

# Table of Contents

## CHAPTER 1. OVERVIEW

### I. PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION, IN GENERAL

- § 1:1 Texas Personal Injury Practice Guide coverage
- § 1:2 Initial considerations
- § 1:3 Theories of liability
- § 1:4 Evaluation of damages

### II. THE PROGRESS OF A PERSONAL INJURY CASE

- § 1:5 Prelitigation investigation, analysis, and employment of experts
- § 1:6 Settling the case
- § 1:7 Filing suit
- § 1:8 Discovery
- § 1:9 Arbitration
- § 1:10 Preparing for trial; pretrial
- § 1:11 Trial
- § 1:12 Proving the case
- § 1:13 Submitting the case
- § 1:14 Judgment
- § 1:15 Posttrial motions and appeals
- § 1:16 Collecting the judgment

### III. STRUCTURE AND USE OF THIS PRACTICE GUIDE

- § 1:17 Using the practice guide

## CHAPTER 2. INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### I. THE INITIAL CLIENT INTERVIEW

- § 2:1 Introduction; goals and importance of the first interview
- § 2:2 Introduction; develop attorney-client attitudes of trust and confidence
- § 2:3 Introduction; considerations when contacted by injured claimant
- § 2:4 Introduction; considerations when retained to defend a party

- § 2:5 Introduction; considerations when engaged by insurance carrier
- § 2:6 Response to initial client contact
- § 2:7 —Schedule immediate appointment
- § 2:8 —Preliminary phone advice
- § 2:9 — —Don't discuss the incident with the other party, or with that party's representative (usually an insurance company investigator)
- § 2:10 — —If injury, make arrangements to see a doctor immediately
- § 2:11 — —Memorialize the sequence of events
- § 2:12 — —Take precautionary steps to preserve proof
- § 2:13 — — —Tangible evidence
- § 2:14 — — —Evidence of the injuries
- § 2:15 — —Advise claimant to bring to the meeting all the documents and tangible items (if available)
- § 2:16 —Follow up with confirmation letter
- § 2:17 Considerations before the initial interview
- § 2:18 Use of "information report" at first office consultation—Purpose
- § 2:19 —General contents
- § 2:20 — —Claimant's background information
- § 2:21 — —Description of the accident
- § 2:22 — —Description of the injuries
- § 2:23 — —Identity of potential defendants
- § 2:24 — —Identity of potential third party joint tortfeasors or indemnitors
- § 2:25 — —Identity of potential witnesses
- § 2:26 — —Identity of all accident reports
- § 2:27 — —Identity and scope of claimant's insurance coverage
- § 2:28 — —Identity of all health care providers as a result of the injury
- § 2:29 —Methodology
- § 2:30 Information to elicit during interview
- § 2:31 —Claimant's account of incident
- § 2:32 — —Tape recording
- § 2:33 — —Privileged communication and limitations on that privilege
- § 2:34 —Possible defenses
- § 2:35 —Claimant's account of injuries
- § 2:36 —Claimant's medical and claim history
- § 2:37 — —Prior injuries
- § 2:38 — —Prior claims
- § 2:39 —Claimant's employment and earnings history, including lost earnings to date

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 2:40 —Verification of police and other accident reports
- § 2:41 Review claimant’s insurance coverage
- § 2:42 —Claims under own insurance
- § 2:43 —Evaluating subrogation potential and effect on case
- § 2:44 —Evaluating damages
- § 2:45 —Ascertaining potential “bad faith” or unfair dealing liability
- § 2:46 Discuss workers’ compensation benefits
- § 2:47 Review defendant’s insurance
- § 2:48 Discuss fee arrangement

## **II. INITIAL EVALUATION OF THE CASE: DECISION TO ACCEPT OR REJECT EMPLOYMENT OR UNDERTAKE FURTHER EVALUATION OF CLAIM**

- § 2:49 Three alternatives
- § 2:50 —No potential recovery
- § 2:51 — —Ethical obligation to decline meritless actions
- § 2:52 — —No malpractice liability for declining nonmeritorious case
- § 2:53 — — —Risk of sanctions for pursuing a meritless cause
- § 2:54 — —Caution: confirm rejection in writing including stating statute of limitations or repose
- § 2:55 — —Statutes of limitation and statutes of repose; interaction
- § 2:56 — —Identifying statutes of limitation and statutes of repose
- § 2:57 —Case with clear value warranting legal action
- § 2:58 —Case with potential value
- § 2:59 — —Caution: document limited scope of undertaking
- § 2:60 — —Caution: early claim filing may be required to preserve right to sue a public entity
- § 2:61 Factors to consider in making decision
- § 2:62 —Liability vs. damages
- § 2:63 — —Probability of establishing third-party liability
- § 2:64 — —Extent of damages
- § 2:65 Balancing the liability and damage factors
- § 2:66 —Breaking down the balancing factors through a “decision science” approach
- § 2:67 —Approach if certain information is missing
- § 2:68 —Probability of satisfying a recovery
- § 2:69 —Claimant’s personality
- § 2:70 —Complications of the case

- § 2:71 — —Costs
- § 2:72 — — —Example
- § 2:73 — —Competence and case referral
- § 2:74 — — —Competence required
- § 2:75 — — —Fee sharing with specialist; client consent required
- § 2:76 — — —Assistance from other attorneys; client consent required
- § 2:77 — —Time-bar problems
- § 2:78 —Subrogation rights and liens of workers' compensation carriers, health care providers, etc
- § 2:79 — —Medicare example
- § 2:80 — —Insolvent insurers
- § 2:81 Conflict of interest limitations on accepting employment
- § 2:82 — —Interests of prior or existing clients
- § 2:83 —Professional relationship with adverse party
- § 2:84 — —Adverse party currently a client
- § 2:85 — —Adverse party a former client—Disqualification because of breach of confidence
- § 2:86 — —Adverse party currently a client—Test of breach of confidence
- § 2:87 — — —Conflict may disqualify entire firm
- § 2:88 — —New firm member with conflict
- § 2:89 — — —Actual confidential knowledge
- § 2:90 — — —Limitation—Balancing of interests
- § 2:91 — —Business or other relationship with adverse party
- § 2:92 — — —Compare—Business dealings with client
- § 2:93 — —Attorney a potential witness
- § 2:94 — — —Attorney a potential witness for own client
- § 2:95 — — —Examples
- § 2:96 — — —Exceptions
- § 2:97 — — —Attorney likely to be called as witness by adverse party
- § 2:98 —Special conflict of interest concerns affecting representation of insured defendants
- § 2:99 — —Potential conflicts
- § 2:100 — — —Conflict from possibility of excess recovery
- § 2:101 — — —Conflict from defense “with reservation of rights”
- § 2:102 — — —Insurance defense counsel’s obligations in the event of a conflict
- § 2:103 — — —Conflict entitles insured to counsel of own choosing at insurer’s expense

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 2:104 — —Representing multiple parties
- § 2:105 — —Attorney’s relationship to judge
- § 2:106 Claimant’s consultations with other attorneys as impacting upon employment decision

### **III. FORMATION OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP: THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

