the form approved by the Supreme Court and a return envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the sender. If no acknowledgement of service under this subdivision of this rule is received by the sender within twenty (20) days after the date of mailing plus three (3) days as provided by Rule 2-104, service of such summons and complaint shall be made by a person authorized by Paragraph D of this rule, in the manner prescribed by Paragraph F of this rule. Unless good cause is shown for not doing so, the court shall order the payment of the costs of personal service by the person served if such person does not complete and return to the sender within twenty-three (23) days after mailing the notice and acknowledgement of receipt of summons.

The form of the notice and acknowledgement of receipt of summons and complaint shall be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court.

**F. Summons; how served.** Personal service shall be made as provided by law as follows:

(1) upon an individual other than a minor or an incapacitated person by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to him personally; or if the defendant refuses



to receive such, by leaving same at the location where he has been found; and if the defendant refuses to receive such copies or permit them to be left, such action shall constitute valid service. If the defendant is absent, service may be made by delivering a copy of the process or other papers to be served to some person residing at the usual place of abode of the defendant who is over the age of fifteen (15) years; and if there is no such person available or willing to accept delivery, then service may be made by posting such copies in the most public part of the defendant's premises, and by mailing to the defendant at his last known mailing address copies of the process;

(2) upon a domestic or foreign corporation by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to an officer, a managing or a general agent, or to any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process and, if the agent is one authorized by statute to receive service and the statute so requires, by also mailing a copy to the defendant; upon a partnership by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to any general partner; and upon other unincorporated association which is subject to suit under a common name, by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to an officer, a managing or general agent, or to any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process and, if the agent is one authorized by law to receive service and the statute so requires, by also mailing a copy to the unincorporated association. If the person refuses to receive such copies, such action shall constitute valid service. If none of the persons mentioned is available, service may be made by delivering a copy of the process or other papers to be served at the principal office or place of business during regular business hours to the person in charge thereof;

(3) upon the State of New Mexico:

(a) in garnishment actions, service of writs of garnishment shall be made on the department of finance and administration, on the attorney general and on the head of the branch, agency, bureau, department, commission or institution;

(b) service of process on the governor, attorney general, agency, bureau, department, commission or institution or head thereof may be made either by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the head or to his receptionist. Where an executive secretary is employed, he shall be considered as the head;

(4) upon any county by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the county clerk, who shall forthwith notify the district attorney of the judicial district in which the county sued is situated;

(5) upon a municipal corporation by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the city clerk, town clerk or village clerk, who in turn shall forthwith notify the head of the commission or other form of governing body;

(6) upon the board of trustees of any land grant referred to in Sections 49-1-1 through 49-10-6 NMSA 1978, process shall be served upon the president or in his absence upon the secretary of such board;

(7) upon a minor, whenever there shall be a conservator of the estate or guardian of the person of such minor, by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the conservator or guardian. Service of process so made shall be considered as service upon the minor. In all other cases process shall be served by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the minor, and if the minor is living with an adult a copy of the summons and of the complaint shall also be delivered to the adult residing in the same household. In all cases where a guardian ad litem has been appointed, a copy of the summons and of the complaint shall be delivered to such representative, in addition to serving the minor as herein provided;

(8) upon an incapacitated person, whenever there shall be a conservator of the estate or guardian of the person of such incapacitated person, by delivering a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the conservator or guardian. Service of process so made shall be considered as service upon the ward. In all other cases process shall be served upon the ward in the same manner as upon competent persons;

(9) upon a personal representative, guardian, conservator, trustee or other fiduciary in the same manner as provided in Subparagraph (1) or (2) of this paragraph as may be appropriate.

Service shall be made with reasonable diligence, and the original summons with proof of service shall be returned to the clerk of the court from which it was issued.

**G. Return.** If service is made by mail pursuant to Paragraph E of this rule, return shall be made by the sender's filing with the court the acknowledgment received pursuant to such paragraph. Where service within the state includes mailing, the return shall state the date and place of mailing. If service is by personal service pursuant to Paragraph F of this rule, the person serving the process shall make proof of service thereof to the court promptly and in any event within the time during which the person served must respond to the process. When service is made by the sheriff (or deputy), proof thereof shall be by certificate; and when made by a person other than a sheriff (or deputy), proof thereof shall be made by affidavit. Where service within the state includes mailing, the return shall state the date and place of mailing. Failure to make proof of service shall not affect the validity of service.

**H. Service by publication.** Service by publication may not be made, except as provided by law in cases of attachment or replevin.

**I. Alias process.** When any process has not been returned, or has been returned without service, or has been improperly served, it shall be the duty of the clerk, upon the application of any party to the suit, to issue other process as the party applying may direct.

**J. Service; applicable statute.** Where no provision is made in these rules for service of process, process shall be served as provided for by any applicable statute.

**K. Construction of terms.** Wherever the terms "summons", "process", "service of process" or similar terms are used, such shall include the summons, complaint and any other papers required to be served.

[As amended, effective January 1, 1990; July 1, 1990; January 1, 1993; May 1, 1994.]

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For sheriff or deputy to serve and execute process and orders, see 4-41-14 NMSA 1978.

For service by publication in attachment cases, see 35-9-3 NMSA 1978.

For forms on civil summons and return, see Rule 4-204.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after January 1, 1990, rewrote Paragraph A and former Paragraphs B to G, redesignating former Paragraphs B to G as present Paragraphs D, F, E, G, I, and K respectively; added present Paragraphs B and C; in Paragraph I, substituted "clerk" for "court" and "may direct" for "may request"; and added Paragraph J.

**The 1990 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1990, substituted "as provided by law" for "within the magistrate district" in the first sentence of Paragraph E and near the beginning of Paragraph F.

**The 1993 amendment**, effective January 1, 1993, substituted "how issued" for "execution" in the heading for Paragraph B; in Paragraph E, substituted "sender" for "court" throughout, deleted "as provided by law" following "may be served" in the first sentence, and substituted "twenty-three (23) days" for "twenty (20) days" in the last sentence of the first paragraph; deleted the last sentence in Paragraph F(3)(a), which read "A copy of the writ of garnishment shall be delivered or mailed by registered or certified mail to the defendant employee"; and, in Paragraph G, substituted "sender's filing with the court the acknowledgment received pursuant to such paragraph" for "defendant filing with the court the Notice and Receipt of Summons and Complaint", added the second sentence, and made gender neutral changes.

**The 1994 amendment**, effective May 1, 1994, substituted the present last sentence of Paragraph A for "Any defendant may waive the issuance or service of summons", inserted "be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court" in the introductory language of Paragraph B, deleted former Subparagraph B(4) which read "the summons shall be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court", and substituted "where the defendant may be found or by" for "where the magistrate court is

located if the defendant may be found therein, or by" near the beginning of Paragraph D.

**Accepting process for service.** - Constables could accept civil process for service from any justice of the peace (now magistrate) court within their respective counties. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-65 (opinion rendered under former law).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 19 Am. Jur. 2d Corporations § 2192; 62B Am. Jur. 2d Process § 59 et seq.

Power to amend nunc pro tunc return of service of summons in divorce suit, 7 A.L.R. 1148.

Appearance to make application for extension of time or continuance, or order in that regard, as waiver of objection to jurisdiction for lack of personal service, 81 A.L.R. 166.

Defects or informalities as to appearance or return day in summons or notice of commencement of action, 97 A.L.R. 746.

Relief as to costs or disbursements as changing special appearance to general appearance, 102 A.L.R. 224.

Return of service of process in action in personam showing personal or constructive service in state as subject to attack by showing that defendant was a nonresident and was not served in state, 107 A.L.R. 1342.

Affidavit of substantial defense to merits in an attachment or garnishment proceeding as general appearance, 116 A.L.R. 1215.

Power of infant to acknowledge service of process or to bind himself by waiver or estoppel in that regard, 121 A.L.R. 957.

Filing cross-petition or other step amounting to general appearance after judgment based upon valid constructive service as affecting right under statute to open judgment, 122 A.L.R. 159.

Amendment of process or pleading by changing or correcting mistake in name of party, 124 A.L.R. 86.

Attack by defendant upon attachment or garnishment as an appearance subjecting him personally to jurisdiction, 129 A.L.R. 1240.

Necessity, in service by leaving process at place of abode, etc., of leaving a copy of summons for each party sought to be served, 8 A.L.R.2d 343.

What amounts to doing business in a state within statute providing for service of process in action against nonresident natural person or persons doing business in state, 10 A.L.R.2d 200.

Sufficiency of affidavit as to due diligence in attempting to learn whereabouts of party to litigation, for the purpose of obtaining service by publication, 21 A.L.R.2d 929.

Appealability of order overruling or sustaining motion to quash or set aside service of process, 30 A.L.R.2d 287.

Omission of signature of issuing officer on civil process or summons as affecting jurisdiction of the person, 37 A.L.R.2d 928.

Service of process on person in military service by serving person at civilian abode or residence, or leaving copy there, 46 A.L.R.2d 1239.

Service of process upon dissolved domestic corporation in absence of express statutory direction, 75 A.L.R.2d 1399.

Failure to make return as affecting validity of service or court's jurisdiction, 82 A.L.R.2d 668.

Manner of service of process upon foreign corporation which has withdrawn from state, 86 A.L.R.2d 1000.

Propriety of service of process in an in personam action on resident minor defendant whose only guardian is a nonresident and cannot be served validly either within or without state, 86 A.L.R.2d 1183.

Place or manner of delivering or depositing papers, under statutes permitting service of process by leaving copy at usual place of abode or residence, 87 A.L.R.2d 1163.

Juvenile delinquency and dependency proceedings, necessity of service of process upon infant itself, 90 A.L.R.2d 293.

Construction and effect of provision for service of process against minor on a parent, guardian or other designated person, 92 A.L.R.2d 1336.

Sufficiency of designation of court or place of appearance in original civil process, 93 A.L.R.2d 376.

Attack on personal service as having been obtained by fraud or trickery, 98 A.L.R.2d 551.

Mistake or error in middle initial or middle name of party as vitiating or invalidating civil process, summons or the like, 6 A.L.R.3d 1179.

Attorney representing foreign corporation in litigation as its agent for service of process in unconnected actions or proceedings, 9 A.L.R.3d 738.

Civil liability of one making false or fraudulent return of process, 31 A.L.R.3d 1393.

Construction of phrase "usual place of abode," or similar terms referring to abode, residence or domicile, as used in statutes relating to service of process, 32 A.L.R.3d 112.

72 C.J.S. Process §§ 6 to 23, 25, 33 to 49, 50, 58 to 72, 77 to 91.

## **2-203. Service and filing of papers.**

**A. When required.** Unless the court otherwise orders, every pleading subsequent to the complaint, every order not entered in open court, every written motion unless it is one as to which a hearing ex parte is authorized, and every written notice, demand and similar paper shall be served on each party, but no service need be made on parties in default for failure to appear except that pleadings asserting new or additional claims for relief against them shall be served upon them in the manner provided for service of summons in Rule 2-202.

**B. How made.** When service is required or permitted to be made upon a party represented by an attorney, the service shall be made upon the attorney unless service upon the party himself is ordered by the court. Service upon the attorney or upon a party shall be made by delivering a copy to him or by mailing it to him at his last known address, or, if no address is known, by leaving it with the judge or clerk of the court who shall place it in the court file. "Delivery of a copy" within this rule shall mean: handing it to the attorney or to the party; or leaving it at his office with his secretary or other person in charge; or, if there be no one in charge, leaving it in a conspicuous place therein; or, if the office is closed or the person to be served has no office, leaving it at his usual place of abode with some person of his family above fifteen (15) years of age and informing such person of the contents thereof; or leaving it in a mail depository authorized by the attorney to be served. Service by mail shall be deemed complete upon mailing. "Mailing" shall include deposit in an outgoing mail container which is maintained in the usual and ordinary course of business of the serving attorney.

**C. Filing.** All original papers, copies of which are required to be served upon parties, must be filed with the court either before service or immediately thereafter.

**D. Filing with the court defined.** The filing of pleadings and other papers with the court as required by these rules shall be made by filing them with the judge or clerk of the court.

**E. Proof of service.** Except as otherwise provided in these rules or by order of court, proof of service shall be made by the certificate of an attorney of record, or if made by any other person, by the affidavit of such person. Such certificate or affidavit shall be

filed with the clerk or endorsed on the pleading, motion, or other paper required to be served.

**F. Motions.** Whenever, by these rules, a party is required to "move" within a specified time or a motion is required to be "made" within a specified time, the motion shall be deemed to be made at the time it is filed or at the time it is served, whichever is earlier.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 61A Am. Jur. 2d Pleading §§ 351, 352.

Appearance for purpose of making application for removal of cause to federal court as a general appearance, 81 A.L.R. 1219.

Affidavit of substantial defense to merits in an attachment or garnishment proceeding as general appearance, 116 A.L.R. 1215.

Attack by defendant upon attachment or garnishment as an appearance subjecting him personally to jurisdiction, 129 A.L.R. 1240.

Construction of phrase "usual place of abode," or similar terms referring to abode, residence or domicil, as used in statutes relating to service of process, 32 A.L.R.3d 112.

71 C.J.S. Pleading §§ 409, 411, 413.

## **2-204. Service and filing of pleadings and other papers by facsimile.**

**A. Facsimile copies permitted to be filed.** Subject to the provisions of this rule, a party may file a facsimile copy of any pleading or paper by faxing a copy directly to the court or by faxing a copy to an intermediary agent who files it in person with the court. A facsimile copy of a pleading or paper has the same effect as any other filing for all procedural and statutory purposes. The filing of pleadings and other papers with the court by facsimile copy shall be made by faxing them to the clerk of the court at a number designated by the clerk, except if the paper or pleading is to be filed directly with the judge, the judge may permit the papers to be faxed to a number designated by the judge, in which event the judge shall note thereon the filing date and forthwith transmit them to the office of the clerk. Each magistrate district shall designate one or more telephone numbers to receive fax filings.

**B. Facsimile transmission by court of notices, orders or writs.** Facsimile transmission may be used by the court for issuance of any notice, order or writ. The clerk shall note the date and time of successful transmission on the file copy of the notice, order or writ.

**C. Paper size and quality.** No facsimile copy shall be filed with the court unless it is: on plain paper eight and one-half by eleven (8 1/2 x 11) inches in size; legible; and

typewritten or printed using a pica (10 pitch) type style or a twelve (12) point typeface. The right, left, top and bottom margins shall be at least one (1) inch. The pages shall be consecutively numbered at the bottom.

**D. Pleadings or paper faxed directly to the court.** A pleading or paper may be faxed directly to the court if:

- (1) a fee is not required to file the pleading or paper;
- (2) only one copy of the pleading or paper is required to be filed;
- (3) the pleading or paper is not more than ten (10) pages in length excluding the facsimile cover page; and
- (4) the pleading or paper to be filed is preceded by a cover sheet with the names of the sender and the intended recipient, any applicable instructions, the voice and facsimile telephone numbers of the sender, an identification of the case, the docket number and the number of pages transmitted.

**E. Facsimile copy filed by an intermediary agent.** Facsimile copies of pleadings or papers filed in person by an intermediary agent are not subject to the restrictions of Paragraph D of this rule.

**F. Time of filing.** If facsimile transmission of a pleading or paper faxed is begun before the close of the business day of the court in which it is being filed, it will be considered filed on that date. If facsimile transmission is begun after the close of business, the pleading or paper will be considered filed on the next court business day. For any questions of timeliness the time and date affixed on the cover page by the court's facsimile machine will be determinative.

**G. Transmission by facsimile.** A notice, order, writ, pleading or paper may be faxed to a party or attorney who has:

- (1) listed a facsimile telephone number on a pleading or paper filed with the court in the action;
- (2) a letterhead with a facsimile telephone number; or
- (3) agreed to be served with a copy of the pleading or paper by facsimile transmission.

Service by facsimile is accomplished when the transmission of the pleading or paper is completed.

**H. Proof of service by facsimile.** Proof of facsimile service must include:



- (1) a statement that the pleading or paper was transmitted by facsimile transmission and that the transmission was reported as complete and without error;
- (2) the time, date and sending and receiving facsimile machine telephone numbers; and
- (3) the name of the person who made the facsimile transmission.

I. **Demand for original.** A party shall have the right to inspect and copy any pleading or paper that has been filed or served by facsimile transmission if the pleading or paper has a statement signed under oath or affirmation or penalty of perjury.

[Adopted, effective January 1, 1997.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Effective dates.** - Pursuant to a court order dated October 11, 1996, this rule is effective on and after January 1, 1997.

## ARTICLE 3 PLEADINGS AND MOTIONS

### 2-301. Pleadings allowed; form of motions.

A. **Pleadings.** There shall be a complaint and, if the defendant wishes to contest the plaintiff's claim in any way, an answer. The answer may assert a counterclaim or a setoff. If a counterclaim is filed, a reply may be filed. The complaint may interplead two (2) or more persons who have or may have a claim to funds owed by the plaintiff.