- § 2:107 In general
- § 2:108 — —Need for written agreement
- § 2:109 — —Verify ability to represent
- § 2:110 — —Make sure your client reads and understands the agreement
- § 2:111 — —Ambiguities favor client
- § 2:112 — —Contents of attorney-client agreement
- § 2:113 Work to be performed
- § 2:114 — —The “unknown” precludes specificity
- § 2:115 — —Don’t guarantee results
- § 2:116 — —Duration of undertaking
- § 2:117 — —General rule
- § 2:118 — —Obligation to prosecute or defend an appeal
- § 2:119 Attorney’s fees provisions—General ethical limitations on amount of fee
- § 2:120 — —Clearly excessive fees
- § 2:121 — —“Illegal” fees
- § 2:122 — —Reasonableness limitation
- § 2:123 — — —“Risk” factor in contingency contracts may justify larger fee
- § 2:124 — — —“Reasonableness” of fee-sharing agreements
- § 2:125 — —Cannot unilaterally collect more than agreed to
- § 2:126 — —Agreements in bodily injury cases are typically for a contingent fee
- § 2:127 — —Rationale for the contingent fee
- § 2:128 — — —Provides source of payment
- § 2:129 — — —Psychological “plus”
- § 2:130 — — —Risk Premium
- § 2:131 — —Compare—Alternative fee arrangements may be appropriate in special cases
- § 2:132 — —Guidelines regarding requirements of contingency fee contracts
- § 2:133 — —Statutory limits on contingency fee rates
- § 2:134 — —Federal tort claim cases
- § 2:135 — —Workers’ compensation claims
- § 2:136 — — —Obtaining approval of attorney’s fees

- § 2:137 — — —Injuries prior to January 1, 1991
- § 2:138 — — —Minors' claims
- § 2:139 — — —Agreement cannot preclude settlement
- § 2:140 — — —Contingency contract with defendant-client
- § 2:141 — — —Compare—Defending claimant cross-defendant on a contingency fee
- § 2:142 — — —Writing and signing requirements
- § 2:143 — — —Voidable contracts
- § 2:144 — — —Types of contingency fee arrangements
- § 2:145 — — —The “straight contingency fee agreement”
- § 2:146 — — —The “graduated contingency fee agreement”
- § 2:147 — — —Example
- § 2:148 — — —Comment
- § 2:149 — — —The “declining contingency fee agreement”
- § 2:150 — — —The “net contingency fee agreement”
- § 2:151 — — —Attorney's lien agreements—Contractual “charging” liens
- § 2:152 — — —Nature of the lien
- § 2:153 — — —Compare—“Retaining liens”
- § 2:154 — — —Creating the lien
- § 2:155 — — —Provision incorporated into employment agreement
- § 2:156 — — —Separate lien agreement
- § 2:157 — — —Compare—Statutory attorney's liens
- § 2:158 — — —Priority of lien
- § 2:159 — — —Lien by statute vs. lien by contract
- § 2:160 — — —Fees in the event of premature attorney discharge or withdrawal
- § 2:161 — — —Contract recovery if agreement fixes fees
- § 2:162 — — —Quantum meruit recovery where contract does not provide for early termination
- § 2:163 — — —Entitlement to entire contract fee
- § 2:164 — — —Limitation—In contingency fee cases, “contingency” still controls
- § 2:165 — — —Pro-rata sharing where several quantum meruit claims
- § 2:166 — — —Enforcement of discharged attorney's lien
- § 2:167 — — —Competing lien rights
- § 2:168 — — —Compare—Prohibited tactics to secure fee payment
- § 2:169 — — —No right to fees where attorney “abandons” the case
- § 2:170 Provisions for payment of costs
- § 2:171 — — —Authority to incur expenses
- § 2:172 — — —Prior approval of extraordinary expenses

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 2:173 —Client’s responsibility for payment
- § 2:174 — —Advances from client
- § 2:175 — —Advances to client
- § 2:176 —Recovery of advances by discharged counsel
- § 2:177 —Ethical consideration
- § 2:178 —Payment from ultimate recovery—Method of computation
- § 2:179 Division of attorney-client authority
- § 2:180 —Procedural
- § 2:181 —“Substantive” decisions belong to the client
- § 2:182 —Form of agreement
- § 2:183 — —“Letter agreements”

## **IV. ADVICE TO CLIENT UPON ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT; EXECUTION OF NECESSARY AUTHORIZATIONS**

- § 2:184 Maintain confidentiality
- § 2:185 —Communicating with adverse party
- § 2:186 — —Written or recorded statement by client
- § 2:187 — —What if a statement has already been given the opposition
- § 2:188 —Communicating with potential witnesses
- § 2:189 —Briefing client on Texas Lawyer’s Creed
- § 2:190 —Notifying client of the State Bar grievance process
- § 2:191 Discussing effect of injuries can be advantageous
- § 2:192 Emphasize that client’s integrity is at stake
- § 2:193 Claimant’s medical status
- § 2:194 —Emphasize importance of medical care
- § 2:195 — —Failure to obtain or continue treatment can be used as evidence of no injury
- § 2:196 — — —May also be used to reduce damages
- § 2:197 — — —Compare—Do not encourage unnecessary treatment
- § 2:198 — —Evaluation of claim depends in part on medical bills incurred
- § 2:199 — —Medical reimbursement from claimant’s insurance carrier or other sources
- § 2:200 — —Claimant should not feel embarrassed about substantial medical bills
- § 2:201 —Selecting a physician
- § 2:202 Avoid personal referrals
- § 2:203 Discourage other forms of treatment
- § 2:204 Claimant’s employment status
- § 2:205 —Explain that lost earnings are compensable damages

- § 2:206 —When to return to work
- § 2:207 —Compare—Do not encourage unnecessary absence from employment
- § 2:208 Realistic expectations
- § 2:209 —Discuss applicable law
- § 2:210 — —Example
- § 2:211 — —Where applicable, alert client to effect of comparative responsibility
- § 2:212 —Overview of compensable damages
- § 2:213 — —Example
- § 2:214 — —Advise claimant that there is no guarantee of actual recovery
- § 2:215 Defer dollar valuation of the claim
- § 2:216 —Explain the uncertainties of litigation
- § 2:217 —Alert client to length of time involved
- § 2:218 —Matters not to discuss
- § 2:219 — —Chances of success
- § 2:220 — —Amount that will be recovered
- § 2:221 Obtain relevant authorizations
- § 2:222 —Client’s medical records
- § 2:223 —Client’s employment records from past and present employers
- § 2:224 —Any other documents that may be helpful in prosecuting the claim on client’s behalf
- § 2:225 Keeping records
- § 2:226 —Bills and correspondence
- § 2:227 —Diary of relevant events
- § 2:228 Stress importance of maintaining contact
- § 2:229 —Use of “quarterly report”
- § 2:230 —Defensive steps
- § 2:231 — —Immediate delivery of all litigation papers
- § 2:232 — —Tender of defense

**V. SETTING UP CLIENT’S FILE**

- § 2:233 Organize the file immediately
- § 2:234 Methodology—Adapt file to nature of the case
- § 2:235 —Single file system for routine cases
- § 2:236 —Supplemental file system as case “grows”
- § 2:237 —Multiple file system in complex cases
- § 2:238 — —Categorized files
- § 2:239 — — —Correspondence file
- § 2:240 — — —Pleadings file
- § 2:241 — — —Discovery file
- § 2:242 — — —Damages file

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 2:243 — — —Liability file
- § 2:244 — —Indexing the files
- § 2:245 Coordinate and implement a docket system
- § 2:246 —Use backup procedures

## VI. CHECKLISTS

- § 2:247 Client interview checklist—Automobile accident
- § 2:248 —Slip-and-fall case
- § 2:249 Potential defendants in medical malpractice case
- § 2:250 Potential defendants in automobile collision case
- § 2:251 Documents the client should bring to the interview
- § 2:252 Considerations before the initial interview and information to be obtained from the client
- § 2:253 Considerations during the initial interview
- § 2:254 Special considerations during the initial interview:  
Time limitations and conflicts
- § 2:255 Checklist—Evaluating client’s injuries
- § 2:256 —Evaluating case following initial interview
- § 2:257 Fee agreement preparation
- § 2:258 Checklist for educating the client about litigation
- § 2:259 Matters counsel should not communicate to the client
- § 2:260 Investigation goals
- § 2:261 Contents of witness statements

## VII. FORMS

- § 2:262 Letter to claimant confirming consultation appointment and preliminary phone advice
- § 2:263 Client information report
- § 2:264 Motion for leave to amend pleading
- § 2:265 Employment-rejection confirmation letter
- § 2:266 —Letter confirming limited investigation undertaking
- § 2:267 Agreement for joint representation and fee sharing
- § 2:268 Conflict of interest disclosure and client consent to representation
- § 2:269 Employment agreement provision regarding work performed
- § 2:270 Employment agreement for “straight” contingency fee
- § 2:271 Employment agreement for “graduated” contingency fee
- § 2:272 Employment agreement provision for “declining” contingency fee
- § 2:273 Employment agreement provision for “net” contingency fee
- § 2:274 Employment agreement provision for attorney’s lien

- § 2:275 Independent lien agreement and assignment
- § 2:276 Employment agreement provision for payment of costs and related expenses
- § 2:277 Employment agreement provision defining attorney-client authority
- § 2:278 Client authorization to obtain medical records
- § 2:279 Client authorization to obtain employment records
- § 2:280 General authorization for release of all relevant documents to attorney
- § 2:281 Client confidential quarterly report to attorney

## **CHAPTER 3. PRELITIGATION INVESTIGATION, ANALYSIS, AND EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS**

### **I. INTRODUCTION—WHY THE “INFORMAL” INVESTIGATION**

- § 3:1 To facilitate decision to undertake representation
- § 3:2 To facilitate effective prosecution or defense of the claim—Plaintiff’s task
- § 3:3 —Defendant’s task

### **II. GENERAL INVESTIGATION TACTICS**

- § 3:4 When to commence investigation
- § 3:5 Who should conduct the investigation—The attorney
- § 3:6 — — Visit the accident scene
- § 3:7 — — Purposes
- § 3:8 — — If possible, take client with you
- § 3:9 — — Photograph and diagram the scene
- § 3:10 — — Confer with expert in appropriate case
- § 3:11 — — Talk to the treating physician
- § 3:12 — — Contemplate thorough examination by the defense
- § 3:13 — — Stress importance of all possibly relevant tests
- § 3:14 — — Inquire about specialists
- § 3:15 — — Advise plaintiff to keep personal records
- § 3:16 — — Determine theories of liability
- § 3:17 — — Determine ability of prospective defendants to respond in damages—Ascertain existence and extent of insurance coverage
- § 3:18 — — First notice to insurance carrier where carrier’s identity known
- § 3:19 — — First notice to potential defendant where carrier identity unknown

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 3:20	—Professional investigators
§ 3:21	— — —Conflict of interest concerns may demand that professionals be used
§ 3:22	— — —Application—Obtaining the witness statements
§ 3:23	— — —Compare—Attorney should conduct witness interviews
§ 3:24	— — —Application—Taking photographs
§ 3:25	— — —Setting the parameters for professional investigation
§ 3:26	— — —Establish your guidelines
§ 3:27	— — —Keep costs in mind—Fix deadlines
§ 3:28	—Client as investigator
§ 3:29	Ascertaining the scope of the investigation
§ 3:30	Particular investigation procedures
§ 3:31	—Photograph the accident scene
§ 3:32	—Diagram the accident scene
§ 3:33	—Obtain and preserve all physical evidence
§ 3:34	— —Notice to custodian
§ 3:35	— —Photographs as a precaution
§ 3:36	—Obtain and examine official investigation reports
§ 3:37	— —Extrapolating pertinent information
§ 3:38	— —Evidentiary use of investigating officer’s reports and opinions
§ 3:39	— —Follow-up interview with investigating officer
§ 3:40	—Obtain and examine all relevant medical reports
§ 3:41	—Obtain and examine employment records
§ 3:42	—Obtain witness statements
§ 3:43	— —Statements from particular witnesses
§ 3:44	— — —Potential adverse parties
§ 3:45	— — —Party not represented by counsel
§ 3:46	— — —Party represented by counsel
§ 3:47	— — —Corporate employees
§ 3:48	— — —Potential adverse witnesses
§ 3:49	— —Statement methodology—Oral vs. written statements
§ 3:50	— —Statements obtained from in-person interviews— Written statement
§ 3:51	— — —Recorded statement
§ 3:52	— — —Statements obtained by letter
§ 3:53	— —Information to elicit by witness statement
§ 3:54	— — —Date and identify the statement
§ 3:55	— — —Identify the witness
§ 3:56	— — —Description of the accident scene
§ 3:57	— — —Where was the witness?
§ 3:58	— — —Explain what occurred

- § 3:59 — — — Describe the surrounding conditions
- § 3:60 — — — Identify the injuries and property damage  
observed
- § 3:61 — — — What statements were made at the site?
- § 3:62 — — — Obtaining “negative statements”
- § 3:63 — — — Locating missing witnesses

### **III. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS WITH PRODUCT LIABILITY INVESTIGATIONS**

- § 3:64 Generally
- § 3:65 Depositions to investigate claims before suit
- § 3:66 — — — When to use
- § 3:67 — — — Purpose
- § 3:68 — — — Procedures to be utilized
- § 3:69 — — — Petition to be allowed to take pre-trial deposition
- § 3:70 — — — Notice
- § 3:71 — — — Hearing
- § 3:72 — — — Procedure
- § 3:73 Obtain the product or its facsimile
- § 3:74 — — — Obtain remnants, if product destroyed
- § 3:75 — — — Product in defendant’s custody
- § 3:76 — — — Discovery to compel production
- § 3:77 — — — Product unavailable
- § 3:78 Research the product history
- § 3:79 — — — Newer products
- § 3:80 — — — Older products
- § 3:81 — — — Design changes and other subsequent “remedial  
measures”
- § 3:82 Determine if product has caused injury to others
- § 3:83 — — — Purposes
- § 3:84 — — — To take advantage of results obtained in related  
litigation
- § 3:85 — — — To establish dangerous or hazardous nature
- § 3:86 — — — Identifying other claimants
- § 3:87 Obtain relevant warning and use instructions
- § 3:88 — — — Types of relevant literature
- § 3:89 — — — Pertinent information
- § 3:90 Determine if manufacturing complied with industrial  
standards
- § 3:91 — — — Examples
- § 3:92 — — — Relevance of information