B. **Joinder of claims.** A party asserting a claim to relief may join either as independent or as alternate claims as many claims as the party may have against an opposing party.

C. **Permissive joinder.** All persons may join in one action as plaintiffs if they assert any right to relief jointly, severally, or in the alternative in respect of or arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of related transactions or occurrences and if any question of law or fact common to all of them will arise in the action. All persons may be joined in one action as defendants if there is asserted against them jointly, severally or in the alternative, any right to relief in respect of or arising out of the same transaction, occurrence or related series of transactions or occurrences and if any question of law or fact common to all of them will arise in the action.

D. **Third-party practice.** Any defending party may cause a summons and complaint to be served upon a person not a party to the action, who is or may be liable to him for all or part of the plaintiff's claim against him, by filing a third-party complaint. The third-party plaintiff need not obtain leave to make service if he files the third-party complaint not later than ten (10) days after he serves his original answer. The third-party defendant

shall respond to the third-party complaint in the same manner as if it were an original proceeding. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other rule, failure to file a third-party complaint shall not constitute a waiver or forfeiture of any party's rights or claims, nor shall such failure preclude the joinder of separate causes of action, as may otherwise be provided for in these rules.

**E. Interpleader.** Persons having claims for funds from a third party may be named as defendants and required to adjudicate their claims for the funds when their claims are such that the plaintiff is or may be exposed to double or multiple liability. A defendant exposed to similar liability for funds may adjudicate the right to funds by third-party complaint, cross-claim or counterclaim. Any person who is named as a defendant or third-party defendant pursuant to this paragraph shall file an answer within the time set forth in these rules setting forth the facts and circumstances giving rise to such person's claim and any such person is entitled to the funds owed by the plaintiff. The disposition of the proceedings shall be binding upon all parties to the action upon whom service has been made.

**F. Separate trials.** The court may make such orders as will prevent a party from being embarrassed, delayed or put to expense by the inclusion of a party against whom he asserts no claim and who asserts no claim against him, and may order separate trials or make other orders to prevent delay or prejudice.

**G. Motions.** Written motions are not allowed except when permitted by these rules or required by the nature of the proceedings.

**H. Exhibits.** An exhibit to a pleading is a part thereof for all purposes.

**I. Signing of pleadings.** The signature of a party or his attorney on a pleading constitutes a certificate by him that he has read it, that to the best of his knowledge, information and belief there is good ground to support it, and that it is not interposed for delay. If a pleading is signed with intent to defeat the purpose of this rule, it may be stricken as false and the action may proceed as though it had not been filed. A "signature" means an original signature, a copy of an original signature, a computer generated signature or any other signature otherwise authorized by law.

[As amended, effective October 1, 1987; October 1, 1992; January 1, 1997.]

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New Mexico has enacted an Electronic Authentication Documentation Act which provides for the Secretary of State to register electronic signatures using the public key technology. See Section 14-15-4 NMSA 1978.

## ANNOTATIONS

**The 1992 amendment**, effective October 1, 1992, added present Paragraphs B and C, redesignated former Paragraphs B and C as present Paragraphs D and E, added present Paragraph F, and redesignated former Paragraphs D to F as present Paragraphs G to I.

**The 1997 amendment**, effective January 1, 1997, added the last sentence in Paragraph I defining "signature".

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 56 Am. Jur. 2d Motions, Rules, and Orders § 1; 61A Am. Jur. 2d Pleading §§ 1 to 3, 339 to 349.

Sufficiency of verification of pleading by person other than party to action, 7 A.L.R. 4

Perjury in verifying pleadings, 7 A.L.R. 1283.

Setting up counterclaim, setoff or recoupment in reply, 42 A.L.R. 564.

Necessity and sufficiency of reply to answer pleading statute of limitations, 115 A.L.R. 755.

Motion to strike pleading, appealability of order entered on, 1 A.L.R.2d 422.

Claim barred by limitation as subject of setoff, counterclaim, recoupment, cross bill or cross action, 1 A.L.R.2d 630.

Dismissal of action for failure or refusal of plaintiff to obey court order, 4 A.L.R.2d 348, 56 A.L.R.3d 1109, 27 A.L.R.4th 61, 32 A.L.R.4th 212, 3 A.L.R.5th 237.

Effect of nonsuit, dismissal or discontinuance of action on previous orders, 11 A.L.R.2d 1407.

Right to punish for contempt for failure to obey court order or decree either beyond power or jurisdiction of court or merely erroneous, 12 A.L.R.2d 1059.

Appealability of order granting or denying right of intervention, 15 A.L.R.2d 336.

Pretrial conference, binding effect of court's order entered after, 22 A.L.R.2d 599.

Necessity that trial court give parties notice and opportunity to be heard before ordering new trial on its own motion, 23 A.L.R.2d 852.

Judgment on the pleadings, court's power, on motion for, to enter judgment against movant, 48 A.L.R.2d 1175.

Judgment on the pleadings, proper procedure and course of action by trial court, where both parties move for, 59 A.L.R.2d 494.

Statute of limitations, raising defense by motion for judgment on pleadings, 61 A.L.R.2d 300.

Litigant's pleading to the merits, after objection to jurisdiction of person made under special appearance or the like has been overruled, as waiver of objection, 62 A.L.R.2d 937.

Counsel's right, in summation in civil case, to point out inconsistencies between opponent's pleading and testimony, 72 A.L.R.2d 1304.

Prejudicial effect of judge's disclosure to jury of motions or proceedings in chambers in civil case, 77 A.L.R.2d 1253.

Summary judgment, propriety of entering for plaintiff before defendant files or serves answer to complaint or petition, 85 A.L.R.2d 825.

Independent venue requirements as to cross-complaint or similar action by defendant seeking relief against a codefendant or third party, 100 A.L.R.2d 693.

Proceeding for summary judgment as affected by presentation of counterclaim, 8 A.L.R.3d 1361.

Right to voluntary dismissal of civil action as affected by opponent's motion for summary judgment, judgment on the pleadings or directed verdict, 36 A.L.R.3d 1113.

Dismissal of state court action for failure or refusal of plaintiff to answer written interrogatories, 56 A.L.R.3d 1109.

71 C.J.S. Pleading §§ 63 to 210.

## **2-302. Defenses; answer.**

**A. Answer; when filed.** The defendant shall file his answer on or before the appearance date as fixed in the summons.

**B. Defenses; how presented.** The answer shall describe in concise and simple language the reasons why the defendant denies the claim of the plaintiff as well as any defenses he may have to the claim of the plaintiff. Defenses shall be raised in the answer and not by motion. A party may file a motion to have the answer clarified or explained. On the filing of such motion, the magistrate may, in his discretion, require a more explicit answer or order a pretrial conference to clarify the issues.

**C. Form of answer.** The answer shall be in substantially the form approved by the court administrator and the supreme court.

**D. Permissive counterclaim or setoff.** If the defendant possesses a claim or claims against the plaintiff at the time the action is begun, they may be asserted in the answer as a counterclaim or setoff. The facts and circumstances giving rise to the claim or claims must be briefly described, in the form of answer approved by the supreme court.

**E. Nature of claim and amount claimed.** The nature of the defendant's claim or claims and the total sum claimed shall comply with applicable law. A claim which exceeds the jurisdiction of the magistrate court shall be amended by the defendant prior to trial to conform to the court's jurisdiction or shall be dismissed without prejudice. There shall be no compulsory counterclaim.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For form on answer to civil complaint, see Rule 4-301.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 20 Am. Jur. 2d Counterclaim, Recoupment, and Setoff §§ 3 et seq., 102 et seq.; 61A Am. Jur. 2d Pleading §§ 125, 126.

Right to voluntary dismissal of suit without prejudice before trial as affected by filing counterclaim after motion for dismissal, 71 A.L.R. 1001.

Right to dismissal as affected by filing of, or as affecting, cross-complaint, counterclaim, intervention and the like, 90 A.L.R. 387.

Asking relief in addition to vacation of service of process as waiver of special appearance or of right to rely upon lack of jurisdiction, 111 A.L.R. 925.

Pleading last clear chance doctrine, 25 A.L.R.2d 254.

Objection before judgment to jurisdiction of court over subject matter as constituting general appearance, 25 A.L.R.2d 833.

Agency, manner and sufficiency of pleading in contract action, 45 A.L.R.2d 583.

Litigant's participation on merits, after objection to jurisdiction of person made under special appearance or the like has been overruled, as waiver of objection, 62 A.L.R.2d 937.

Propriety of entering summary judgment for plaintiff before defendant files or serves answer to complaint or petition, 85 A.L.R.2d 825.

Proceeding for summary judgment as affected by presentation of counterclaim, 8 A.L.R.3d 1361.

71 C.J.S. Pleading §§ 99 to 129, 167 to 176.

## **2-303. Judgment on the pleadings.**

A. **For claimant.** A party seeking to recover upon a claim or counterclaim may, at any time after an answer or a reply by the adverse party, move for a judgment on the pleadings in his favor upon all or any part thereof.

B. **For defending party.** A party against whom a claim or counterclaim is asserted may, at any time, move for a judgment on the pleadings in his favor as to all or any part thereof.

C. **Motion and proceedings thereon.** The motion shall be served by mail at least five (5) days before the time fixed for the hearing. The judgment sought shall be rendered forthwith if the pleadings, on file, show that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law. A judgment on the pleadings may be rendered on the issue of liability alone although there is a genuine issue as to the amount of damages.

## **2-304. Amended and supplemental pleadings.**

Upon request of either party, the magistrate may permit him to file an amended pleading, or to amend by interlineation, at any stage of the proceeding and upon such terms as may be just. Permission to amend a pleading shall be freely granted if trial of the action on its merits will be advanced. Similar consideration shall apply to supplemental pleadings asserting claims or defenses which have arisen since the date of the pleading to be supplemented. Continuances to meet new matter asserted by way of amended or supplemental pleadings shall be granted if necessary to avoid surprise or other prejudice to the opposing party.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 61A Am. Jur. 2d Pleading §§ 306 to 338.

Amendment of pleading to correct designation of court or judge, 65 A.L.R. 709.

Declaratory relief, leave to amend complaint, 87 A.L.R. 1205.

Amendment of pleading by changing description or characterization of party from corporation to individual, partnership, or other association, or vice versa, 111 A.L.R. 1317, 151 A.L.R. 987.

Amendment of process or pleading by changing or correcting mistake in name of party, 124 A.L.R. 86.

Substitution of plaintiff as proper subject for amendment of complaint, 135 A.L.R. 325.

Pleading last clear chance doctrine, 25 A.L.R.2d 254.

Statute of limitations, amendment of pleadings to assert, 59 A.L.R.2d 169.

Statute of limitations, timely suit to enforce policy as interrupting limitation against claimant's amended pleading to reform it, or vice versa, 92 A.L.R.2d 168.

71 C.J.S. Pleadings §§ 275 to 338.

## **2-305. Dismissal of actions.**

### **A. Voluntary dismissal; effect thereof.**

(1) An action may be dismissed by the plaintiff without order of the court:

(a) by filing a notice of dismissal at any time before service by the adverse party of an answer or other responsive pleading; or

(b) by filing a stipulation of dismissal signed by all parties who have appeared generally in the action. Unless otherwise stated in the notice of dismissal or stipulation, the dismissal is without prejudice, except that a notice of dismissal operates as an adjudication upon the merits when filed by a plaintiff who has once dismissed an action based on or including the same claim.

(2) Except as provided in Subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, an action shall not be dismissed on motion of the plaintiff except upon order of the court and upon such terms and conditions as the court deems proper. If a counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party claim has been filed by a party prior to the service upon such party of the plaintiff's motion to dismiss, the action shall not be dismissed against the party's objection unless the counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party claim can remain pending for independent adjudication by the court. Unless otherwise specified in the order, a dismissal under this paragraph is without prejudice.

**B. Involuntary dismissal; effect thereof.** For failure of the plaintiff to prosecute or to comply with these rules or any order of court, a defendant may move for dismissal of an action or of any claim against the defendant. After the plaintiff, in an action tried by the court without a jury, has completed the presentation of evidence, the defendant, without waiving the right to offer evidence in the event the motion is not granted, may move for a dismissal on the ground that upon the facts and the law the plaintiff has shown no right to relief. The court as trier of the facts may then determine them and render judgment against the plaintiff or may decline to render any judgment until the close of all the evidence. Unless the court in its order for dismissal otherwise specifies, a dismissal under this paragraph and any dismissal not provided for in this rule, other than a dismissal for lack of jurisdiction or for improper venue, operates as an adjudication upon the merits.

**C. Dismissal of counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party claim.** The provisions of this rule apply to the dismissal of any counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party claim. A

voluntary dismissal by the claimant alone pursuant to Subparagraph (1) of Paragraph A of this rule shall be made before a responsive pleading is served, or if there is none, before the introduction of evidence at the trial or hearing.

**D. Dismissal for failure to prosecute.** Any action pending for six (6) months from the date the complaint is filed, in which the plaintiff or defendant asserting a counterclaim has failed to take all available steps to bring the matter to trial, shall be dismissed without prejudice.

**E. Costs of previously dismissed action.** If a plaintiff who has once dismissed an action in any court commences an action based upon or including the same claim against the same defendant, the court may make such order for the payment of costs of the action previously dismissed as it may deem proper and may stay the proceedings in the action until the plaintiff has complied with the order.

[As amended, effective November 1, 1995.]

### ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For form on stipulation of dismissal, see Rule 4-304.

For form on notice of dismissal of complaint, see Rule 4-305.

For form on order dismissing action for failure to prosecute, see Rule 4-306.

**The 1995 amendment,** effective November 1, 1995, rewrote Paragraph A, added Paragraphs B and C, redesignated former Paragraph B as Paragraph D, and added Paragraph E.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 24 Am. Jur. 2d Dismissal, Discontinuance, and Nonsuit §§ 10, 41 to 88.

Mandamus to compel a court to take jurisdiction of a cause that it has erroneously dismissed for supposed insufficiency or lack of service, 4 A.L.R. 610.

Right of plaintiff to dismiss an action brought in behalf of himself and other persons, 8 A.L.R. 950, 91 A.L.R. 587.

Waiver of right to dismissal because of plaintiff's failure to furnish security for costs by applying for continuance, 8 A.L.R. 1528.

Forcing party or prosecuting witness to withdraw or not institute action or proceeding as contempt of court, 23 A.L.R. 187.

Dismissal of suit as affecting election of remedies as between damages and specific performance, 26 A.L.R. 111.



Constitutionality of statute forbidding direction of verdict or nonsuit, 29 A.L.R. 1287.

Arbitration agreement made pending action, 42 A.L.R. 727.

Joint tort-feasors, dismissal or nolle prosequi as to part, 66 A.L.R. 206, 104 A.L.R. 846, 124 A.L.R. 1298, 148 A.L.R. 1270.

Right of voluntary dismissal of suit without prejudice before trial as affected by filing counterclaim after motion for dismissal, 71 A.L.R. 1001.

Dismissal of action or proceeding to enforce mechanic's lien because of delay in prosecuting, 79 A.L.R. 847.

Judgment or order dismissing action as against one defendant as subject of appeal or error before disposition of case against codefendant, 80 A.L.R. 1186, 114 A.L.R. 759.

Power of attorney general to settle and compromise or dismiss suit or proceeding, 81 A.L.R. 124.

May or must claim for damages from wrongful seizure of property be interposed in action or proceeding in which seizure is made, 85 A.L.R. 644.

Dismissal of action against resident defendant, or failure to get decision against him, as ground of removal to federal court of action in which resident defendant is joined with nonresident, 85 A.L.R. 799.

Constitutionality, construction and effect of statutes relating to exceptions to rule denying contribution or indemnity between joint tort-feasors, 85 A.L.R. 1091, 122 A.L.R. 520, 141 A.L.R. 1207.

What amounts to nonsuit within contemplation of statute extending time for new action in case of nonsuit, 86 A.L.R. 1048.

Nonsuit within contemplation of statute extending time for new action in case of nonsuit, dismissal as to one of several defendants, 86 A.L.R. 1049.

Stage of trial at which plaintiff may take voluntary dismissal, 89 A.L.R. 13, 126 A.L.R. 284.

Right to dismissal as affected by filing of, or as affecting, cross-complaint, counterclaim, intervention and the like, 90 A.L.R. 387.

May question as to qualification or competency of witness be raised by or upon motion for nonsuit or for directed verdict, absent objection on that ground when testimony was given, 93 A.L.R. 788.

Conclusiveness of judgment sustaining demurrer where plaintiff procured dismissal of the suit, 106 A.L.R. 437.

Right to revive by amendment an action dismissed by judgment entered upon plea of abatement or demurrer, 106 A.L.R. 570.

Reinstatement, after expiration of term, of case which has been voluntarily withdrawn, dismissed or nonsuited, 111 A.L.R. 767.