### **IV. EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS**

- § 3:93 Generally

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 3:94 Need for expert testimony
- § 3:95 —When expert testimony is required
- § 3:96 —When expert opinion is permissible
- § 3:97 Circumstances under which experts should be employed
- § 3:98 —Making the determination
- § 3:99 —Application—Product liability and professional malpractice cases
- § 3:100 —Other examples
- § 3:101 — —Typical “slip-and-fall”
- § 3:102 — —Auto accident cases
- § 3:103 — —Workers’ compensation cases
- § 3:104 — —Damages
- § 3:105 Time to employ experts
- § 3:106 How to locate and select the right experts
- § 3:107 —Identifying potential experts
- § 3:108 — —Jury verdict sheets
- § 3:109 — —Attorney colleagues
- § 3:110 — —Plaintiff or defense associations
- § 3:111 — —Colleges and universities
- § 3:112 — —Competitors and ex-employees
- § 3:113 — —Other miscellaneous sources
- § 3:114 —Selecting the most effective experts
- § 3:115 — —Qualifications
- § 3:116 — —Bodily injury claim experience
- § 3:117 — —Credibility as a witness
- § 3:118 — —Location
- § 3:119 — —Consultation and witness fees
- § 3:120 — —Literature authored in the field
- § 3:121 Initial contact with potential expert
- § 3:122 —Information to provide the potential expert
- § 3:123 —Obtain expert’s input
- § 3:124 Retaining the expert
- § 3:125 —Capacity in which expert retained
- § 3:126 —Formalizing the employment
- § 3:127 —Corresponding with the expert while case is pending
- § 3:128 Initial meeting with expert consultant
- § 3:129 —Purpose of initial meeting
- § 3:130 —Preparing for the initial meeting
- § 3:131 —Elicit the expert’s initial advice and input
- § 3:132 Maintaining a continuing relationship with experts

## V. CHECKLISTS

- § 3:133 Checklist—Investigation and preparation of products liability case

- § 3:134 —Investigation and preparation of medical malpractice case
- § 3:135 —Automobile accident investigation
- § 3:136 Checklist for assessing qualifications to give expert medical testimony
- § 3:137 Checklist of accident information
- § 3:138 Checklist on locating missing persons
- § 3:139 Employee information checklist
- § 3:140 Witness statement checklist

## VI. FORMS

- § 3:141 Letter and questionnaire to lay witness
- § 3:142 Plaintiff's designation of expert witnesses
- § 3:143 First notice to insurance carrier
- § 3:144 Notice of claim to adverse party
- § 3:145 Sample official investigation report (state)
- § 3:146 Letter asking for witness statement

## CHAPTER 4. THEORIES OF LIABILITY

### I. DETERMINING THEORY TO SUE UPON

- § 4:1 Introduction

#### A. NEGLIGENCE

- § 4:2 Negligence
- § 4:3 —Establish prima facie case of negligence
- § 4:4 — —Defendant owed duty toward plaintiff to use care or to take some affirmative action
- § 4:5 — —Defendant breached duty
- § 4:6 — —Breach of duty was actual and proximate cause of plaintiff's injury
- § 4:7 —Determine existence of duty
- § 4:8 — —Two general types
- § 4:9 — — —Duty to use care in activities from which harm might reasonably be anticipated
- § 4:10 — — —Duty, in particular circumstances, to act affirmatively to warn or protect others or to control conduct of others
- § 4:11 — — — —Special relationship
- § 4:12 — —Negligent undertaking
- § 4:13 — —Negligence per se
- § 4:14 — —Determine the legal standard of care
- § 4:15 — —Foreseeability of harm to injured party is most important factor in establishing duty

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 4:16 —Determine duties owed to particular plaintiffs  
§ 4:17 — —Duty of care owed to rescuers as foreseeable parties—Fireman’s rule  
§ 4:18 — — —Non-public servants  
§ 4:19 — —Duty of care owed to rescuers as foreseeable parties when defendant’s negligence endangers someone else—Governmental liability for actions of emergency personnel  
§ 4:20 — —Duty of care to parties to contract and third-party beneficiaries of contract  
§ 4:21 — —Duty of care and liability regarding the parent-child relationship  
§ 4:22 — —Duty of care and liability regarding motor vehicle guests  
§ 4:23 —Determine duties owed by particular defendants  
§ 4:24 — —Possessors and owners of land  
§ 4:25 — — —Elements of cause of action  
§ 4:26 — — —Status of person entering on land  
§ 4:27 — — —Duty to protect against harmful acts of third parties  
§ 4:28 — —Commercial providers of alcoholic beverages  
§ 4:29 — — —Duty  
§ 4:30 — — —Minors  
§ 4:31 — —Providers of alcoholic beverages—Standard of proof  
§ 4:32 — — —Safe Harbor Defense  
§ 4:33 — — —Social hosts  
§ 4:34 — — —Indian Tribes  
§ 4:35 — —Psychiatric care professionals  
§ 4:36 — — —Texas rejects limited duty to protect victims from threat of physical violence by psychotherapist’s patient  
§ 4:37 — — —Generally, no duty to third parties  
§ 4:38 — — —Limited duty to protect suicidal patient from himself or herself  
§ 4:39 — — —Health care professions, in general  
§ 4:40 — — — —Creation of relationship  
§ 4:41 — —School districts  
§ 4:42 — — —Duty to supervise students on school premises  
§ 4:43 — — —Duty to protect students from harmful acts of third parties on school premises  
§ 4:44 — — —Duty to students not on school property  
§ 4:45 — — —Sovereign immunity  
§ 4:46 — —Good samaritans  
§ 4:47 — — —Limitations on liability

- § 4:48 — — —Medical Liability Act
- § 4:49 — — —First responders
- § 4:50 — — —Wellness check at civil commitment facility
- § 4:51 — — —Liability for removing certain individuals from motor vehicle
- § 4:52 — — —Liability of construction monitoring and inspection Services
- § 4:53 — — —Voluntary emergency services personnel
- § 4:54 — — —Negligent misrepresentation
- § 4:55 — — —Persons who create danger have duty to warn and protect endangered persons
- § 4:56 — — —Additional special relationship creating affirmative duties
- § 4:57 — — —Establish standard of care
- § 4:58 — — —Definition
- § 4:59 — — —Custom and practice in relevant community as evidence but not determinative of standard of care
- § 4:60 — — —Person confronted with sudden emergency to himself or herself or others
- § 4:61 — — —Carriers of persons for reward
- § 4:62 — — —Professionals and specialists
- § 4:63 — — —Duty of care owed by bailee
- § 4:64 — — —Children
- § 4:65 — — —Persons with impaired physical faculties
- § 4:66 — — —Establishing actual cause or cause in fact
- § 4:67 — — —Tests for determining
- § 4:68 — — —“But for” test
- § 4:69 — — —“Substantial factor” test
- § 4:70 — — —Foreseeability test
- § 4:71 — — —Concurrent causes
- § 4:72 — — —Superceding causes
- § 4:73 — — — —Factors
- § 4:74 — — —Defenses
- § 4:75 — — —Statute of limitations
- § 4:76 — — —Discovery considerations
- § 4:77 — — —Workers’ compensation law
- § 4:78 — — —Workers’ compensation defenses—Uninsured/ Nonsubscribing employer
- § 4:79 — — —Preexisting injury as “sole cause”
- § 4:80 — — —Election of remedies defense
- § 4:81 — — —Credit for payments
- § 4:82 — — —Sovereign immunity
- § 4:83 — — —Workers’ compensation defenses—Sovereign immunity—Proprietary functions