Raising question of estoppel by prior adjudication by motion to dismiss, 120 A.L.R. 8

Objectionable evidence, admitted without objection, as entitled to consideration on demurrer to evidence or motion for nonsuit or directed verdict, 120 A.L.R. 205.

Construction and application of rules of court which permit dismissing suit because of disobedience of order, summons or subpoena duces tecum requiring production of documents, 144 A.L.R. 372.

Provision that judgment is "without prejudice" or "with prejudice" as affecting its operation as res judicata, 149 A.L.R. 553.

Relief from stipulations, 161 A.L.R. 1161.

Failure of complaint to state cause of action for unliquidated damages as ground for dismissal of action at hearing to determine amount of damages following defendant's default, 163 A.L.R. 496.

Original notice of lis pendens, as effective upon renewal of litigation after dismissal, reversal or nonsuit, reserving right to bring another proceeding, 164 A.L.R. 515.

Delay in issuance or service of summons as requiring or justifying order discontinuing suit, 167 A.L.R. 1058.

Voluntary dismissal or withdrawal of proceedings to probate or contest will, 173 A.L.R. 959.

Dismissal of action for failure or refusal of plaintiff to obey court order, 4 A.L.R.2d 348, 56 A.L.R.3d 1109, 27 A.L.R.4th 61, 32 A.L.R.4th 212, 3 A.L.R.5th 237.

Effect of discontinuance of action on previous orders, 11 A.L.R.2d 1407.

Necessity of notice of application or intention to correct error in judgment entry, 14 A.L.R.2d 224.

Appellate review at instance of plaintiff who has requested, induced or consented to dismissal or nonsuit, 23 A.L.R.2d 664.

Res judicata effect of judgment dismissing action, or otherwise denying relief, for lack of jurisdiction or venue, 49 A.L.R.2d 1036.

Dismissal of civil action for want of prosecution as res judicata, 54 A.L.R.2d 473.

Authority of attorney to dismiss or otherwise terminate action, 56 A.L.R.2d 1290.

What dismissals preclude a further suit, under federal and state rules regarding two dismissals, 65 A.L.R.2d 642.

Maintenance of second or successive stockholder's derivative action, 70 A.L.R.2d 1305.

Dismissal of injunction action or bill without prejudice as breach of injunction bond, 91 A.L.R.2d 1312.

Attack on personal service as having been obtained by fraud or trickery, 98 A.L.R.2d 551.

Time when voluntary nonsuit or dismissal may be taken as of right under statute so authorizing at any time before "trial," "commencement of trial," "trial of the facts" or the like, 1 A.L.R.3d 711.

Dismissing action or striking testimony where party to civil action asserts privilege against self-incrimination as to pertinent question, 4 A.L.R.3d 545.

Dismissal, nonsuit, judgment or direction of verdict on open statement of counsel in civil action, 5 A.L.R.3d 1405.

Dismissal of action because of party's perjury or suppression of evidence, 11 A.L.R.3d 1153.

Attorney's inaction as excuse for failure to timely prosecute action, 15 A.L.R.3d 674.

Application to period of limitations fixed by contract, of statute permitting new action to be brought within specified time after failure of prior action for cause other than on the merits, 16 A.L.R.3d 452.

Voluntary dismissal of replevin action by plaintiff as affecting defendant's right to judgment for the return or value of the property, 24 A.L.R.3d 768.

What amounts to "final submission" or "retirement of jury" within statute permitting plaintiff to take voluntary dismissal or nonsuit without prejudice before submission or retirement of jury, 31 A.L.R.3d 449.

Right to voluntary dismissal of civil action as affected by opponent's motion for summary judgment, judgment on the pleadings or directed verdict, 36 A.L.R.3d 1113.

Dismissal of state court action for failure or refusal of plaintiff to answer written interrogatories, 56 A.L.R.3d 1109.

Dismissal of plaintiff's action as entitling defendant to recover attorneys' fees or costs as "prevailing party" or "successful party", 66 A.L.R.3d 1087.

27 C.J.S. Dismissal and Nonsuit §§ 7, 11, 45 to 86.

## **2-306. Pretrial conference.**

At any time after the filing of a complaint, the magistrate may, with or without the filing of a motion, order the parties to appear before him to clarify the pleadings and to consider such other matters as may aid in the disposition of the case. The court may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses at the request of a party.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For form on notice of pretrial conference, see Rule 4-307.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 62A Am. Jur. 2d Pretrial Conference and Procedure § 12 et seq.

Pretrial conference procedures as affecting right to discovery, 161 A.L.R. 1151.

Relief from stipulations, 161 A.L.R. 1161.

General rule requiring pretrial conference, power of court to adopt, 2 A.L.R.2d 1061.

Disclosure, in pretrial proceedings, of trade secret, formula or the like, 17 A.L.R.2d 383.

Binding effect of court's order entered after pretrial conference, 22 A.L.R.2d 599.

Appealability of order entered in connection with pretrial conference, 95 A.L.R.2d 1361.

Failure of party or his attorney to appear at pretrial conference, 55 A.L.R.3d 303.

88 C.J.S. Trial § 17(2).

## **ARTICLE 4 PARTIES**

### **2-401. Parties; capacity.**

**A. Real party in interest.** Every action shall be prosecuted in the name of the real party in interest; but an executor, administrator, personal representative, guardian, trustee of

an express trust, a party with whom or in whose name a contract has been made for the benefit of another, or a party authorized by statute may sue in his own name without joining with him the party for whose benefit the action is brought; and when a statute of the state so provides, an action for the use or benefit of another shall be brought in the name of the state. Where it appears that an action, by reason of honest mistake, is not prosecuted in the name of the real party in interest, the court may allow a reasonable time for ratification of commencement of the action by, or joinder or substitution of, the real party in interest; and such ratification, joinder or substitution shall have the same effect as if the action had been commenced in the name of the real party in interest.

**B. Capacity to sue or be sued.** The capacity of an individual, including those acting in a representative capacity, to sue or be sued shall be determined by the law of this state. The capacity of a corporation to sue or be sued shall be determined by the law under which it was organized, unless some statute of this state provides to the contrary.

**C. Minors or incompetent persons.** When a minor or incompetent person has a representative, such as a general guardian, or other like fiduciary, the representative may sue or defend on behalf of the minor or incompetent person. If a minor or incompetent person does not have a duly appointed representative he may sue by his next friend or by a guardian ad litem. The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem for a minor or incompetent person not otherwise represented in an action or shall make such other order as it deems proper for the protection of the minor or incompetent person.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For standing of personal representative to sue, see 45-3-703 NMSA 1978.

For powers of guardian of minor, see 45-5-209 NMSA 1978.

For powers of guardian of incapacitated person, see 45-5-312 NMSA 1978.

For power of conservator in administration to sue, see 45-5-424 NMSA 1978.

For power of trustee to sue, see 45-7-401 NMSA 1978.

For power of corporation to sue, see 53-11-4 NMSA 1978.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 59 Am. Jur. 2d Parties §§ 34 to 40, 241, 245 to 251.

Compensation for services rendered to infant in the litigation, right of next friend to, 9 A.L.R. 1537.

Shares of corporate stock as within statute enabling assignee to maintain action in his own name, 23 A.L.R. 1322.

Mortgagee or other lienholder as entitled to maintain action against third person for damage to property, 37 A.L.R. 1120.

Waste, who may maintain action to recover multiple damages against tenant committing, 45 A.L.R. 774.

Sealed instrument, right of third person to maintain action at law, 47 A.L.R. 5, 170 A.L.R. 1299.

Local improvements, power of municipality to transfer or assign its right to enforce assessment or lien for, 55 A.L.R. 667.

Refusal to deal with corporation as giving stockholder right of action, 59 A.L.R. 1099.

Fire or marine policy taken out by bailee, warehouseman or carrier, right of owner to sue, 61 A.L.R. 720.

Subscription to stock in corporation to be formed, who may enforce, 61 A.L.R. 1504.

Charitable trust, right of trustees to maintain suit to administer or enforce, 62 A.L.R. 881, 124 A.L.R. 1237.

Duty of one learning of action instituted in his name without authority, 63 A.L.R. 1068.

Bondholder's right to maintain action against trustee for money received by trustee to discharge bond or coupon, 64 A.L.R. 1186.

Rendition of judgment against one not a formal party, who has assumed the defense, 65 A.L.R. 1134.

Amendment of verdict as to parties, reassembling jury after discharge, for purpose of, 66 A.L.R. 549.

Corporate name, right of bondholders to maintain action to prevent use by another corporation, 66 A.L.R. 948, 115 A.L.R. 1241, 72 A.L.R.3d 8.

Promoters, right of corporation to sue on contract made before its organization, 66 A.L.R. 1425.

Care to be exercised or precautions to be taken for protection of third persons, availability in action by third person for damages against public contractor, of provisions in contract as to, 69 A.L.R. 522.

Delay or mistake, right of undisclosed principal to recover against telegraph company because of, 72 A.L.R. 1198.

Right of person furnishing material or labor to maintain action on contractor's bond to owner or public body, or on owner's bond to mortgagee, 77 A.L.R. 21, 118 A.L.R. 57.

Right of one brought into action as a party by original defendant upon ground that he is or may be liable to latter in respect to matter in suit, to raise or contest issues with plaintiff, 78 A.L.R. 327.

Partner, party plaintiff in action against, for profits earned subsequently to death or dissolution, 80 A.L.R. 12, 55 A.L.R.2d 1391.

Right of third person to enforce contract between others for his benefit, 81 A.L.R. 1271, 148 A.L.R. 359.

Inducing breach of contract, who may maintain action for, 84 A.L.R. 43, 26 A.L.R.2d 1227, 96 A.L.R.3d 1294, 44 A.L.R.4th 1078.

Tax wrongfully exacted on shares of its stock, corporation paying as proper party to maintain action for its recovery, 84 A.L.R. 107.

Indemnity or liability insurer, parties plaintiff in action against, by injured person, under statutory or policy provisions, 85 A.L.R. 20, 106 A.L.R. 516.

Declaratory judgment, who may petition for, 87 A.L.R. 1205.

Bonds of municipality, taxpayer's right of action for sale at less than par, in violation of statute, 91 A.L.R. 7, 162 A.L.R. 396.

Reciprocal insurance association, proper party plaintiff in actions by, or on behalf of, 94 A.L.R. 836, 141 A.L.R. 765, 145 A.L.R. 1121.

Collective labor agreement, right of individual employee to sue for breach, 95 A.L.R. 10.

Escrow, proper party defendant in action for refusal of depository to deliver instrument or property placed in, notwithstanding performance of conditions of delivery, 95 A.L.R. 293.

Proper party plaintiff to action against tort-feasor for damages to insured property where insurer is entitled to subrogation to extent of loss paid by it, 96 A.L.R. 864, 157 A.L.R. 1242.

Registration lists, who may bring action to purge, 96 A.L.R. 1035.

Bank in charge of liquidating officer who refuses or fails to enforce liability of persons to bank, right of creditors to maintain action for that purpose, and conditions of such right, 97 A.L.R. 169, 116 A.L.R. 783.

Water user as necessary or proper party to litigation involving right of ditch or canal company or irrigation of drainage district from which he takes water, 100 A.L.R. 561.

Ward's right, after majority to maintain action on contracts entered into by guardian on ward's behalf, 102 A.L.R. 269.

Insurance, right of third person to sue upon promise made by beneficiary to insured, to pay proceeds to third person, 102 A.L.R. 594.

Removal of disability, statute providing that an insane person, minor or other person under disability may bring suit within specified time after removal of disability as affecting right to bring action before disability removed, 109 A.L.R. 954.

Rescission of deed or land contract for grantee's breach of agreement to support grantor, right of heirs of grantor to maintain suit for, 112 A.L.R. 670.

Heir or next of kin, standing to attack gift or conveyance made by ancestor in his lifetime, as affected by will by which he is disinherited in whole or part, 112 A.L.R. 1405.

Bucketshops or bucket-shop transactions, violation of statute relating to, as ground of action by customer or patron, 113 A.L.R. 853.

Title, joinder of claims to separate parcels in suit to quiet title, or to remove cloud on, or to determine adverse claims of land, 118 A.L.R. 1400.

Holders of mortgage or other lien upon an undivided interest in real property as a necessary or proper party to a suit for partition, 126 A.L.R. 414.

Unauthorized prosecution of suit in name of another as ground of action in tort, 146 A.L.R. 1125.

Vendee under executory contract, right of, to bring action against third person for damage to land, 151 A.L.R. 938.

Decedent's estate, right of creditors to maintain action in interest of, 158 A.L.R. 729.

Massachusetts or business trust, 159 A.L.R. 209.

Timber contract, necessary and proper parties in action growing out of delay in performance of, 164 A.L.R. 423.

Mortgage lienholder as proper or necessary party to suit in respect of contract for sale of mortgaged property, 164 A.L.R. 1044.

Insurance, who may enforce policy containing facility of payment clause, 166 A.L.R. 10.



Defendant's right to bring in third person asserted to be solely liable to the plaintiff, 168 A.L.R. 600.

Contract for joint, mutual or reciprocal wills, parties to action to enforce, 169 A.L.R. 9

Dissolved corporation as indispensable party to stockholder's derivative action, 172 A.L.R. 691.

Restrictions on right of action by individual holder of series of corporate bonds or other obligations, validity, construction and application of, 174 A.L.R. 435.

Overcharges, representation of several claimants in action against carrier of public utility to recover, 1 A.L.R.2d 160.

Dismissal of action for failure or refusal of plaintiff to obey court order, 4 A.L.R.2d 348, 56 A.L.R.3d 1109, 27 A.L.R.4th 61, 32 A.L.R.4th 212, 3 A.L.R.5th 237.

Who may complain of underassessment or nonassessment of property for taxation, 5 A.L.R.2d 576, 9 A.L.R.4th 428.

Limitation of actions, change in party after statute has run, 8 A.L.R.2d 6.

Trust beneficiaries as necessary parties to action relating to trust or its property, 9 A.L.R.2d 10.

Right of third person not named in bond or other contract, conditioned for support of, or services to, another, to recover thereon, 11 A.L.R.2d 1010.

Right and capacity of taxpayer to a tax sale by municipal corporation or other taxing unit of its property, 17 A.L.R.2d 475.

Liability of parent or person in loco parentis for personal tort against minor child, 19 A.L.R.2d 423, 41 A.L.R.3d 904, 6 A.L.R.4th 1066.

Validity and enforceability of contract in consideration of naming child, 21 A.L.R.2d 1061.

Right of owner's employee injured by subcontractor, to recovery against general contract or for breach of contract between the latter and the owner requiring contractor and subcontractors to carry insurance, 22 A.L.R.2d 647.

Necessary parties defendant to action to set aside conveyance in fraud of creditors, 24 A.L.R.2d 395.

Joint liability for slander, 26 A.L.R.2d 1031.

Liability for procuring breach of contract, 26 A.L.R.2d 1227, 96 A.L.R.3d 1294, 44 A.L.R.4th 1078.

Necessary parties defendant to suit to prevent or remove obstruction or interference with easement of way, 28 A.L.R.2d 409.

Re-employment of discharged servicemen, 29 A.L.R.2d 1279, 9 A.L.R. Fed. 225, 83 A.L.R. Fed. 908.

Guaranty, who may enforce, 41 A.L.R.2d 1213.

Conflict of laws as to proper party plaintiff in contract action, 62 A.L.R.2d 486.

Continuance, amendment of pleadings with respect to parties or their capacity as ground for, 67 A.L.R.2d 477.

Capacity of one who is mentally incompetent but not so adjudicated to sue in his own name, 71 A.L.R.2d 1247.

Guardian's capacity to sue or be sued outside state where appointed, 94 A.L.R.2d 162.

Insurance, proper party plaintiff, under real party in interest statute, to action against tort-feasor for damage to insured property where insured has paid part of loss, 13 A.L.R.3d 140.

Insurance, proper party plaintiff, under real party in interest statute, to action against tort-feasor for damage to insured property where loss is entirely covered by insurance, 13 A.L.R.3d 229.

Dismissal of state court action for failure or refusal of plaintiff to answer written interrogatories, 56 A.L.R.3d 1109.

State Consumer Protection Act, right to private action under, 62 A.L.R.3d 169.

Who is minor's next of kin for guardianship purposes, 63 A.L.R.3d 813.

Bailor's right of direct action against bailee's theft insurer for loss of bailed property, 64 A.L.R.3d 1207.

Proper party plaintiff in action for injury to common areas of condominium development, 69 A.L.R.3d 1148.

Necessary or proper parties to suit or proceeding to establish private boundary line, 73 A.L.R.3d 948.

Modern status of the Massachusetts or business trust, 88 A.L.R.3d 704.

Liability for interference with invalid or unenforceable contract, 96 A.L.R.3d 1294.

Defamation of class or group as actionable by individual member, 52 A.L.R.4th 618.

Condominium, standing to bring action relating to title in real property of, 74 A.L.R.4th 165.

Criminal law: propriety of reassembling jury to amend, correct, clarify, or otherwise change verdict after jury has been discharged, or has reached or sealed its verdict and separated, 14 A.L.R.5th 89.