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 4:84 — —Contributory negligence
- § 4:85 — — —Degree and standard of care in discovery and avoidance of danger
- § 4:86 — — —Proximate cause and avoidable consequences
- § 4:87 — — —Sudden peril or emergency
- § 4:88 — — —Rescue or “good samaritan”
- § 4:89 — — —Contributory negligence of minors
- § 4:90 — — —Imputed negligence
- § 4:91 — —Comparative negligence
- § 4:92 — — —Applicability and determination
- § 4:93 — — —For cases brought under Federal Employers’ Liability Act
- § 4:94 — —Assumption of risk available only in certain relationships
- § 4:95 —Pursuing negligent infliction of emotional distress claim
- § 4:96 — —Availability to direct victim or bystander
- § 4:97 —Imputed negligence
- § 4:98 — —Application only in exceptional situations
- § 4:99 — —When not available
- § 4:100 Strict liability for personal injury, generally

## B. VICARIOUS AND DERIVATIVE LIABILITY

- § 4:101 Employer liability for acts of employee, “respondeat superior”
- § 4:102 —In the nature of strict liability
- § 4:103 — —Rationale
- § 4:104 —Establishing prima facie case
- § 4:105 — —Employment relationship
- § 4:106 — — —Independent contractors
- § 4:107 — — — —Right to control
- § 4:108 — — — —Right to control in certain industries
- § 4:109 — — —Independent contractor—Exceptions
- § 4:110 — — —Dual employment (“borrowed servant” rule)
- § 4:111 — — —Employer’s control may be inferred
- § 4:112 — — —Temporary employment as between hospital physicians and nurses—“Captain of the ship” doctrine
- § 4:113 — —Course and scope of employment
- § 4:114 — —Scope of employment—Factors considered
- § 4:115 — — —Liberal application
- § 4:116 — — —Deviations from normal employment
- § 4:117 — — —Off-duty employees
- § 4:118 — — —“Going and coming” rule

- § 4:119 — — —Personal errands
- § 4:120 — — —“Special errand” rule
- § 4:121 — — —Accident in vehicle owned by employer
- § 4:122 — — —Commercial motor-vehicle collision claims
- § 4:123 — — —Limitation of liability
- § 4:124 — — —Bifurcated trial
- § 4:125 — — —Liability for punitive damages
- § 4:126 — — —Effect of settlement with employee
- § 4:127 Employer liability for its own actions
- § 4:128 —Premises liability
- § 4:129 Negligent hiring
- § 4:130 —Elements
- § 4:131 —Course and scope of employment not required
- § 4:132 —Proximate cause requirement
- § 4:133 —Independent contractors
- § 4:134 Negligent supervision
- § 4:135 Negligent retention
- § 4:136 Persons in control of independent contractors
- § 4:137 Partnership or joint venture
- § 4:138 —Distinction
- § 4:139 Agency
- § 4:140 —Punitive damages
- § 4:141 Civil conspiracy
- § 4:142 —Elements
- § 4:143 Conspiracy—No conspiracy to commit negligence
- § 4:144 —Civil conspiracy in products liability cases
- § 4:145 —Circumstances amounting to concert of action
- § 4:146 —Meeting of the minds
- § 4:147 —Specific intent
- § 4:148 Liability of car owners for injuries caused by non-owner drivers
- § 4:149 —Responsibility for injuries caused by thieves or unauthorized operator
- § 4:150 Liability of car owners for injuries caused by non-owner drivers—Responsibility for injuries caused by employees
- § 4:151 Liability of car owners for injuries caused by non-owner drivers—Co-worker liability
- § 4:152 Liability of car owners for injuries caused by non-owner drivers—No responsibility for injuries caused by bailees
- § 4:153 —Direct liability for negligent entrustment
- § 4:154 Liability of car owners for injuries caused by non-owner drivers—Direct liability for negligent entrustment—Statutory presumption of negligent entrustment

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 4:155 Liability of car owners for injuries caused by non-owner drivers—Direct liability for negligent entrustment—Punitive damages
- § 4:156 Corporate defendants—Individual liability by piercing the corporate veil
- § 4:157 —Prima facie requirements for the alter ego doctrine
- § 4:158 — —Unity of interest
- § 4:159 — —Alter ego liability necessary to avoid inequitable result
- § 4:160 — —Subsidiaries
- § 4:161 —Evidence in support of alter ego liability
- § 4:162 —Jury determination regarding piercing the corporate veil
- § 4:163 —Application as to bodily injury claims
- § 4:164 —Compare individual liability of corporate officers

### C. INTENTIONAL TORTS

- § 4:165 Assault and battery; assault defined
- § 4:166 —Burden of proof
- § 4:167 —Presumptions
- § 4:168 —Statute of limitations
- § 4:169 —Establishing cause of action
- § 4:170 — —Intent
- § 4:171 — —Reasonable apprehension
- § 4:172 — —Threats
- § 4:173 —Defenses
- § 4:174 — —No offer of corporeal injury; words alone insufficient to create assault
- § 4:175 — —Conduct of defendant failed to create reasonable apprehension of immediate injury in mind of plaintiff
- § 4:176 — —Threats of future injury are not actionable as assault
- § 4:177 — —Provocation as element in mitigation of damages only
- § 4:178 —Damages
- § 4:179 — —Nominal or compensatory damages
- § 4:180 — —Exemplary or punitive damages for malicious, willful, and wanton conduct
- § 4:181 Assault and battery; battery defined
- § 4:182 —Medical battery
- § 4:183 — —Expert report requirements
- § 4:184 —Statute of limitations
- § 4:185 —Sexual touching

- § 4:186 —Statutory cause of action for sexual exploitation by  
mental health services provider
- § 4:187 —Excessive force in making arrest
- § 4:188 —Defenses
- § 4:189 — —Provocation
- § 4:190 — —Self-defense
- § 4:191 Assault and battery; assault defined—Defenses—  
Defense of persons
- § 4:192 Assault and battery; battery defined—Defenses—  
Consent
- § 4:193 — — —Medical negligence
- § 4:194 — —Defense of property
- § 4:195 —Damages
- § 4:196 — —Nominal or compensatory damages
- § 4:197 — —Exemplary or punitive damages for malicious,  
willful, and wanton conduct
- § 4:198 — —Mental anguish
- § 4:199 False imprisonment
- § 4:200 —Definition
- § 4:201 — —Intent
- § 4:202 — — —Child
- § 4:203 — —Unlawfulness
- § 4:204 — — —Distinction with malicious prosecution
- § 4:205 — —Involuntary
- § 4:206 — —Force or threat of force
- § 4:207 —Assertion of legal authority
- § 4:208 —Conduct following a lawful arrest of prior illegal  
detention
- § 4:209 —Defenses
- § 4:210 — —Legality
- § 4:211 — —Voluntary restraint; consent
- § 4:212 — — —Burden of proof
- § 4:213 — —Privilege and justification
- § 4:214 — — —Discovery
- § 4:215 — —Official immunity
- § 4:216 —Damages
- § 4:217 — —Nominal or compensatory damages
- § 4:218 — —Exemplary or punitive damages for malicious,  
willful, and wanton conduct
- § 4:219 Wrongful imprisonment
- § 4:220 —Actual innocence
- § 4:221 —Based on the State’s motion to dismiss
- § 4:222 —Limitations
- § 4:223 —Application
- § 4:224 —Lump-sum compensation and annuity payments

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 4:225 — —Alternative annuity payments
- § 4:226 — — —Designated beneficiary
- § 4:227 —Tuition and fees
- § 4:228 —Attorney’s fees are limited
- § 4:229 —Election of remedy
- § 4:230 —Termination of benefits
- § 4:231 Malicious prosecution
- § 4:232 —Probable cause
- § 4:233 —Procurement of proceedings
- § 4:234 —Commencement of proceedings
- § 4:235 —Malice
- § 4:236 —Favorable termination and innocence
- § 4:237 —Damages
- § 4:238 — —Malicious prosecution of civil action
- § 4:239 —Defenses
- § 4:240 Intentional infliction of emotional distress
- § 4:241 —Definition
- § 4:242 —Causation
- § 4:243 —Severe emotional distress
- § 4:244 —Outrageous, extreme, and intolerable conduct
- § 4:245 — —Outrageous conduct between individuals or based on a relationship
- § 4:246 — —Outrageous conduct based on public duty
- § 4:247 — —Determination
- § 4:248 —Defenses
- § 4:249 — —Lack of intent or recklessness
- § 4:250 — —Lack of causation; foreseeability of result
- § 4:251 — —Lack of “severe” emotional distress
- § 4:252 — —Lack of outrageous, extreme, or intolerable conduct
- § 4:253 — —Statutory defenses
- § 4:254 — —Over-sensitivity forms
- § 4:255 Trafficking of persons
- § 4:256 Compelled prostitution and promotion of prostitution
- § 4:257 Unlawful promotion or disclosure of intimate visual material
- § 4:258 Unlawful promotion or disclosure of intimate visual material-Artificial intimate visual material
- § 4:259 —Liability of owner of website or application
- § 4:260 Injuries from space flight activities
- § 4:261 Liability for online impersonation
- § 4:262 —Damages and injunction relief
- § 4:263 Liability for sexual misconduct of school employee involving students

- § 4:264 Liability for misconduct of school employee—  
    Damages; costs
- § 4:265 —Wavier of governmental and official immunity
- § 4:266 Use of genome sequencers and sequencing  
    technologies
- § 4:267 —Liability
- § 4:268 Limited liability of water parks
- § 4:269 —Posted warning required
- § 4:270 Limited liability for cavern activities
- § 4:271 —Posted warning required
- § 4:272 Limited liability for motorized off-road vehicle  
    activities
- § 4:273 —Posted warning required
- § 4:274 Liability for malicious solicitation during disaster
- § 4:275 —Damages
- § 4:276 Conversion
- § 4:277 —Definition
- § 4:278 — —Intentional act
- § 4:279 — —Demand and refusal
- § 4:280 — —Cotenants
- § 4:281 — —Intangibles
- § 4:282 —Acts which will constitute conversion
- § 4:283 — —Dispossession
- § 4:284 — —Destroying or altering chattel
- § 4:285 — —Refusal to surrender chattel
- § 4:286 —Defenses
- § 4:287 —Damages
- § 4:288 — —Exemplary damages
- § 4:289 —Texas Theft Liability Act
- § 4:290 — —Damages

#### D. PREMISES LIABILITY

- § 4:291 Premises liability—General definition
- § 4:292 —Negligent activity compared
- § 4:293 —Elements
- § 4:294 — —Actual or constructive notice
- § 4:295 —Determining duties owed
- § 4:296 — —Invitees
- § 4:297 — — —Duty of care
- § 4:298 — — —State’s liability
- § 4:299 — —Licensees
- § 4:300 — — —Property owned by governmental unit
- § 4:301 — —Trespassers
- § 4:302 — —Public-safety officers

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 4:303 —Duties owed to employees of independent contractors
- § 4:304 — —Exceptions
- § 4:305 — —Applicability
- § 4:306 — —Right to control
- § 4:307 —General considerations—Construction and condition of stairways and steps
- § 4:308 — —Condition and maintenance of entryway
- § 4:309 — —Condition and maintenance of ramp
- § 4:310 — —Condition and maintenance of sidewalks
- § 4:311 — —Excavation
- § 4:312 — —Other conditions or uses of lands and buildings
- § 4:313 —Attractive nuisance
- § 4:314 — —Elements
- § 4:315 — —Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and the like
- § 4:316 — —Other attractive nuisances
- § 4:317 —Criminal acts of third parties
- § 4:318 — —Analysis for determining duty
- § 4:319 — — —Proximity
- § 4:320 — — —Recency and frequency
- § 4:321 — — —Similarity
- § 4:322 — — —Publicity
- § 4:323 —Recreational use
- § 4:324 — —Recreational vehicle parks and campground activities
- § 4:325 — —Public utilities
- § 4:326 — —Community gardens
- § 4:327 —Limited liability with livestock or agricultural land
- § 4:328 —Limited liability for agritourism activities
- § 4:329 — —Exceptions to limitation on liability
- § 4:330 — —Must post a sign
- § 4:331 — —Written agreement and warning
- § 4:332 —Liability for wild animals
- § 4:333 —Liability for domestic animals
- § 4:334 —Liability for horses

### E. WRONGFUL DEATH

- § 4:335 Wrongful death—Generally
- § 4:336 —Causes of action available
- § 4:337 —Persons entitled to recover for wrongful death
- § 4:338 — —Burden of proof
- § 4:339 —Right to and liability for recovery—Other statutory beneficiaries
- § 4:340 — —Determining who may be held liable

- § 4:341 — — —Parties liable under certain circumstances
- § 4:342 —Evidentiary considerations
- § 4:343 — —Qualification of personal representative
- § 4:344 — —Cause of death
- § 4:345 — — —Burden of proof
- § 4:346 — — —Admissible evidence
- § 4:347 — —Negligence of defendant
- § 4:348 — —Negligence of decedent
- § 4:349 —Action for damages—Jurisdiction
- § 4:350 — —Accrual of cause of action and limitations
- § 4:351 —Damages