What is "cause" justifying discharge from employment of veteran reemployed under § 9 of the Military Selective Service Act of 1967, 9 A.L.R. Fed. 225.

67A C.J.S. Parties §§ 5, 10, 112 to 120.

## **2-402. Notice of trial; joint or separate trials.**

A. **Notice of trial.** After the answer has been filed, the magistrate shall set a date for trial of the action. He shall issue a written notice of trial announcing the time and place thereof, file the original and send copies to all parties not in default. The notice of trial shall be in substantially the form approved by the court administrator and the supreme court.

B. **Consolidation.** When actions involving a common question of law or fact are pending before the magistrate, he may make such orders providing for joint trials as may tend to avoid unnecessary costs or delay.

C. **Separate trials.** The magistrate in furtherance of convenience or to avoid prejudice may order a separate trial of any claim or issue.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For form on notice of trial, see Rule 4-401.

**Court not to dismiss complaint without notice.** - The words "he shall issue a written notice of trial announcing the time and place thereof" do not allow the magistrate court to dismiss the complaint of the plaintiff without notice to the plaintiff in the event that a defendant is in default for failure to file a written answer and/or to appear on the return date for the answer. 1971 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 71-110 (opinion rendered under former law).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 1 Am. Jur. 2d Actions § 131 et seq.; 75 Am. Jur. 2d Trial §§ 60 et seq., 115 et seq.

Power of equity to enjoin prosecution of independent actions at law by different persons injured by the same tort, 75 A.L.R. 1444.

Propriety of consolidation for trial of actions for personal injuries, death or property damage arising out of same accident, 104 A.L.R. 62, 68 A.L.R.2d 1372.

Right of defendant sued jointly with another or others in action for personal injury or death to separate trial, 174 A.L.R. 734.

Right to appellate review, on single appellate proceeding, of separate actions consolidated for trial together in lower court, 36 A.L.R.2d 823.

Maintenance of second or successive stockholder's derivative action, 70 A.L.R.2d 1305.

Time for making application for consolidation of actions, 73 A.L.R.2d 739.

Separate trial of issues of liability and damages in tort, 85 A.L.R.2d 9.

Right of plaintiff suing jointly with others to separate trial or order of severance, 99 A.L.R.2d 670.

Propriety of separate trials of issues of tort liability and of validity and effect of release, 4 A.L.R.3d 456.

1A C.J.S. Actions §§ 205, 220 to 228; 88 C.J.S. Trial §§ 6 to 10.

## **2-403. Substitution of parties.**

A. **Death or incompetency.** If a party dies or becomes incompetent and the claim is not extinguished or barred, the magistrate may, within ninety (90) days after notice of the death or incompetency of the party is made in the file of the pending case, order a substitution of the proper party. If substitution is not so made, the action shall be dismissed as to the deceased or incompetent party, without prejudice.

B. **Transfer of interest.** In case of any transfer of interest, the action may be continued by or against the original party, unless the magistrate directs the person to whom the interest is transferred to be substituted in the action.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 59 Am. Jur. 2d Parties §§ 23, 25, 210 et seq.

Survival of action or cause of action for alienation of affections or criminal conversation, 24 A.L.R. 488, 57 A.L.R. 351.

Does right of grantor to maintain a suit in equity to set aside his conveyance for cause survive to his heir, 33 A.L.R. 51.

Survival of action or cause of action for breach of contract to marry, 34 A.L.R. 1363.

Abatement of action which does not survive, by death of party pending appeal or writ of error, 62 A.L.R. 1048.

Survival of liability on joint obligation, 67 A.L.R. 608.

Right of one to notice and hearing on motion to add him as a party, or substitute him for an original party, to pending action or proceeding, 69 A.L.R. 1247.

Does a right of action on bond to recover for damages personal in their nature, and not affecting property rights, survive principal's death, 70 A.L.R. 122.

Survival of cause of action for personal injury or death against tort-feasor killed in the same accident, 70 A.L.R. 1319.

Survivability or assignability of action or cause of action in tort for damages for fraudulently procuring purchase or sale of property, 76 A.L.R. 403.

Survival of claim for usury against estate of usurer, 78 A.L.R. 451.

Survival upon death of wrongdoer of husband's or parent's action or right of action for consequential damages arising from injury to wife or minor child, 78 A.L.R. 593.

Survival of action or cause of action for personal injuries upon death of tort-feasor, 78 A.L.R. 600.

Abatement upon death, of cause of action to enforce personal liability of corporate officer, director or trustee, 79 A.L.R. 1517.

Relation between survivability of cause of action and abatability of pending action, 92 A.L.R. 956.

What actions or causes of action involve injury to reputation within statutes relating to survival of causes of action or abatement of actions, 117 A.L.R. 574.

Assignability or survivability of cause of action to enforce civil liability under securities acts, 133 A.L.R. 1038.

Abatement or survival, upon death of party, of action, or cause of action, based on libel or slander, 134 A.L.R. 717.

Priority between devisee under devise pursuant to testator's agreement and third person claiming under or through testator's unrecorded deed, 7 A.L.R.2d 544.

Conflict of laws as regards survival of cause of action and revival of pending action upon death of party, 42 A.L.R.2d 1170.

Parties to action for specific performance of contract for conveyance of realty after death of party to the contract, 43 A.L.R.2d 938.

Marriage, right to attack validity after death of party thereto, 47 A.L.R.2d 1393.

Effect of death of appellant upon appeal from judgment of mental incompetence against him, 54 A.L.R.2d 1161.

Death of principal as exoneration, defense or ground for relief, of sureties on bail or appearance bond, 63 A.L.R.2d 830.

Real estate mortgage executed by one of joint tenants as enforceable after his death, 67 A.L.R.2d 999.

Capacity of one who is mentally incompetent but not so adjudicated to sue in his own name, 71 A.L.R.2d 1247.

Relative rights as between assignee of conditional seller and a subsequent buyer from the conditional seller after repossession or the like, 72 A.L.R.2d 342.

Right of trustee in bankruptcy, or his assignee, to sue on turnover order in state court, 84 A.L.R.2d 668.

Enforceability, under statute of frauds provision as to contracts not to be performed within a year, of oral employment contract for more than one year but specifically made terminable upon death of either party, 88 A.L.R.2d 701.

Annulment of marriage, mental incompetency of defendant at time of action as precluding, 97 A.L.R.2d 483.

Enforceability of warrant of attorney to confess judgment against assignee, guarantor or other party obligating himself for performance of primary contract, 5 A.L.R.3d 426.

Bank's right to apply or set off deposit against debt of depositor not due at time of his death, 7 A.L.R.3d 908.

Validity and effect of agreement that debt or legal obligation contemporaneously or subsequently incurred shall be canceled by death of creditor or obligee, 11 A.L.R.3d 1427.

Cause of death, official death certificate as evidence of in civil or criminal action, 21 A.L.R.3d 418.

Attorney's death prior to final adjudication or settlement of case as affecting compensation under contingent fee contract, 33 A.L.R.3d 1375.

Validity, in contract for installment sale of consumer goods, or commercial paper given in connection therewith, of provision waiving, as against assignee, defenses good against seller, 39 A.L.R.3d 518.

Franchise contract, validity, construction and effect of clause in, prohibiting transfer of franchise or contract, 59 A.L.R.3d 244.

Wrongful death, modern status of rule denying a common-law recovery for, 61 A.L.R.3d 906.

Conservator or guardian for an incompetent, priority and preference in appointment of, 65 A.L.R.3d 991.

Husband's death as affecting periodic payment provision of separation agreement, 5 A.L.R.4th 1153.

67A C.J.S. Parties § 56 et seq.

## **ARTICLE 5 DISCOVERY AND PRETRIAL MATTERS**

### **2-501. Discovery.**

At any time during the pendency of the action, for good cause shown, the magistrate may order either party to produce for inspection and copying any records, papers, documents or other tangible evidence in the possession of that party or available to that party.

If both parties are represented by counsel, the magistrate may, for good cause shown, order further discovery as permitted by the Rules of Civil Procedure.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For district court rules for discovery, see Rules 1-026 to 1-037.

For form on motion for production, see Rule 4-501.

For form on order for production, see Rule 4-502.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 23 Am. Jur. 2d Depositions and Discovery § 21.

Constitutional rights, requiring submission to physical examination or test as violation of, 25 A.L.R.2d 1407.

Physical examination of injured person, power to require in action by his parent or spouse to recover for his injury, 62 A.L.R.2d 1291.

Admissibility in civil action of electroencephalogram, electrocardiogram or other record made by instrument used in medical test, or of report based upon such test, 66 A.L.R.2d 536.

Pretrial examination, right to copy of physician's report where there is no specific statute or rule providing therefor, 70 A.L.R.2d 384.

Physical examination of personal injury plaintiff, court's power to order as affected by distance or location of place of examination, 71 A.L.R.2d 973.

Treating physician, reports of, delivered to litigant's own attorney as subject of pretrial or other disclosure, production or inspection, 82 A.L.R.2d 1162.

Physical examination of allegedly negligent person with respect to defect claimed to have caused or contributed to accident, 89 A.L.R.2d 1001.

Mandamus or prohibition as available to compel or to prevent discovery proceedings, 95 A.L.R.2d 1229.

Right of party to have his attorney or physician, or a court reporter, present during his physical or mental examination by a court-appointed expert, 7 A.L.R.3d 881.

Timeliness of application for compulsory physical examination of injured party in personal injury action, 9 A.L.R.3d 1146.

Medical malpractice action, scope of defendant's duty of pretrial discovery in, 15 A.L.R.3d 1446.

Right of defendant in personal injury action to designate physician to conduct medical examination of plaintiff, 33 A.L.R.3d 1012.

Patient's statements or declarations, admissibility of physician's testimony as to, other than res gestae, during medical examinations, 37 A.L.R.3d 778.

Propriety and extent of state court protective order restricting party's right to disclose discovered information to others engaged in similar litigation, 83 A.L.R.4th 987.



Right of party to have attorney or physician present during physical or mental examination at instance of opposing party, 84 A.L.R.4th 558.

27 C.J.S. Discovery §§ 20, 21.

## **2-502. Subpoenas.**

**A. For attendance of witnesses.** Every subpoena shall be issued by the magistrate or clerk of the court, shall state the name of the court and the title of the action, and shall command each person to whom it is directed to attend and give testimony at a time and place therein specified.

The judge or clerk shall issue a subpoena, or a subpoena for the production of documentary evidence, signed and sealed but otherwise in blank, to a party requesting it, who shall fill it in before service.

**B. For production of documentary evidence.** A subpoena may command the person to whom it is directed to produce the books, papers, documents or tangible things designated therein; but the court, upon motion made promptly and in any event at or before the time specified in the subpoena for compliance therewith, may:

- (1) quash or modify the subpoena if it is unreasonable and oppressive, or
- (2) condition denial of the motion upon the advancement by the person in whose behalf the subpoena is issued of the reasonable cost of producing the books, papers, documents or tangible things.

**C. Service.** A subpoena may be served by the sheriff, by the sheriff's deputy, or by any other person who is not a party and is not less than eighteen (18) years of age. Service of a subpoena upon a person named therein shall be made by delivering a copy thereof to such person and

- (1) if the witness is to be paid from funds appropriated by the legislature to the administrative office of the courts for payment of state witnesses or for the payment of witnesses in indigency cases, by processing for payment to such witness the fee and mileage prescribed by regulation of the administrative office of the courts;
- (2) for all witnesses not described in Subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, by tendering to the witness the fee for per diem expenses provided by Subsection A of Section 10-8-4 NMSA 1978 for nonsalaried public officers attending a board or committee meeting and the mileage provided by Subsection D of Section 10-8-4 NMSA 1978. The fee for per diem expenses shall not be prorated. In the event the per diem expense and mileage fees are not tendered as required, the subpoena shall be valid but the court shall impose such sanctions as are appropriate.

When the subpoena is issued on behalf of the state or an officer or agent thereof, fees and mileage need not be tendered.

**D. Manner of service.** Service of a subpoena may be made by mail in the manner provided for serving the summons, complaint and form of answer.

**E. Contempt.** Failure by any person without adequate excuse to obey a subpoena served upon that person may be deemed a contempt of the magistrate court from which the subpoena was issued. The magistrate shall not hold any person in contempt of the magistrate court if service of the subpoena has been made by mail unless there has been presented to the court evidence, in addition to that contained in the return and certificate of the judge or clerk of the court, that the person received delivery of the subpoena or that a subpoena was personally served on the person in accordance with Paragraph C of this rule.

[As amended, effective January 1, 1994; May 1, 1994.]

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For contempt, see Rule 2-110 NMRA 1997.

For sheriff serving and executing process of magistrate courts, see 4-41-14 NMSA 1978.

For jurisdiction of the magistrate court, see 35-3-6 NMSA 1978.

For forms on subpoena, return for completion by sheriff or deputy and return for completion by other person making service, see Rule 4-503 NMRA 1997.

**The first 1994 amendment**, effective January 1, 1994, deleted "by tendering to him the fees for one (1) day's attendance and the mileage allowed by law, if payment of such fee and mileage is demanded at the time of service of the subpoena" following "and" at the end of the first paragraph in Paragraph C, and added Subparagraphs C(1) and C(2).

**The second 1994 amendment**, effective May 1, 1994, amended Paragraph C to delete "within the magistrate district", and made gender neutral changes throughout the rule.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 81 Am. Jur. 2d Witnesses §§ 1 to 3, 7 to 32.

Inconvenience or expense as excuse for disobeying subpoena duces tecum, 9 A.L.R. 163.

Mandamus to compel court or judge to require witness to testify or produce documents, 41 A.L.R. 436.

Service of a subpoena as an arrest within constitutional or statutory immunity of members of legislature from arrest, 79 A.L.R. 1214.

Privilege against self-incrimination as justification for refusal to comply with subpoena requiring production of books or documents of private corporation, 120 A.L.R. 1102.

Practice or procedure for testing validity or scope of the command of subpoena duces tecum, 130 A.L.R. 327.

Form, particularity and manner of designation required in subpoena duces tecum for production of corporate books, records and documents, 23 A.L.R.2d 862.

Compelling expert to testify, 77 A.L.R.2d 1182, 66 A.L.R.4th 213.

Privilege against self-incrimination as ground for refusal to produce noncorporate documents in possession of person asserting privilege but owned by another, 37 A.L.R.3d 1373.

Who has possession, custody or control of corporate books or records for purposes of order to produce, 47 A.L.R.3d 676.

97 C.J.S. Witnesses §§ 19 to 34, 45.

## **ARTICLE 6 TRIALS**

### **2-601. Conduct of trials.**

A. **Continuances.** Continuances shall be granted for good cause shown at any stage of the proceedings.

B. **Evidence.** Evidence shall be admitted in accordance with the New Mexico Rules of Evidence. At his own expense and for the purpose of preserving testimony, a party may cause a record, as defined in Rule 2-109, to be made. The trial shall be conducted expeditiously, but each party shall be permitted to present his position amply and fairly.

C. **Oath of witnesses.** The magistrate shall administer the following oath to each witness: "You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you give is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth under penalty of perjury?"

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For Rules of Evidence, see Rule 11-101 et seq.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 17 Am. Jur. 2d Continuance § 1 et seq.; 81 Am. Jur. 2d Witnesses §§ 708, 709, 713 et seq.

Evidence contrary to scientific principles or laws of nature, 21 A.L.R. 141.

Validity of proceedings as affected by taking evidence out of court, 43 A.L.R. 1516, 18 A.L.R.3d 572.

Comparative value of positive and negative testimony, 98 A.L.R. 161.

Time during or after civil trial at which court may entertain, or properly grant or deny, motion for continuance of trial, 112 A.L.R. 395.

Right to continuance because counsel is in attendance at another court, 112 A.L.R. 593.

Pendency of criminal prosecution as ground for continuance or postponement of civil action involving facts or transactions upon which prosecution is predicated, 123 A.L.R. 1453.

Refreshment of recollection by use of memoranda or other writing, 125 A.L.R. 19, 82 A.L.R.2d 473.

Distinction between positive and negative evidence, 140 A.L.R. 530.

Appealability of order granting or refusing stay or continuance under Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act because of military service of litigant, 34 A.L.R.2d 1149.

Prejudicial effect, in civil case, of denial of continuance to call nonappearing witness whom adversary had been expected to call, 39 A.L.R.2d 1445.

Illness of relative or member of family, party litigant's absence from civil case because of, as ground for continuance, 47 A.L.R.2d 1058.

Counsel, withdrawal or discharge, in civil case as ground for continuance, 48 A.L.R.2d 1155.

Counsel, absence because of attendance on legislature, 49 A.L.R.2d 1073.

Bankruptcy proceedings, false oath or account as bar to discharge in, 59 A.L.R.2d 791.

Illness or death of counsel, continuance of civil case because of, 67 A.L.R.2d 497.