## F. PRODUCTS LIABILITY

- § 4:352 Products liability—Consideration of theories of liability, generally
- § 4:353 —Negligence, generally
- § 4:354 — —Elements of cause of action
- § 4:355 — —Design
- § 4:356 — —Risk-utility analysis
- § 4:357 — —Intended use
- § 4:358 — —Manufacture
- § 4:359 — — —Standard of care
- § 4:360 — — —Duty to conduct reasonable testing and inspection
- § 4:361 — —Warning
- § 4:362 — —Res ipsa loquitur
- § 4:363 — — —Elements
- § 4:364 — — —Exploding bottles
- § 4:365 — —Negligence per se
- § 4:366 —Warranty
- § 4:367 — —Disclaimer
- § 4:368 — —Notice
- § 4:369 — —Express warranty
- § 4:370 — — —Elements for breach
- § 4:371 — —Implied warranty of fitness for particular purpose
- § 4:372 — —Implied warranty of merchantability
- § 4:373 — — —Requirement to show a “defect”
- § 4:374 — —Implied warranty from course of dealing or trade
- § 4:375 Strict liability in product liability cases
- § 4:376 —Nature of strict liability
- § 4:377 — —Broad range of potential defendants
- § 4:378 — —Rationale
- § 4:379 — —Elements of recovery

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 4:380 — — Causation in asbestos or mesothelioma cases
- § 4:381 — Design defect
- § 4:382 — — Factors
- § 4:383 — Marketing defect
- § 4:384 — — Elements
- § 4:385 — — Adequacy of warning
- § 4:386 — — Component parts
- § 4:387 — Manufacturing defect
- § 4:388 — — Elements
- § 4:389 — — Proof
- § 4:390 — What constitutes a product
- § 4:391 — Inherently unsafe products
- § 4:392 — Defendant's role in the marketing chain
- § 4:393 — — Requirement of participation in the marketing enterprise
- § 4:394 — — Application
- § 4:395 — — — Retailers
- § 4:396 — — — Distributors
- § 4:397 — Defendants other than manufacturer—Non-manufacturing sellers
- § 4:398 — Defendant's role in the marketing chain—Application—Bailors, lessors
- § 4:399 — — — Hospitals
- § 4:400 — — Existence of intermediary may affect designer/manufacturer liability
- § 4:401 — — Possible indemnification
- § 4:402 — — Designer not manufacturer
- § 4:403 — — Design copied
- § 4:404 — Statutory provisions
- § 4:405 — — Definition of products liability action
- § 4:406 — — Inherently unsafe products
- § 4:407 — — — Effective date
- § 4:408 — — Design defects
- § 4:409 — — — Firearms and ammunition
- § 4:410 — — — Effective date
- § 4:411 — — Manufacturer's duty to indemnify
- § 4:412 — — — Effective date
- § 4:413 — — Manufacturing equipment: Statute of repose
- § 4:414 — — Manufacturing equipment: statute of repose—Effective date
- § 4:415 — Considerations of persons and entities liable; market share and alternative liability and chain of distribution
- § 4:416 — Alternative liability
- § 4:417 — — Rationale

- § 4:418 — —Naming all possible wrongdoers
- § 4:419 — —Not adopted in Texas
- § 4:420 —Market share liability
- § 4:421 — —Rationale
- § 4:422 — —Apportionment of liability
- § 4:423 — —Defendant’s burden re causation
- § 4:424 — —Not adopted in Texas
- § 4:425 —Concert of action
- § 4:426 —Enterprise liability
- § 4:427 — —Not adopted in Texas
- § 4:428 —Apportionment among known persons collectively causing injury
- § 4:429 —Dissolved corporation and successor liability
- § 4:430 — —Liability upon merger
- § 4:431 — —Purchaser’s express assumption of liability
- § 4:432 — —Trust fund theory
- § 4:433 —Ultrahazardous activity
- § 4:434 — —Firearms, explosives, flammables
- § 4:435 — —Cigarettes
- § 4:436 —Fraud and deception
- § 4:437 — —Negligent misrepresentation
- § 4:438 — —Intentional misrepresentation
- § 4:439 — —Unfair and deceptive trade practice
- § 4:440 Defenses
- § 4:441 —Lack of causation
- § 4:442 —State of the art
- § 4:443 —Misuse; modification; alteration
- § 4:444 —Assumption of risk
- § 4:445 —Common knowledge
- § 4:446 —Contributory and comparative negligence
- § 4:447 —Last clear chance
- § 4:448 —Sealed container defense
- § 4:449 —Disclaimers of warranties and limitations of remedies
- § 4:450 —Statutes of limitation
- § 4:451 —Statutes of repose
- § 4:452 —Compliance with standards
- § 4:453 —Limited liability for failure to retrofit certain rented or leased vehicles
- § 4:454 —Immunity for donation of donated medical devices
- § 4:455 —Immunity for donation of feminine hygiene products
- § 4:456 —Failure to mitigate damages
- § 4:457 —Government contractor defense
- § 4:458 —Sophisticated user

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 4:459	—Obviousness
§ 4:460	—Preemption
§ 4:461	— —Consumer Product Safety Act
§ 4:462	— —National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act
§ 4:463	—Privity not required
§ 4:464	— —Negligence
§ 4:465	— —Other actions
§ 4:466	— —Strict liability
§ 4:467	—Puffing
§ 4:468	—Unavoidably unsafe product
§ 4:469	—Useful safe life
§ 4:470	—Failure to read warning
§ 4:471	Investigation and development of factual evidence
§ 4:472	—Product information
§ 4:473	—Design and manufacturing information
§ 4:474	— —Alternative design
§ 4:475	—Marketing and labeling of product
§ 4:476	—Remedial measures
§ 4:477	—State of the art industry standards; federal safety standards
§ 4:478	—Investigations, reports, witnesses
§ 4:479	—Chain of distribution and custody
§ 4:480	—Useful life
§ 4:481	Damages
§ 4:482	—Medicals
§ 4:483	— —Past medical expenses
§ 4:484	—Lost income
§ 4:485	— —Spouse’s lost income
§ 4:486	—Pain and suffering
§ 4:487	—Emotional distress
§ 4:488	—Loss of consortium
§ 4:489	—Economic loss
§ 4:490	—Punitive damages
§ 4:491	—Settlement credit
§ 4:492	Consideration of experts and scientific evidence
§ 4:493	—Experts, generally
§ 4:494	— —Work product
§ 4:495	—Scientific evidence
§ 4:496	—Discovery considerations
§ 4:497	— —Request for production of documents
§ 4:498	— —Request for admissions
§ 4:499	— —Interrogatories
§ 4:500	— —Depositions and reports
§ 4:501	— — —Nontestifying expert