Illness or death of party, continuance of civil cases because of, 68 A.L.R.2d 470.

Hostile sentiment or prejudice as ground for continuance in civil case, 68 A.L.R.2d 540.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended, as affecting negligence actions, 75 A.L.R.2d 1062.

Consideration, in determining facts, of inadmissible hearsay evidence introduced without objection, 79 A.L.R.2d 890.

Mental incompetency of defendant at time of action for annulment of marriage as ground for continuance, 97 A.L.R.2d 483.

Admissions to prevent continuance sought to secure testimony of absent witness in civil case, 15 A.L.R.3d 1272.

Modern status of rules governing legal effect of failure to object to admission of extrinsic evidence violative of parol evidence rule, 81 A.L.R.3d 249.

Continuance of civil case as conditioned upon applicant's payment of costs or expenses incurred by other party, 9 A.L.R.4th 1144.

17 C.J.S. Continuances §§ 1 to 13; 88 C.J.S. Trial §§ 55 to 93; 98 C.J.S. Witnesses §§ 315 to 429.

## **2-602. Jury trial.**

A. **Right preserved.** The right of trial by jury exists as provided by law.

B. **Demand.** Either party to an action may demand trial by jury. The demand shall be made in the complaint if made by the plaintiff and in the answer if made by the defendant, and the magistrate shall collect from the demanding party the non-refundable jury fee established by law and, an additional deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) to be used for payment of the actual costs of empaneling the jury, which fee shall be refundable all or in part.

C. **Waiver.** If demand is not made as provided in Paragraph B of this rule, or if the jury fee is not paid at the time demand is made, trial by jury is deemed waived.

[As amended, effective October 1, 1996.]

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For constitutional provision as to trial by jury, see N.M. Const., art. II, § 12.

For contributions to magistrate retirement fund from magistrate court fees, see 10-12C-11 NMSA 1978.

For jury and witness fee fund, see 34-9-11 NMSA 1978.

For magistrate court costs, schedule, and definition of "convicted", see 35-6-1 NMSA 1978.

For magistrate court costs, witness fees and reimbursement, see 35-6-4 NMSA 1978.

For right to jury trials in magistrate courts, see 35-8-1 NMSA 1978.

For demand for jury trial in magistrate court, see 35-8-2 NMSA 1978.

For magistrate court civil jury fees, see 35-8-7 NMSA 1978.

For mileage and compensation for jurors and jury commissioners, see 38-5-15 NMSA 1978.

**The 1996 amendment**, effective October 1, 1996, in Paragraph B, inserted "non-refundable" and added the language beginning "and, an additional deposit" at the end of the paragraph.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 47 Am. Jur. 2d Jury §§ 6, 61 et seq.

Right to jury trial in proceeding for removal of public officer, 3 A.L.R. 232, 8 A.L.R. 1476.

Statute providing for revocation of license of physician, surgeon or dentist, as denial of right to trial by jury, 5 A.L.R. 94, 79 A.L.R. 323.

Request by both parties for directed verdict as waiver of submission to jury, 18 A.L.R. 1433, 68 A.L.R.2d 300.

Attorney's right to trial where he is charged with failure to turn over money or property to client, 22 A.L.R. 1501.

Statutes giving right to jury trial in contempt proceedings for violating injunction in industrial disputes, 27 A.L.R. 411, 35 A.L.R. 460, 97 A.L.R. 1333, 106 A.L.R. 361, 120 A.L.R. 316, 124 A.L.R. 751, 127 A.L.R. 868, 150 A.L.R. 819.

Reduction or increase of verdict, by court, without giving party affected option to submit to new trial, 53 A.L.R. 779, 95 A.L.R. 1163.

Equity jurisdiction to cancel insurance policy upon ground within incontestable clause prior to termination of period, as depriving beneficiary of right to jury trial, 73 A.L.R. 1529, 111 A.L.R. 1275.

Constitutionality, construction and effect of statute providing for jury trial in disbarment proceedings, 78 A.L.R. 1323.

Statute in relation to subject matter or form of instructions by court as impairing constitutional right to jury trial, 80 A.L.R. 906.

Declaratory judgment action as infringement of right to jury trial, 87 A.L.R. 1205.

Statute prohibiting new trial on ground of inadequacy of damages, 88 A.L.R. 943.

Determination of facts involved in original quo warranto proceedings in appellate court, 98 A.L.R. 237.

Waiver of right to jury trial as operative after expiration of term during which it was made, or as regards subsequent trial, 106 A.L.R. 203.

Statute providing supplementary proceedings for an infringement of right to jury trial, 106 A.L.R. 383.

Validity and effect of plan or practice of consulting preferences of persons eligible for jury service as regards periods or times of service or character of actions, 112 A.L.R. 995.

Right to jury trial of issues as to personal judgment for deficiency in suit to foreclose mortgage, 112 A.L.R. 1492.

Right to jury trial in suit to remove cloud, quiet title or determine adverse claims, 117 A.L.R. 9

Right of defendant to waive right of trial by jury where he is not represented by counsel, 143 A.L.R. 445.

Nature and effect of jury's verdict in equity, 156 A.L.R. 1147.

Right to jury trial in action concerning failure of purchaser to remove timber within time fixed by timber contract, 164 A.L.R. 423.

Right to jury trial as to fact essential to action or defense but not involving merits thereof, 170 A.L.R. 383.

Jury trial in action for declaratory relief, 13 A.L.R.2d 777, 33 A.L.R.4th 146.

Right to notice and hearing before revocation of suspension of sentence, parole, conditional pardon, or probation, 29 A.L.R.2d 1074.

Re-employment of discharged serviceman, 29 A.L.R.2d 1279, 9 A.L.R. Fed. 225, 83 A.L.R. Fed. 908.

Constitutional right to jury trial in proceeding for adjudication of incompetency or insanity or for restoration, 33 A.L.R.2d 1145.

Mandamus or prohibition as remedy to enforce right to jury trial, 41 A.L.R.2d 780.

Withdrawal or disregard of waiver of jury trial in civil action, 64 A.L.R.2d 506, 9 A.L.R.4th 1041.

Waiving submission of fact questions to jury, request by each party for directed verdict as, 68 A.L.R.2d 300.

Validity and effect of contractual waiver of trial by jury, 73 A.L.R.2d 1332.

Indoctrination by court for persons summoned for jury service, 89 A.L.R.2d 197.

Rule or statute requiring opposing party's consent to withdrawal of demand for jury trial, 90 A.L.R.2d 1162.

Sufficiency of waiver of full jury, 93 A.L.R.2d 410.

Right to jury trial in juvenile court delinquency proceedings, 100 A.L.R.2d 1241.

How to obtain jury trial in eminent domain, waiver, 12 A.L.R.3d 7.

Right in equity suit to jury trial of counterclaim involving legal issue, 17 A.L.R.3d 1321.

Issues in garnishment as triable to court or to jury, 19 A.L.R.3d 1393.

Statute reducing number of jurors as violative of right to trial by jury, 47 A.L.R.3d 895.

Authority of state court to order jury trial in civil case where jury has been waived or not demanded by parties, 9 A.L.R.4th 1041.

Validity of law or rule requiring state court party who requests jury trial in civil case to pay costs associated with jury, 68 A.L.R.4th 343.

What is "cause" justifying discharge from employment of veteran reemployed under § 9 of the Military Selective Service Act of 1967, 9 A.L.R. Fed. 225.

50 C.J.S. Juries §§ 10, 84 to 113.

## **2-603. Jurors.**

A. **Magistrate jury.** A jury in the magistrate court consists of six jurors with the same qualifications as jurors in the district court. Whenever a jury is required, the magistrate shall select prospective jurors in the manner provided by law.



**B. Challenges for cause.** At the time of the trial, the parties, their attorneys or the magistrate may examine the jurors who have been summoned to determine whether they should be disqualified for cause. Jurors shall be excused for cause if the examination discloses bias, relationship to a party or other grounds of actual or probable partiality. If examination of any juror discloses any basis for his disqualification, he shall be excused.

**C. Peremptory challenges.** Each party shall be entitled to one peremptory challenge. If peremptory challenges are exercised, the magistrate shall excuse those jurors challenged.

**D. Selection of jury.**

(1) The magistrate shall cause the name of each juror present to be placed on a separate slip of paper which shall be placed in a box. A list of the names of the jurors present shall be prepared by the magistrate or at his direction, and a copy of the list provided each party or his attorney.

(2) The jurors may be examined by the parties, their attorneys or the magistrate by questioning all of the jurors present, as a group, or individually.

Additional slips with jurors' names thereon shall be drawn from the box to replace those excused for cause or by peremptory challenge, who may then be questioned by the parties, their attorneys or the magistrate.

(3) When six qualified jurors have been selected, they shall constitute the jury for the case to be tried.

(4) One alternate juror may be selected, if the magistrate at his discretion so elects. The parties may exercise their peremptory challenges in the selection of the alternate juror, if their peremptory challenges have not been exhausted in the selection of the other jurors.

**E. Additional jurors.** If a jury cannot be completed by drawing additional slips, the sheriff or responsible person shall summon a sufficient number of jurors to fill the deficiency.

**F. Oath to jurors.** The magistrate shall administer the following oath to the jurors: "You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will truly try the facts of this action and give a true verdict according to the law and evidence given in court."

[As amended, effective September 1, 1989.]

**ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - As to jury trials in magistrate courts, see 35-8-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

As to selecting and impaneling a magistrate jury, see 35-8-3 NMSA 1978.

As to drawing and impaneling jurors, see 38-5-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

**The 1989 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after September 1, 1989, in the first paragraph of Paragraph D(2), deleted the "(a)" designation from the beginning and "(b) the magistrate may draw six slips with the jurors' names from the box and these six jurors may be questioned as a group and individually" at the end, and made related stylistic changes.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 47 Am. Jur. 2d Jury § 126 et seq.

Unfamiliarity with English as affecting competency of juror, 34 A.L.R. 194.

Statutory grounds for challenge of jurors for cause as exclusive of common-law grounds, 64 A.L.R. 645.

Right to introduce extrinsic evidence in support of challenge to juror for cause, 65 A.L.R. 1056.

Peremptory challenge after acceptance of juror, 3 A.L.R.2d 499.

Waiver of peremptory challenge or challenges in civil case other than by acceptance of juror, 56 A.L.R.2d 742.

Right to peremptory challenge as prejudiced by appearance of additional counsel in civil case after impaneling of jury, 56 A.L.R.2d 971.

Relationship of juror to witness in civil case as ground of disqualification, 85 A.L.R.2d 851.

Confusion of names or identities in drawing, summoning, calling impaneling, or examining jurors in civil case, as affecting verdict, 89 A.L.R.2d 1242.

Effect of allowing excessive number of peremptory challenges, 95 A.L.R.2d 957.

Claustrophobia or other neurosis of juror as subject of inquiry on voir dire or of disqualification of juror, 20 A.L.R.3d 1420.

Number of peremptory challenges allowable in civil case where there are more than two parties involved, 32 A.L.R.3d 747.

Use of peremptory challenge to exclude from jury persons belonging to a class or race, 79 A.L.R.3d 14, 20 A.L.R.5th 398.

Professional or business relations between proposed juror and attorney as ground for challenge for cause, 52 A.L.R.4th 964.

Prospective juror's connection with insurance company as ground for challenge for cause, 9 A.L.R.5th 102.

50 C.J.S. Juries §§ 123, 192 to 194, 267 to 269, 273, 275 to 280, 293 to 296; 89 C.J.S. Trials § 494.

## **2-604. Trial by jury.**

Juries in the magistrate court shall hear the evidence in the action which shall be delivered in public in its presence. After hearing the evidence, the members of the jury shall be kept together until five of them agree upon a verdict or are discharged by the magistrate. Whenever the magistrate is satisfied that five jurors cannot agree on a verdict after a reasonable time, he may discharge it and summon a new jury unless the parties agree that the magistrate may render judgment.

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For trial by magistrate jury, see 35-8-4 NMSA 1978.

For discharge of jury upon failure to agree, see 35-8-5 NMSA 1978.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 47 Am. Jur. 2d Jury § 2.

89 C.J.S. Trial §§ 462, 473.

## **2-605. Instructions to juries.**

A. **Procedural instructions.** After the parties have completed their presentation of the evidence, and before arguments to the jury, the magistrate shall orally instruct the jury on the procedure to be followed by them in deciding the case. Such instructions shall be given in substantially the following form:

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury:

The case will now be submitted to you for decision. Upon retiring to the jury room and before commencing your deliberations you will select one of your members as foreman. You will then determine the facts in the case from the evidence that has been presented here in open court during the trial. From the facts and the law as you understand it you will decide upon a verdict.

You are the sole judges of all disputed questions of fact. Your verdict should not be based on speculation, guess or conjecture. Neither sympathy nor prejudice should influence your verdict.

You should first decide whether or not the defendant is liable to the plaintiff at all (and whether or not the plaintiff is liable to the defendant on the defendant's counterclaim/setoff). If you find the defendant liable to the plaintiff (or the plaintiff liable to the defendant), you should then determine the amount of damages that should be awarded.

When five or more of you have agreed upon a verdict, you will return to open court and your foreman will then announce the verdict."

**B. UJI instructions.** If requested by a party or, if the court deems it appropriate, on the court's own motion, the court may give the jury any other applicable instructions contained in the New Mexico Uniform Jury Instructions (UJI) Civil. Whenever the court determines the jury should be instructed on a subject and no applicable instruction on the subject is found in UJI Civil, the instruction given on that subject shall be brief, impartial and free from hypothesized facts.

[As amended, effective January 1, 1994.]

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For Uniform Jury Instructions - Civil, see UJI 13-101 et seq.

**The 1994 amendment,** effective January 1, 1994, in the first sentence of Paragraph B, made stylistic changes throughout and deleted "but no other instructions on the law shall be given" at the end, and added the last sentence of Paragraph B.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 75A Am. Jur. 2d Trial § 1077 et seq.

Necessity of repeating definition of legal or technical term in different parts of instructions in which it is employed, 7 A.L.R. 135.

Use of emphatic words, like "great care," "utmost care" or "highest care," in instructing jury as to duty of carrier to passengers, 32 A.L.R. 1190.

Duty to instruct, and effect of failure to instruct jury as to reduction to present worth of damages for future loss on account of death or personal injury, 77 A.L.R. 1439, 154 A.L.R. 796.

Statutes in relation to subject matter or form of instructions by court as impairing constitutional right to jury trial, 80 A.L.R. 906.

Right of court to instruct or to communicate with jury in civil case in absence of counsel, 84 A.L.R. 220.

Instructions regarding measurement of damages for pain and suffering, 85 A.L.R. 1010.

Instructions regarding determination of life expectancy in action for personal injuries or death, 87 A.L.R. 910.

Instructions defining term "preponderance or weight of evidence", 93 A.L.R. 155.

Furnishing or reading instructions to jury in jury room, after retirement, as error, 96 A.L.R. 899.

Sufficiency of instruction on contributory negligence as respects the element of proximate cause, 102 A.L.R. 411.

Right or duty of court to instruct jury as to presumptions, 103 A.L.R. 126.

Necessity of expert testimony to warrant submission to jury of issue as to permanency of injury or as to future pain and suffering, or to sustain award of damages on that basis, 115 A.L.R. 1149.

Failure to comply with statute, constitutional provision or court rule providing for giving instructions to jury in writing as prejudicial or reversible error, 115 A.L.R. 1332.

"And/or," use of, or comment on use of, in instruction, 118 A.L.R. 1367, 154 A.L.R. 866.

Instructions regarding good or bad character of witnesses as affecting their credibility, 120 A.L.R. 1443.

Propriety, where actual damages are not shown, of instructions on compensatory damages which do not embody jury's right to award small or nominal damages, 122 A.L.R. 853.

Duty of court in civil case to correct, and to give as corrected, a requested instruction which includes a clerical or inadvertent mistake, 125 A.L.R. 685.

Propriety of instruction, or requested instruction, in civil case, as to caution in considering testimony of oral admissions, or as to weight of such admissions as evidence, 126 A.L.R. 66.

Propriety and effect of instruction or requested instruction which either affirms or denies jury's right to draw unfavorable inference against a party because he invokes privilege against testimony of person offered as witness by the other party or because he fails to call such person as a witness, 131 A.L.R. 693.

Propriety of instructions on matters of common knowledge, 144 A.L.R. 932.

Comments in judge's charge to jury disparaging expert testimony, 156 A.L.R. 530.

Instructions in ejectment on rule that plaintiff must recover on strength of own title, 159 A.L.R. 646.

Right of plaintiff in *res ipsa loquitur* case to an instruction respecting inference by jury, 173 A.L.R. 880.

Modern view as to propriety and correctness of instructions referable to maxim "*falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*", 4 A.L.R.2d 1077.

Propriety and effect of court's indication to jury that court would suspend sentence, 8 A.L.R.2d 1001.

Right of defendant to complain, on appellate review, of instructions favoring codefendant, 60 A.L.R.2d 524.

Prejudicial effect of judge's disclosure to jury of motions or proceedings in chambers in civil case, 77 A.L.R.2d 1253.

Provision in Rule 51, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and similar state rules and statutes, requiring court to inform counsel, prior to argument to jury, of its proposed action upon requests for instructions, 91 A.L.R.2d 836.

Propriety and prejudicial effect of instructions in civil case as affected by the manner in which they are written, 10 A.L.R.3d 501.

Sufficiency of evidence, in personal injury action, to prove future pain and suffering and to warrant instructions to jury thereon, 18 A.L.R.3d 10.

Sufficiency of evidence, in personal injury action, to prove impairment of earning capacity and to warrant instructions to jury thereon, 18 A.L.R.3d 88.

Sufficiency of evidence, in personal injury action, to prove permanence of injuries and to warrant instructions to jury thereon, 18 A.L.R.3d 170.

Propriety and effect, in eminent domain proceeding, of instruction to the jury as to landowner's unwillingness to sell property, 20 A.L.R.3d 1081.

Verdict-urging instructions in civil case stressing desirability and importance of agreement, 38 A.L.R.3d 1281.

Verdict-urging instructions in civil case commenting on weight of majority view or authorizing compromise, 41 A.L.R.3d 845.

Verdict-urging instructions in civil case admonishing jurors to refrain from intransigence or reflecting on integrity or intelligence of jurors, 41 A.L.R.3d 1154.

Construction of statutes or rules making mandatory the use of pattern or uniform approved jury instructions, 49 A.L.R.3d 128.

Necessity and propriety of instructing on alternative theories of negligence or breach of warranty, where instruction on strict liability in tort is given in products liability case, 52 A.L.R.3d 101.

Construction and effect of provision in Rule 51, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and similar state rules, that counsel be given opportunity to make objections to instructions out of hearing of jury, 1 A.L.R. Fed. 310.

88 C.J.S. Trial §§ 266 to 426; 89 C.J.S. Trial §§ 427 to 448.

## **2-606. Nonjury trials.**

In all actions tried upon the facts without a jury the magistrate shall, at the conclusion of the case, forthwith orally announce his decision and enter the appropriate judgment or final order; provided however, the magistrate may delay announcing his decision for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days if briefs or further research are required in the case.

[As amended, effective May 1, 1986.]

### **ANNOTATIONS**

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 75A Am. Jur. 2d Trial § 714.

When does jeopardy attach in a nonjury trial, 49 A.L.R.3d 1039.

88 C.J.S. Trial § 203; 89 C.J.S. Trial §§ 574 to 608.

## **ARTICLE 7 JUDGMENT AND APPEAL**

### **2-701. Judgments; costs.**

A. **Definition; form.** "Judgment" as used in these rules includes a decree and any order from which an appeal lies. A judgment should not contain a recital of pleadings or the record of prior proceedings.

B. **Judgment upon multiple claims or involving multiple parties.**

(1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, when more than one claim for relief is presented in an action, whether as a claim or counterclaim, the court may enter a final judgment as to one or more but fewer than all of the claims only upon an express determination that there is no just reason for delay. In the absence of such determination, any order or other form of decision, however designated, which adjudicates fewer than all of the claims shall not terminate the action as to any of the claims and the order or other form of decision is subject to revision at any time before the entry of judgment adjudicating all the claims.

(2) When multiple parties are involved, judgment may be entered adjudicating all issues as to one or more, but fewer than all parties. Such judgment shall be a final judgment unless the court, in its discretion, expressly provides otherwise in the judgment. If the judgment provides that it is not a final judgment, it shall not terminate the action as to such party or parties and shall be subject to revision at any time before the entry of judgment adjudicating all claims and the rights and liabilities of all the parties.

**C. Entry of judgment.** Following the trial the court shall enter a written judgment in accordance with the verdict of the jury or, if the trial was without a jury, in accordance with the court's decision. The court may direct counsel for any party to prepare the judgment. If any setoff or counterclaim is established by the defendant, the amount of the setoff or counterclaim shall be offset against any sum owed the plaintiff and judgment entered accordingly.

**D. Demand for judgment.** A judgment by default shall not be different in kind from or exceed in amount that claimed in the complaint. Except as to a party against whom a judgment is entered by default, every final judgment shall grant the relief to which the party in whose favor it is rendered is entitled, even if the party has not demanded such relief in the party's pleadings.

**E. Costs.** Any docket fee, jury fee or copying fee paid by the prevailing party to the court shall be awarded to the prevailing party against the losing party. The court may award any fees actually paid by the prevailing party for service of the complaint, summons and subpoenas and for attendance of witnesses, including expert witnesses. No costs or fees shall be taxed against the state, its officers and agencies. Expert witness fees for any case shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500), plus the fee for per diem expenses provided by Subsection A of Section 10-8-4 NMSA 1978 for nonsalaried public officers attending a board or committee meeting and the mileage provided by Subsection D of Section 10-8-4 NMSA 1978. The fee for per diem expenses shall not be prorated.

[As amended, effective January 1, 1995.]

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For fees and costs in magistrate courts, see 35-6-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.



For witness' per diem and mileage, see 38-6-4 NMSA 1978.

For form on judgment, see Rule 4-701.

**The 1995 amendment**, effective January 1, 1995, added Paragraphs A and B; redesignated former Paragraph A as Paragraph C and, in that paragraph, added the second sentence, substituted "offset" for "balanced" in the third sentence, and deleted the former last sentence which read "The judgment shall be in substantially the form approved by the supreme court"; redesignated former Paragraph B as Paragraph D and rewrote the first sentence and added the second sentence in that paragraph; deleted former Paragraph C relating to costs collected by magistrates; redesignated former Paragraph D as Paragraph E and rewrote that paragraph; and made minor stylistic changes throughout the rule.

**Witness fees taxable.** - Witnesses in civil suits in justice of the peace (now magistrate) courts could receive witness fees, which were taxed in favor of the prevailing party. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-48 (opinion rendered under former law).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 20 Am. Jur. 2d Costs § 11 et seq.; 46 Am. Jur. 2d Judgments § 121 et seq.

Correction of entry or amendment of judgment nunc pro tunc as affecting intervening liens and property rights, 48 A.L.R. 1182.

Right to costs where judgment is against plaintiff on his complaint and against defendant on his counterclaim, 75 A.L.R. 1400.

Costs in habeas corpus, 81 A.L.R. 151.

Correcting clerical errors in judgments, 126 A.L.R. 956, 14 A.L.R.2d 224.

Date of verdict or date of entry of judgment thereon as beginning of interest period on judgment, 1 A.L.R.2d 479.

Disagreement of jury, entry of final judgment after, 31 A.L.R.2d 885.

Unsuccessful litigant's payment of costs as barring his right to appeal from judgment on merits, 39 A.L.R.2d 194.

Multiple defendants, effect of verdict "for plaintiff" in action against, 47 A.L.R.2d 803.

Appealability of order or judgment awarding or denying costs but making no other adjudication, 54 A.L.R.2d 927.

Judgment ambiguous or silent as to amount of recovery as defective for lack of certainty, 55 A.L.R.2d 723.

Court's power to increase amount of verdict or judgment over either party's refusal or failure to consent to addition, 56 A.L.R.2d 213.

Liability of state, or its agency or board, for costs of appeal in civil action to which it is a party, 72 A.L.R.2d 1379.

Sunday or holiday, validity of court's judgment rendered on, 85 A.L.R.2d 595.

Recoverability under property insurance or insurance against liability for property damage of insured's expenses to prevent or mitigate damages, 33 A.L.R.3d 1262.

Dismissal of plaintiff's action as entitling defendant to recover attorney's fees or costs as "prevailing party" or "successful party", 66 A.L.R.3d 1087.

Who is the "successful party" or "prevailing party" for purposes of awarding costs where both parties prevail on affirmative claims, 66 A.L.R.3d 1115.

Attorney's personal liability for expenses incurred in relation to services for client, 66 A.L.R.4th 256.

20 C.J.S. Costs §§ 36 to 38, 134 et seq.; 49 C.J.S. Judgments §§ 106 to 108.

## **2-702. Default.**

**A. Entry at time of appearance.** If the defendant fails to appear or has not filed an answer within the time prescribed by Rule 2-202, and if the plaintiff proves by an appropriate return that proper service was made upon the defendant, the magistrate may enter judgment for the plaintiff for the amount due, including interest, costs and other items allowed by law. The magistrate may require evidence as to any fact before entering default judgment.

A copy of the default judgment shall forthwith be mailed by the clerk of the court to each party against whom judgment has been entered. The clerk shall endorse on the judgment the date of mailing.

**B. At time of trial.** Failure to appear at the time and date set for trial shall be grounds for entering a default judgment against the nonappearing party.

**C. Setting aside default.** For good cause shown, within thirty (30) days after entry of judgment and if no appeal has been timely taken, the magistrate may set aside a default judgment.

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For form on default judgment, see Rule 4-703.

For form on motion to set aside default judgment, see Rule 4-704.

For form on order setting aside default judgment and giving notice of trial date, see Rule 4-705.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 46 Am. Jur. 2d Judgments § 265 et seq.

Judgment by consent, confession or default of principal as affecting sureties whose obligation is conditioned upon judicial determination of liability or rights of principal, 51 A.L.R. 1489.

Successful defense by one codefendant, or a finding for "defendants," as inuring to benefit of defaulting defendant, 78 A.L.R. 938.

What amounts to waiver by plaintiff of right to enter default judgment against defendant, or of the default itself after entry, 124 A.L.R. 155.

Doctrine of res judicata as applied to judgment by default, 128 A.L.R. 472, 77 A.L.R.2d 1410.

Mistaken belief or contention that defendant had not been served, or had not been legally served, with summons, as ground for setting aside default judgment, 153 A.L.R. 449.

Validity, construction and application of statutes providing for entry of default judgment by clerk without intervention of court or judge, 158 A.L.R. 1091.

Failure of complaint to state cause of action for unliquidated damages as ground for dismissal of action at hearing to determine amount of damages following defendant's default, 163 A.L.R. 496.

Setting aside default judgment for failure of statutory agent on whom process was served to notify defendant, 20 A.L.R.2d 1179.

Necessity of taking proof as to liability against defaulting defendant, 8 A.L.R.3d 1070.

Appealability of order setting aside, or refusing to set aside, default judgment, 8 A.L.R.3d 1272.

Defaulting defendant's right to notice and hearing as to determination of amount of damages, 15 A.L.R.3d 586.

Opening default or default judgment claimed to have been obtained because of attorney's mistake as to time or place of appearance, trial, or filing of necessary papers, 21 A.L.R.3d 1255.

Failure to give notice of application for default judgment where notice is required only by custom, 28 A.L.R.3d 1383.

49 C.J.S. Judgments §§ 187 to 218.

## **2-703. Relief from judgment or order.**

**A. Clerical mistakes.** Clerical mistakes in judgments, orders, or other parts of the file and errors therein arising from oversight or omission may be corrected by the magistrate at any time of his own initiative or on the request of any party after such notice to the opposing party, if any, as the magistrate orders. During the pendency of an appeal, such mistakes may be so corrected before the transcript is filed in the district court, and thereafter while the appeal is pending may be so corrected with leave of the district court.

**B. Mistakes; inadvertence; excusable neglect; fraud, etc.** If the judgment has not been filed in the district court, on motion and upon such terms as are just, the court may relieve a party or his legal representative from a final judgment, order or proceeding for the following reasons:

(1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise or excusable neglect;

(2) fraud (whether heretofore denominated intrinsic or extrinsic), misrepresentation or other misconduct of an adverse party;

(3) the judgment is void; or

(4) the judgment has been satisfied, released or discharged, or a prior judgment upon which it is based has been reversed or otherwise vacated.

A motion filed pursuant to Subparagraph (1) or (2) of this paragraph shall be filed not more than one (1) year after the judgment, order or proceeding was entered or taken. A motion under this paragraph does not affect the finality of a judgment or suspend its operation.

An order granting or denying relief from a final judgment under this rule may be appealed to the district court in the same manner as other appeals from final judgments of the magistrate court are taken.

**C. Satisfied judgments.** Upon the filing with the court of a motion for an order declaring the judgment to be satisfied and notice to the opposing party, the court may set a hearing to determine if the judgment has been satisfied, released or discharged. The application shall be served upon the judgment creditor in the manner prescribed by Rule 2-202 for service of summons and complaint. A hearing on the application shall be held within a reasonable time after the filing of the application. Notice of the hearing shall be

mailed to the parties by the clerk of the court. If the judgment creditor fails to appear at such hearing, a default satisfaction of judgment may be entered upon:

(1) the filing of the return of service or an affidavit that after "diligent search" the judgment creditor could not be located. For purposes of this subparagraph "diligent search" includes, but shall not be limited to an affidavit that:

(a) the judgment creditor no longer has a business or residence at the judgment creditor's last known address as shown in the court file; and

(b) the judgment creditor could not be located through a search of telephone and city directories in each county where the judgment creditor was known to have resided or maintained a place of business in this state; and

(2) proof of payment of the full amount of such judgment with interest thereon to date of payment, plus post-judgment costs incurred by the judgment creditor which can be determined from the court record or, if the judgment, including any interest and costs has not been paid in full, payment into the court of a money order or cashier's check made payable to the administrative office of the courts. Upon receipt of a money order or cashier's check pursuant to this subparagraph, the administrative office of the courts shall deposit such money order or cashier's check in a suspense account in the state treasury. Funds deposited in such account shall be disbursed in accordance with Section 39-1-6.2 NMSA 1978.

**D. Filing in district courts.** If the judgment has been filed in the district court pursuant to Paragraph E of Rule 2-803, the motion for an order declaring the judgment satisfied shall be filed in the district court.

[As amended, effective July 1, 1990; January 1, 1993; January 1, 1997.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For appeal to the district court from final judgments to the magistrate court, see Rule 2-705.

**The 1990 amendment,** effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1990, rewrote all of Paragraph B, which formerly related to relief from void or satisfied judgments, except the last sentence thereof, and added Paragraphs C and D.

**The 1993 amendment,** effective January 1, 1993, substituted "Paragraph E of Rule 2-803" for "Paragraph L of Rule 2-802" in Paragraph D.

**The 1997 amendment,** effective January 1, 1997, substituted "judgment creditor" for "defendant" near the end of Subparagraph C(1)(b).

**Compiler's note.** - The reference to Paragraph E of Rule 2-803 in Subsection D should be a reference to Paragraph E of Rule 2-804 NMRA 1997 as a result of the 1996 amendment that renumbered that rule.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 46 Am. Jur. 2d Judgments §§ 165, 175.

Failure to perform the duty to make disclosures which rests upon one because of trust or confidential relation as fraud for which equity, in an independent suit, will relieve against a judgment, 5 A.L.R. 672.

Correcting clerical errors in judgments, 10 A.L.R. 526, 67 A.L.R. 828, 126 A.L.R. 956, 14 A.L.R.2d 224.

Right of infant to set aside consent judgment in action for personal injuries, 15 A.L.R. 667, 20 A.L.R. 1249.

Character of judgment which refers to representative or fiduciary character of one against whom it is rendered, 21 A.L.R. 908.

Reliance of attorney on agreement or supposed agreement of opposing attorney to give notice when case was set for trial as ground for relief from judgment, 29 A.L.R. 1336.

Mental incompetency at the time of rendition of judgment in civil action as ground of attack upon it, 34 A.L.R. 221, 140 A.L.R. 1336.

Judgment on substituted service as within provision for relief from judgment taken through mistake, surprise or excusable neglect, 44 A.L.R. 618.

Correction of entry or amendment of judgment nunc pro tunc as affecting intervening liens and property rights, 48 A.L.R. 1182.

Fraud or perjury in misrepresenting status or relationship essential to the judgment as ground of relief from, or injunction against, judgment, 49 A.L.R. 1219.

Is service of notice or process in proceeding to vacate or modify judgment to be made upon owner of the judgment or upon the attorney, 78 A.L.R. 370.

Criterion of extrinsic fraud as distinguished from intrinsic fraud, as regards relief from judgment on ground of fraud, 88 A.L.R. 1201.

Asking relief in addition to vacation of service of process as waiver of special appearance of or right to rely upon lack of jurisdiction, 111 A.L.R. 925.

Perjury as ground of attack on judgment or order of court, 126 A.L.R. 390.

Secreting witness or other conduct preventing summoning or appearance of witness as ground for relief from judgment, 131 A.L.R. 1519.

Correction of mistake in judgment entered under warrant of attorney to confess judgment, 144 A.L.R. 830.

Lapse of time as bar to action or proceeding for relief in respect of void judgment, 154 A.L.R. 818.

Misinformation by judge or clerk of court as to status of case or time of trial or hearing as ground for relief from judgment, 164 A.L.R. 537.

Interlocutory decree as subject to modification after term other than correction of clerical errors, 169 A.L.R. 121.

Notice contemplated by statute for relief from judgment upon application within specified time after notice, 171 A.L.R. 253.

Scope and character of meritorious defense as condition of relief from judgment, 174 A.L.R. 10.

Remedy and procedure to avoid release or satisfaction of judgment, 9 A.L.R.2d 553.

Power of successor judge taking office during term-time to vacate judgment entered by his predecessor, 11 A.L.R.2d 1117.

Necessity of notice of application or intention to correct error in judgment entry, 14 A.L.R.2d 224.

Conditioning the setting aside of judgment or grant of new trial on payment of opposing attorney's fees, 21 A.L.R.2d 863.

Motion to vacate judgment or order as constituting general appearance, 31 A.L.R.2d 262.

Judgment ambiguous or silent as to amount of recovery as defective for lack of certainty, 55 A.L.R.2d 723.

Formal requirements of judgment or order as regards appealability, 73 A.L.R.2d 250.

Filing of notice of appeal as affecting jurisdiction of state trial court to consider motion to vacate judgment, 5 A.L.R.5th 422.

49 C.J.S. Judgments §§ 228, 237.

## **2-704. Harmless error.**

Error in either the admission or the exclusion of evidence and error or defect in any ruling, order, act or omission by the court or by any of the parties is not grounds for granting a new trial or for setting aside a verdict, or for vacating, modifying or otherwise disturbing a judgment or order, unless refusal to take any such action appears to the court inconsistent with substantial justice.

## ANNOTATIONS

**Magistrate court has no jurisdiction to set aside a jury verdict.** Jaramillo v. O'Toole, 97 N.M. 345, 639 P.2d 1199 (1982).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 5 Am. Jur. 2d Appellate Review §§ 690, 705 et seq.; 58 Am. Jur. 2d New Trial § 34.

Admissibility, in action involving motor vehicle accident, of evidence as to manner in which participant was driving before reaching scene of accident, 46 A.L.R.2d 9.

5 C.J.S. Appeal and Error § 825 et seq.; 66 C.J.S. New Trial § 13.

### **2-705. Appeal.**

**A. Right of appeal.** A party who is aggrieved by the judgment or final order in a civil action may appeal, as permitted by law, to the district court of the county within which the magistrate court is located. The notice of appeal shall be filed in the district court within fifteen (15) days after the judgment or final order appealed from is filed in the magistrate court clerk's office. If a timely notice of appeal is filed by a party, any other party may file a notice of appeal within ten (10) days after the date on which the first notice of appeal was served or within the time otherwise prescribed by this rule, whichever period expires last. The three (3) day mailing period set forth in Rule 2-104 does not apply to the time limits set forth above. A notice of appeal filed after the announcement of a decision, or return of the verdict, but before the judgment or order is filed in the magistrate court clerk's office, shall be treated as timely filed. Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, no docket fee or other cost shall be imposed against the state or its political subdivisions in any such appeal.

**B. Notice of appeal.** An appeal from the magistrate court is taken by:

- (1) filing with the clerk of the district court a notice of appeal with proof of service; and
- (2) promptly filing with the magistrate court:
  - (a) a copy of the notice of appeal which has been endorsed by the clerk of the district court; and
  - (b) a copy of the receipt of payment of the docket fee.



**C. Content of the notice of appeal.** The notice of appeal shall be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court. A copy of the magistrate court judgment or final order appealed from, showing the date of the judgment or final order, shall be attached to the notice of appeal filed in the district court.

**D. Service of notice of appeal.** At the time the notice of appeal is filed in the district court, the appellant shall:

(1) serve each party or such party's attorney in the proceedings in the magistrate court with a copy of the notice of appeal in accordance with Rule 1-005 of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts; and

(2) file proof of service with the clerk of the district court that a copy of the notice of appeal has been served in accordance with Rule 1-005.

**E. Record on appeal.** Within fifteen (15) days after the appellant files a copy of the notice of appeal with the magistrate court pursuant to Paragraph B of this rule, the magistrate court shall file with the clerk of the district court the record on appeal taken in the action in the magistrate court. For purposes of this rule, the record on appeal shall consist of:

(1) a title page containing the caption of the case in the magistrate court and the names and mailing addresses of each party or, if the party is represented by counsel, the name and address of the attorney;

(2) a copy of all papers and pleadings filed in the magistrate court;

(3) a copy of the judgment or order sought to be reviewed with date of filing;

(4) any exhibits; and

(5) any transcript of the proceedings made by the magistrate court, either stenographically recorded or tape recorded. If the transcript of the proceedings is a tape recording, the magistrate court shall prepare and file with the district court a duplicate of the tape and index log.

Any party desiring a copy of the transcript of the proceedings shall be responsible for paying the cost of preparing such copy.

The magistrate court clerk shall give prompt notice to all parties of the filing of the record on appeal with the district court.

**F. Correction or modification of the record.** If anything material to either party is omitted from the record on appeal by error or accident, the parties by stipulation, or the magistrate court or the district court, on proper suggestion or on its own initiative, may

direct that the omission be corrected and a supplemental record transmitted to the district court.

**G. Stay of proceedings to enforce a judgment.**

(1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, when an appeal is taken, the appellant may obtain a stay of the proceedings to enforce the judgment by posting a supersedeas bond with the clerk of the magistrate court. The bond may be posted at any time after docketing the appeal. The stay is effective when the supersedeas bond is approved by the magistrate court and shall continue in effect until final disposition of the appeal. The bond shall be conditioned for the satisfaction of and compliance with the judgment in full, as may be modified by an appellate court, together with costs, attorneys' fees and interest, if any. The bond shall be enforceable upon dismissal of the appeal or affirmance of the judgment. If the judgment is reversed or satisfied, the bond is void. The surety, sureties or collateral securing such bond, and the terms thereof, must be approved by and the amount fixed by the magistrate court. If a bond secured by personal surety or sureties is tendered, the bond may be approved only on notice to the appellee. Each personal surety shall be required to show a net worth of at least double the amount of the bond. If the judgment is for the recovery of money, the amount of the bond shall be the amount of the judgment remaining unsatisfied, together with costs, attorneys' fees and interest, if any. In determining the sufficiency of the surety or sureties and the extent to which the surety or sureties shall be liable on the bond, or whether any surety will be required, the court shall take into consideration the type and value of any collateral which is in, or may be placed in, the custody or control of the court and which has the effect of securing payment of and compliance with the judgment.

(2) When an appeal is taken by the state, by an officer or agency of the state, by direction of any department of the state, by any political subdivision or institution of the state or by any municipal corporation, the taking of an appeal shall operate as a stay.

**H. District court review of supersedeas.** At any time after appeal is filed pursuant to Paragraph B of this rule, the district court may, upon motion and notice, review any action of, or any failure or refusal to act by, the magistrate court dealing with supersedeas or stay. If the district court modifies the terms, conditions or amount of a supersedeas bond, or if it determines that the magistrate court should have allowed supersedeas and failed to do so on proper terms and conditions, it may grant additional time within which to file in the district court a supersedeas bond as provided by this rule. Any change ordered by the district court shall be certified by the clerk of the district court and filed with the magistrate court clerk by the party seeking the review.

**I. Procedure on appeal.** The Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts shall govern the procedure on appeal from the magistrate court.

**J. Remand.** Upon remand of the case by the district court to the magistrate court, the magistrate court shall enforce the mandate of the district court.

**K. Return of record.** After final determination of the appeal, the clerk of the district court shall return the record on appeal to the magistrate court clerk.

[As amended, effective November 1, 1988; January 1, 1994; July 1, 1996.]

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For right of appeal, see 35-13-1 NMSA 1978.

For rules of Civil Procedure for District Courts, see Rule 1-001 NMRA et seq.

For appeal from magistrate courts in trial de novo cases, see Rule 1-072 NMRA 1997.

For form on title page of transcript of civil proceedings, see Rule 4-708 NMRA.

**The 1994 amendment**, effective January 1, 1994, in Paragraph A, inserted "or judgment" and "as permitted by law" and made stylistic changes in the first sentence, deleted "entry of" following "after" and added "appealed from is filed in the magistrate court clerk's office" at the end of the second sentence, and added the third and fourth sentences; added the subparagraph designations in Paragraph C and deleted "shall" from the beginning of Subparagraph C(2); deleted "a" from the beginning and "and" from the end of Subparagraph D(3); and added Subparagraphs D(4) and D(5).

**The 1996 amendment**, effective for appeals filed after July 1, 1996, rewrote the rule to the extent that a detailed analysis is impracticable.

**Time for appeal is when order is filed.** - The term "entry" as used in Subsection A of Rule 2-705 NMRA and the terms "rendered" and "issued" in 35-13-1 NMSA 1978 are synonymous with the time a judgment or decision is "filed" with the court clerk's office. Thus, the time for an appeal begins to run when the order is filed. *Trujillo v. Serrano*, 117 N.M. 273, 871 P.2d 369 (1994) (decided prior to 1994 amendments).

**Late filing of appeal.** - Because timely filing of an appeal is a mandatory precondition rather than an absolute jurisdictional requirement, a trial court may, under unusual circumstances, use its discretion and entertain an appeal even though it is not timely filed. The decision to dismiss an appeal is extreme and must be determined on a case-by-case basis. *Trujillo v. Serrano*, 117 N.M. 273, 871 P.2d 369 (1994).

**Court error may excuse late appeal.** - One unusual circumstance which would warrant permitting an untimely appeal is if the delay is a result of judicial error. To deny a party the constitutional right to an appeal because of a mistake on the part of the court runs against the most basic precepts of justice and fairness. *Trujillo v. Serrano*, 117 N.M. 273, 871 P.2d 369 (1994).

**Magistrate's continuing control over civil judgments expires 15 days after entry of judgment.** *State v. Ramirez*, 97 N.M. 125, 637 P.2d 556 (1981).

**Rule 1-006E held inapplicable.** - A party notified by mail of a judgment entered against him in magistrate court who filed a notice of appeal 16 days later could not take advantage of the three-day extension provision of Subdivision (e) of Rule 6 (now see Paragraph E of Rule 1-006), N.M.R. Civ. P. Socorro Livestock Mkt., Inc. v. Orona, 92 N.M. 236, 586 P.2d 317 (1978).

**Paragraph B of Rule 1-041 held inapplicable.** - Rule 41(b) (now see Paragraph B of Rule 1-041), N.M.R. Civ. P., is inapplicable where a district court dismisses an appeal from a magistrate court and five months later remands the case for execution of judgment to the original court. Los Alamos County v. Beery, 101 N.M. 157, 679 P.2d 825 (1984).

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 4 Am. Jur. 2d Appellate Review § 85 et seq.

Will questions which might have been, but were not, raised on prior appeal or error, be considered on subsequent appeal or error, 1 A.L.R. 725.

Necessity and sufficiency of election to stand on demurrer to support appeal from decision overruling, 21 A.L.R. 264.

Power of legislature to require appellate court to review evidence, 33 A.L.R. 10.

Power of trial court indirectly to extend time for appeal, 89 A.L.R. 941, 149 A.L.R. 740.

Judgment or order dismissing action as against one defendant as subject of appeal or error before disposition of case as against codefendant, 114 A.L.R. 759.

Abandonment of appeal or right of appeal by commencement or prosecution to judgment of another action, 115 A.L.R. 121.

Right of public officer or board to appeal from judicial decision affecting his or its order or decision, 117 A.L.R. 216.

Provision for future accounting as affecting finality of judgment or decree for purposes of review, 3 A.L.R.2d 342.

Motion or petition for rehearing in court below as affecting time within which appellate proceedings must be taken or instituted, 10 A.L.R.2d 1075.

Bastardy proceedings, right to appeal from order or judgment entered in, 18 A.L.R.2d 948.

Amendment of judgment as affecting time for taking or prosecuting appellate review proceedings, 21 A.L.R.2d 285.

Appellate review at instance of plaintiff who has requested, induced or consented to dismissal or nonsuit, 23 A.L.R.2d 664.

Sexual psychopathy, appealability of adjudication as to, 24 A.L.R.2d 350.

Defeated party's payment or satisfaction of, or other compliance with civil judgment as barring his right to appeal, 39 A.L.R.2d 153.

Appealability of order or judgment awarding or denying costs but making no other adjudication, 54 A.L.R.2d 927.

Exclusion or inclusion of terminal Sunday or holiday in computing time for taking or perfecting appellate review, 61 A.L.R.2d 482.

Acceptance of new trial as precluding appellate review of order granting it, 67 A.L.R.2d 191.

Full relief sought, right of winning party to appeal from judgment granting him, 69 A.L.R.2d 701.

Right to appellate review of consent judgment, 69 A.L.R.2d 755.

Formal requirements of judgment or order as regards appealability, 73 A.L.R.2d 250.

Appealability of order vacating, or refusing to vacate, approval of settlement of infant's tort claim, 77 A.L.R.2d 801.

Reviewability, on appeal from final judgment, of interlocutory order, as affected by fact that order was separately appealable, 79 A.L.R.2d 1352.

Void judgment, appealability of, 81 A.L.R.2d 537.

Appealability of order or decree compelling or refusing to compel arbitration, 94 A.L.R.2d 1071, 6 A.L.R.4th 652.

Dismissal of appeal or writ of error for want of prosecution as bar to subsequent appeal, 96 A.L.R.2d 312.

Appealability of judgment confirming or setting aside arbitration award, 7 A.L.R.3d 608.

Default judgment, appealability of order setting aside, or refusing to set aside, 8 A.L.R.3d 1272.

Executor's or administrator's right to appeal from order granting or denying distribution, 16 A.L.R.3d 1274.

Party's acceptance of remittitur in lower court as affecting his right to complain in appellate court as to amount of damages for personal injury, 16 A.L.R.3d 1327.

Bankruptcy, right of creditor who has not filed timely petition for review of referee's order to participate in appeal secured by another creditor, 22 A.L.R.3d 914.

Contempt adjudication or conviction, appealability of, 33 A.L.R.3d 448.

Contempt adjudication or conviction as subject to review, other than by appeal or writ of error, 33 A.L.R.3d 589.

Appealability of state court's order or decree compelling or refusing to compel arbitration, 6 A.L.R.4th 652.

Modern status of state court rules governing entry of judgment on multiple claims, 80 A.L.R.4th 707, 89 A.L.R. Fed. 514.

4 C.J.S. Appeal and Error § 1 et seq.

## **ARTICLE 8 SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS**

### **2-801. Writs of execution.**

**A. Issuance of writs of execution.** Unless the judgment has been stayed, the clerk of the court shall issue a writ of execution for seizure of property to satisfy a judgment on an underlying dispute:

(1) if the judgment debtor is not a natural person, at any time after the filing of the judgment;

(2) if the judgment debtor is a natural person:

(a) upon filing of either a certificate by an attorney for the judgment creditor or an affidavit by the judgment creditor stating that:

(i) the judgment creditor served the judgment debtor with a notice of right to claim exemptions as required by this rule; and

(ii) the judgment debtor has not filed a claim of exemption for the property to be seized and sold as provided by this rule;

(b) upon entry of an order finding that the property to be seized and sold is not exempt from execution; or

(c) upon filing of a waiver of the right to claim a statutory exemption from execution. The judgment debtor's written waiver shall specifically describe the property which may be seized and sold to satisfy the debt.

**B. Service of notice of right to claim exemptions from execution.** If the judgment debtor is a natural person, unless a shorter time is ordered by the court, not later than ten (10) days prior to the date of seizure of property to be sold under a writ of execution, the judgment creditor shall serve upon each judgment debtor a notice of right to claim exemptions and a claim of exemption form in the following manner:

(1) if the judgment debtor has entered an appearance in the proceeding, service shall be made and proof of service filed with the court in the manner provided by Rule 2-203;

(2) if the judgment debtor has not entered an appearance in the proceeding, service shall be made and return of service filed in the same manner as provided by Rule 2-202 for service of the summons and complaint; or

(3) if service cannot be made on the judgment debtor pursuant to Subparagraph (1) or (2) of this Paragraph, service shall be made on the judgment debtor in a manner reasonably calculated to ensure actual notice of the right to claim exemptions.

**C. Claim of exemptions from execution.** Within ten (10) days after service of a notice of right to claim exemptions, a judgment debtor who is a natural person may claim a statutory exemption by filing a claim of exemption form with the court.

**D. Service of claim of exemption.** At the time of filing of the claim of exemption, the judgment debtor shall serve a copy of the claim of exemption on the judgment creditor.

**E. Failure to file claim of exemption.** If the judgment debtor fails to file a claim of exemption within ten (10) days after service of the notice of the right to claim exemptions, the judgment debtor shall be deemed to have waived the right to claim an exemption.

**F. Dispute of claimed exemption.** Within ten (10) days after service of a claim of exemption on the judgment creditor pursuant to Paragraph D of this rule, the judgment creditor may dispute any claimed exemption and request a hearing. If the judgment creditor does not dispute a claimed exemption, the property shall be exempt and the judgment creditor may proceed against any other property as provided in Paragraph A of this rule. If the judgment creditor files a notice of dispute and request for hearing, the judgment creditor shall at the time of filing of the notice serve a copy on the judgment debtor.

**G. Notice of hearing on dispute.** If the judgment creditor files a notice of dispute and request for hearing, the court shall promptly give notice of the date and time of the hearing to the parties.

**H. Hearing on disputed claim of exemptions.** Within ten (10) days after the filing of a notice of dispute and request for hearing, the court shall hold a hearing on the disputed claim. At the hearing the court may determine the merits of the dispute or may postpone decision pending such discovery as may be required to determine the status of the property.

**I. Issuance and executions of writ.** A writ of execution issued pursuant to Paragraph A of this rule shall be served by the sheriff within sixty (60) days from the date issued. If an execution is not served within that time, upon request of the judgment creditor, a second or subsequent writ shall be issued by the clerk. A writ of execution issued pursuant to this rule may be served in the manner provided by law.

**J. Sheriff's sale.** A sale shall be conducted in the manner provided by law.

**K. Form of writs, notices and claim of exemptions.** Applications for writs of execution, writs of execution, answers, notices of right to claim exemptions, claims of exemptions, notices of dispute of claimed exemptions and request for hearing, and judgments shall be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court.

[Withdrawn and new rule adopted effective January 1, 1996.]

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For exemptions in civil actions, see 35-4-2 NMSA 1978.

For right to execution, issuance, levy and sale, see 39-4-1 NMSA 1978.

For docketing money judgments, see 39-1-6 NMSA 1978.

For sales under execution and foreclosure, see 39-5-1 NMSA 1978 et seq.

For forms on garnishment and writs of execution, see Rules 4-801 to 4-816 NMRA 1997.

For writ of execution, see Rule 4-801 NMRA 1997.

For notice of right to claim exemptions, see Rule 4-808A NMRA 1997.

For claim of exemption, see Rule 4-803 NMRA 1997.

For order on claim of exemption, see Rule 4-804 NMRA 1997.

For notice of dispute and request for hearing, see Rule 4-810A NMRA 1997.



**The 1992 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1992, rewrote this rule to the extent that a detailed comparison would be impracticable.

**The 1996 amendment**, effective January 1, 1996, deleted "Garnishment" from the rule heading and rewrote the rule.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 30 Am. Jur. 2d Executions §§ 58 et seq., 643 et seq.; 47 Am. Jur. 2d Judicial Sales §§ 65, 82.

Attachment or execution creditor as purchaser within rule that first of two purchasers to obtain possession will prevail, 21 A.L.R. 1031.

Judicial, execution, or tax sale on election day, holiday or Sunday, 58 A.L.R. 1273.

Presence of chattels at place of sale as a condition of a judicial or execution sale, 69 A.L.R. 1194.

Validity of judicial, execution, tax or other public sale as affected by the particular point in courthouse or other place identified by notice, or designated by statute or by mortgage or trust deed, at which the sale was made, or by indefiniteness of notice as regards that point, 120 A.L.R. 660.

Interest of vendee under executory contract as subject to execution, judgment, lien, or attachment, 1 A.L.R.2d 727.

Irregularities or defects in execution or judicial sale, estoppel of or waiver by parties or participants regarding, 2 A.L.R.2d 6.

"Public sale," what constitutes, 4 A.L.R.2d 575.

Statutory provisions respecting registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states as affecting priority of execution lien over lien of chattel mortgage or conditional sale contract, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

Duties, rights and remedies between attorney and client where attorney purchases property of client at or through tax, execution or judicial sale, 20 A.L.R.2d 1280.

Applicability of sales tax to judicial or bankruptcy sales, 27 A.L.R.2d 1219.

Right of creditors of life insured as to options or other benefits available to him during his lifetime, 37 A.L.R.2d 268.

Motor vehicle as exempt from seizure for debt, 37 A.L.R.2d 714.

Note or bond, execution or similar process in action on, not resulting in sale of mortgaged property, as precluding foreclosure of real estate mortgage, 37 A.L.R.2d 959.

Part payment or promise to pay judgment as affecting time for execution, 45 A.L.R.2d 967.

Appeal or writ of error, ruling on motion to quash execution as ground of, 59 A.L.R.2d 692.

Mere rendition, or formal entry or docketing, of judgment as prerequisite to issuance of valid execution thereon, 65 A.L.R.2d 1162.

Time of equitable conversion of real estate sold under and by court order, 66 A.L.R.2d 1266.

Real estate mortgage executed by one of joint tenants as enforceable after his death, 67 A.L.R.2d 999.

Solid mineral royalty as real or personal property, 68 A.L.R.2d 728.

Interest of spouse in estate by entireties as subject to judicial sale in satisfaction of his or her individual debt, 75 A.L.R.2d 1172.

Judgment lien, issuance or levy of execution as extending period of, 77 A.L.R.2d 1064.

Propriety of accepting check or promissory note in satisfaction of bid at execution or judicial sale had for cash, 86 A.L.R.2d 292.

Court or place of appearance, sufficiency of designation of in original civil process, 93 A.L.R.2d 376.

Inclusion or exclusion of first and last days in computing the time for performance of an act or event which must take place a certain number of days before a known future date, 98 A.L.R.2d 1331.

Construction and effect of provision for execution sale on short notice, or sale in advance of judgment under writ of attachment, where property involved is subject to decay or depreciation, 3 A.L.R.3d 593.

Mistake or error in middle initial or middle name of party as vitiating or invalidating civil process, summons or the like, 6 A.L.R.3d 1179.

Death of creditor or obligee, validity and effect of agreement that debt or legal obligation contemporaneously or subsequently incurred shall be canceled by, 11 A.L.R.3d 1427.

Joint bank account as subject to attachment, garnishment or execution by creditor of one of the joint depositors, 11 A.L.R.3d 1465.

Family allowance from decedent's estate as exempt from attachment, garnishment, execution and foreclosure, 27 A.L.R.3d 863.

Modification of judgment, execution sale as affected by, 32 A.L.R.3d 1019.

What is "necessary" furniture entitled to exemption from seizure for debt, 41 A.L.R.3d 607.

Wrongful execution against business property, injury to credit standing, reputation, solvency or profit potential as elements of damage resulting from, 55 A.L.R.3d 911.

33 C.J.S. Executions §§ 1, 2, 63, 69, 211.

## **2-802. Garnishment.**

**A. Garnishment procedure.** After the filing of the judgment on the underlying dispute and upon application of the judgment creditor, the clerk of the court shall issue a writ of garnishment.

**B. Service of writ of garnishment.** A writ of garnishment issued pursuant to this rule shall be served by the judgment creditor on the garnishee wherever the garnishee may be found in the State of New Mexico. The writ shall be served and return of service filed in the same manner as provided by Rule 2-202 for service of the summons and complaint.

**C. Service of additional forms on garnishee.** In addition to the writ, the following forms shall be served by the judgment creditor on the garnishee:

(1) a copy of the application for writ of garnishment and the writ of garnishment; and

(2) unless the garnishment is for wages, a copy of the notice of right to claim exemptions and a copy of the claim of exemption form.

**D. Answer by garnishee.** The garnishee shall answer the writ of garnishment within twenty (20) days of service as required by Section 35-12-4 NMSA 1978.

**E. Appearance by garnishee.** A garnishee may appear in person in any garnishment proceeding. If the garnishee is a partnership, the garnishee may appear by one of its general partners. If the garnishee is a corporation, an officer, director or general manager of the corporation may answer the writ; however, any other appearance shall be through an attorney representing the garnishee corporation. The court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the garnishee.

**F. Service on judgment debtor by garnishee.** On or before the fourth business day following service of the writ of garnishment, the garnishee shall mail or otherwise deliver to each named judgment debtor or to the judgment debtor's attorney of record a copy of the forms served on the garnishee by the judgment creditor pursuant to Paragraph C of this rule.

**G. Exemption from garnishment.** A judgment debtor who is a natural person:

(1) shall receive an exemption from garnishment of wages to the extent provided by law; and

(2) may claim a statutory exemption from garnishment other than wages by filing with the court a claim of exemption within ten (10) days after service by the garnishee of notice of the right to claim exemptions.

**H. Service of the claim of exemption.** The judgment debtor shall serve a copy of the completed and signed claim of exemption form upon the judgment creditor and the garnishee in the manner provided by Rule 2-203.

**I. Failure to file claim of exemption other than wages.** If the judgment debtor fails to file a claim of exemption within ten (10) days after service of the notice of the right to claim exemptions, the judgment debtor shall be deemed to have waived the right to claim a statutory exemption other than wages.

**J. Notice of dispute.** Within ten (10) days after service on the judgment creditor of a claim of exemption, the judgment creditor may dispute any claimed exemption by filing a notice of dispute and request for hearing with the court. If the judgment creditor fails to file the notice of dispute and request for hearing within the time permitted, the judgment debtor's claim of exemption is granted. If the judgment creditor files a notice of dispute, the judgment creditor shall at the time of filing of the notice serve a copy of the notice of dispute and request for hearing on the judgment debtor.

**K. Notice of hearing on dispute.** If the judgment creditor files a notice of dispute and request for hearing, the court shall promptly give notice of the date and time of the hearing to the judgment creditor, garnishee and the judgment debtor. The judgment creditor shall serve a copy of the notice of dispute and request for hearing on the judgment debtor and the garnishee.

**L. Hearing.** A hearing on the claim of exemption shall be held within ten (10) days after the filing of a notice of dispute and request for hearing. At the hearing, the court must determine the merits of the dispute unless the court postpones decision pending such discovery as may be required to determine the status of the property.

**M. Judgment on writ of garnishment.** If a notice of dispute and request for hearing is filed pursuant to this rule, judgment on the writ of garnishment shall not enter until a hearing has been held on the dispute. If the court finds that the property is not exempt

from garnishment, the court shall enter a judgment on the writ of garnishment requiring the garnishee to turn over to the judgment creditor the property or amount of money set forth in the judgment.

**N. Form of writs, notices and claim of exemptions.** Applications for writs of garnishment, writs, answers, notices of right to claim exemptions, claims of exemptions, notices of dispute of claimed exemptions and request for hearing, and judgments shall be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court.

[As adopted, effective January 1, 1996.]

## **ANNOTATIONS**

**Cross-references.** - For application for writ of garnishment, see Rule 4-805 NMRA 1997.

For writ of garnishment, see Rule 4-806 NMRA 1997.

For answer by garnishee, see Rule 4-807 NMRA 1997.

For notice of right to claim exemptions, garnishment, see Rule 4-808 NMRA 1997.

For claims of exemption, see Rule 4-809 NMRA 1997.

For notice of dispute and request for hearing, see Rule 4-810A NMRA 1997.

For judgment on writ of garnishment and claim of exemption, see Rule 4-812 NMRA 1997.

**Effective dates.** - Pursuant to a court order dated November 6, 1995, this rule is effective January 1, 1996.

**Compiler's note.** - Former Rule 2-802 was recompiled as Rule 2-803 NMRA effective January 1, 1996.

### **2-803. Pre-judgment writs of attachment; exemptions.**

**A. Application for issuance of writs.** Prejudgment writs of attachment may be issued by the court upon application of a party pursuant to Sections 35-9-1 to 35-9-8 NMSA 1978.

**B. Exemptions; how claimed.** Exemptions of personal property provided by Sections 42-10-1 to 42-10-7 NMSA 1978 also apply to attachment proceedings. If the party is a natural person, notice of a right to claim exemptions shall be given as provided by Rule 2-801. A claim of exemption may be filed and served in the same manner and time as required in execution proceedings. The petitioner may dispute the claimed exemption in

the same manner and time provided for a dispute on a claim of exemption in an execution proceeding.

**C. Hearing.** If the petitioner disputes a claimed exemption, the court shall proceed in the manner provided for hearings on claims of exemptions in execution proceedings.

**D. Appeal from judgment.** If an order on the claim of exemption is rendered in an attachment proceeding after expiration of the time for appeal on the main issue in the action, either party aggrieved by the order on the claim of exemption may appeal from that judgment to the district court in the same manner as other appeals from final judgments are taken. If an order on the claim of exemption is rendered before judgment on the main issue in the cause, the order on the claim of exemption may be appealed to the district court within fifteen (15) days after entry of the judgment on the merits as provided by these rules.

[As amended, effective July 1, 1988; July 1, 1992; as recompiled and amended effective January 1, 1996.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For exemptions in civil actions, see 35-4-2 NMSA 1978.

For claim of exemptions, see Rule 4-803 NMRA 1997.

For order of exemption, see Rule 4-804 NMRA 1997.

**The 1992 amendment,** effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1992, rewrote this rule to the extent that a detailed comparison would be impracticable.

**The 1996 amendment,** effective January 1, 1996, recompiled this rule, which was formerly Rule 2-802 NMRA 1997, rewrote the rule heading, added Paragraph A and redesignated the remaining paragraphs accordingly, rewrote paragraphs B and C, and substituted the language following "claim of exemption" for "issue shall be decided by the district court" at the end of Paragraph D.

**Compiler's note.** - Former Rule 2-803 was recompiled as Rule 2-804 NMRA effective January 1, 1996.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - Debtor's exemption of personalty as attaching to proceeds of sale or exchange thereof, 119 A.L.R. 467.

Motor vehicle as exempt from seizure for debt, 37 A.L.R.2d 714.

Family allowance from decedent's estate as exempt from attachment, garnishment, execution and foreclosure, 27 A.L.R.3d 863.

What is "necessary" furniture entitled to exemption from seizure for debt, 41 A.L.R.3d 607.

49 C.J.S. Judgments § 471.

## **2-804. Judgment; supplementary proceedings.**

**A. Examinations in aid of judgment or execution.** After the filing of a judgment for the payment of money, upon request of the judgment creditor or the judgment creditor's successor in interest, the clerk may issue a subpoena directing any person with knowledge that will aid in enforcement of or execution on the judgment, including the judgment debtor, to appear before the court to respond to questions relating to that knowledge. The subpoena shall be served in the same manner as other subpoenas except that it shall be served not less than three (3) days prior to the date the examination is to be conducted.

**B. Statements.** Any person with information which is subject to discovery shall give a statement relating to the assets of a judgment debtor. If the statement is to be obtained from the judgment debtor or from a person who refuses to voluntarily give a statement, the judgment creditor may obtain a statement by serving a written "notice of statement" upon the person to be examined and upon the judgment debtor not less than five (5) days before the date scheduled for the statement. The notice will state the time and place for taking of the statement. A subpoena may also be served to secure the presence of the person to be examined or the materials to be examined during the statement.

**C. Depositions; interrogatories.** The judgment creditor may serve interrogatories upon or take the deposition of the person whom the judgment creditor desires to examine in the manner provided by the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts.

**D. Notice and service of pleadings.** A party desiring to take the deposition or statement of any person shall give notice to every other party to the action. Notice of the taking of depositions, issuance of a subpoena or the taking of a statement pursuant to this rule is not required if the judgment debtor failed to appear and a default judgment was entered.

**E. Docketing judgment in district court.** Upon the expiration of the time for appeal, the judgment creditor may file in the district court of the county in which the magistrate issued the judgment a certified copy of the judgment. Upon payment of the prescribed docket fee, the clerk of the district court shall docket the judgment, in the same manner in which judgments of the district court are docketed, and shall issue a transcript of judgment as though the judgment had been issued by the district court. The docketing of a judgment in the district court pursuant to this paragraph shall not prevent the magistrate court from issuing writs and other orders in aid of enforcement of the judgment of the magistrate court.

[As amended, effective July 1, 1988; July 1, 1992; as amended and recompiled, effective January 1, 1996.]

## ANNOTATIONS

**Cross-references.** - For appeal from final judgments of magistrate court, see Rule 2-705 NMRA.

For exemptions in civil actions, see 35-4-2 NMSA 1978.

For claim of exemptions, see Rule 4-803 NMRA.

For order of exemption, see Rule 4-804 NMRA.

**The 1992 amendment**, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1992, made gender neutral substitutions throughout the rule; in Paragraph B, substituted "to examine in the manner provided" for "to examine, and such deposition may be taken in the manner now or hereafter provided"; and added Paragraph E.

**The 1996 amendment**, effective January 1, 1996, recompiled this rule, which was formerly Rule 2-803, and rewrote the rule to the extent that a detailed comparison is impracticable.

**Withdrawals.** - Pursuant to a court order dated May 26, 1988, Former Rule 2-804 NMRA 1997, relating to supplementary proceedings in aid of judgment, was withdrawn, effective for cases filed in the magistrate courts on or after July 1, 1988.

**Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references.** - 30 Am. Jur. 2d Executions § 643 et seq.

Debtor's exemption of personalty as attaching to proceeds of sale or exchange thereof, 119 A.L.R. 467.

Motor vehicle as exempt from seizure for debt, 37 A.L.R.2d 714.

Family allowance from decedent's estate as exempt from attachment, garnishment, execution and foreclosure, 27 A.L.R.3d 863.

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49 C.J.S. Judgments § 471.

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