§ 4:502 — —Inspection of scene/product

G. MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

- § 4:503 Medical negligence
- § 4:504 Potential defendants
- § 4:505 Health care liability claims
- § 4:506 Elements of cause of action
- § 4:507 —Doctor-patient relationship required
- § 4:508 Average standard of care
- § 4:509 —Necessity of expert testimony
- § 4:510 —General practitioner
- § 4:511 —Patient sensitivities
- § 4:512 —Circumstances which affect determination of standard of care
- § 4:513 —Circumstances which do not determine standard of care
- § 4:514 — —Mistake in judgment
- § 4:515 — —Success or failure of treatment
- § 4:516 — —Consultation, or lack thereof, with other physicians
- § 4:517 Establishing proximate cause
- § 4:518 —Jury determination of proximate cause
- § 4:519 Determining duties of physicians
- § 4:520 —Duty to fully inform patient
- § 4:521 —Duty to continue medical care until proper termination of physician-patient relationship
- § 4:522 Requirement of informed consent
- § 4:523 —Elements of claim
- § 4:524 —Physician, not hospital
- § 4:525 —Requirements of Medical Liability Act
- § 4:526 — —Rebuttable presumption
- § 4:527 —Negligence theory
- § 4:528 —Cause of action
- § 4:529 — —Proximate cause
- § 4:530 — —Summary judgment
- § 4:531 —Other statutory provisions governing informed consent
- § 4:532 —Statutory provision governing informed consent—  
Declaration for mental health treatment
- § 4:533 —Minors
- § 4:534 —Consent to emergency procedure
- § 4:535 —Consent to surgery
- § 4:536 Expert reports
- § 4:537 —May serve reports from multiple experts to satisfy requirements

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 4:538 —Effect of failure to comply with report requirement
- § 4:539 — —Deficient reports; good faith effort
- § 4:540 —Report is inadmissible
- § 4:541 —Discovery is stayed until report is served
- § 4:542 Damages
- § 4:543 —Wrongful conception, wrongful pregnancy, or unwanted pregnancy
- § 4:544 —Wrongful birth, wrongful pregnancy, or wrongful life
- § 4:545 —Exemplary or punitive damages
- § 4:546 —Infection
- § 4:547 Defenses
- § 4:548 —Lack of negligence and no proximate cause or no duty
- § 4:549 —Acceptable medical standards followed
- § 4:550 —Honest mistake in judgment
- § 4:551 —Actual or implied consent
- § 4:552 —Contributory negligence of patient
- § 4:553 —Actions arising from certain pregnancy complications

## II. CHECKLISTS

- § 4:554 Checklist; investigation of stairway-negligence case
- § 4:555 Checklist; investigation of inadequate-security case
- § 4:556 Checklist; theories of recovery in automobile collision case
- § 4:557 Checklist; potential defendants in products liability suit

## III. FORMS

- § 4:558 Declaration for mental health treatment
- § 4:559 Jury instructions; attractive nuisance

## CHAPTER 5. EVALUATION OF DAMAGES

### I. INTRODUCTION

- § 5:1 Damages evaluation methodology; starting point is at the first client interview
- § 5:2 Damages evaluation methodology; evaluation depends on the proof
- § 5:3 “Compensatory” (actual) damages
- § 5:4 —Prima facie showing for damages recovery
- § 5:5 “General” and “special” damages

- § 5:6 —“General” damages
- § 5:7 —“Special or consequential” damages
- § 5:8 — —Requirement of pleading
- § 5:9 — —Loss of business profits
- § 5:10 — —Loss of use
- § 5:11 —Past, present, and future damages
- § 5:12 — —Discounted to present value
- § 5:13 — —Jury vs. judge determinations
- § 5:14 —Effect of death prior to full payment
- § 5:15 —Prejudgment interest as element of damages
- § 5:16 — —Actions for personal injury, wrongful death, or property damages
- § 5:17 — —Actions for medical negligence filed prior to September 1, 2003
- § 5:18 — —Actions for medical negligence filed after September 1, 2003
- § 5:19 — —Prejudgment interest in common law actions
- § 5:20 — —Prejudgment interest for future damages
- § 5:21 — —Calculation
- § 5:22 — —Effect of settlement offer
- § 5:23 — —Workers’ compensation actions
- § 5:24 — —Claims against governmental entities
- § 5:25 — —Application to multiple claimants
- § 5:26 — —Application in federal diversity cases
- § 5:27 — —Pleading requirement
- § 5:28 — —Delay caused by claimant
- § 5:29 —Attorney’s fees generally not an element of compensatory damages
- § 5:30 — —“Common fund doctrine”
- § 5:31 — —“Third-party tort exception”
- § 5:32 — —Distinction from usual two-sided lawsuits
- § 5:33 — —Examples; false imprisonment
- § 5:34 — —Examples; malicious prosecution
- § 5:35 — —Examples; attorney negligence requiring third-party litigation
- § 5:36 — —Examples; compare attorney’s fees as sanctions
- § 5:37 — — —Attorney’s fees where periodic payments ordered
- § 5:38 Punitive damages
- § 5:39 —Actual damages required
- § 5:40 —No recovery of both exemplary damages and statutory multiple damages
- § 5:41 —Fraud, malice or gross negligence required
- § 5:42 — —Fraud
- § 5:43 — —Malice

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 5:44 —Fraud, malice or gross negligence—Gross negligence
- § 5:45 —Clear and convincing evidence required
- § 5:46 —Bifurcated trial required
- § 5:47 —Statutory limitations on amount of recovery of exemplary damages
- § 5:48 —Statutory limitations on recovery of damages against governmental entities
- § 5:49 — —Relation of statutory limits and joint and several liability
- § 5:50 —Recovery limited to reprehensible conduct
- § 5:51 Use of damages evaluation checklist
- § 5:52 Governmental defendants

## II. POTENTIAL CLAIMANTS IN A BODILY INJURY CASE

- § 5:53 The physically injured party
- § 5:54 —Injured minor or incompetent
- § 5:55 — —Minor’s cause of action
- § 5:56 — —Parent’s cause of action
- § 5:57 Spouse or other relatives
- § 5:58 —Loss of consortium
- § 5:59 —Loss of services or performance of household and domestic duties
- § 5:60 —Community property
- § 5:61 —Loss of parental consortium
- § 5:62 —Bystander recovery
- § 5:63 —Alternative to injured party’s recovery
- § 5:64 — —Reimbursement of medical expenses
- § 5:65 — —Lost earnings and services
- § 5:66 — —Interspousal tort immunity abolished
- § 5:67 — —Parental immunity
- § 5:68 Survival actions by estate
- § 5:69 —Recoverable damages
- § 5:70 —Distinguished from wrongful death
- § 5:71 The injured party’s estate—Statute of limitation
- § 5:72 Injured party’s employer
- § 5:73 Hospital having lien rights

## III. SPECIFIC ITEMS OF COMPENSATORY DAMAGES

- § 5:74 Medical expenses
- § 5:75 —Past expenses—Requirements and proof
- § 5:76 — —Evidence in support of claim
- § 5:77 — — —Medical bills

- § 5:78 — — — Prove-up affidavits
- § 5:79 — — — Claimant’s treating physician
- § 5:80 — — — Other providers
- § 5:81 — — — Expert opinion from other physicians
- § 5:82 — — — Medical reports
- § 5:83 — — — Plaintiff’s testimony
- § 5:84 — — — No offset for expenses paid by “collateral sources” the “collateral source rule”
- § 5:85 — — — Subrogation rights of “collateral sources”
- § 5:86 — — — Collateral source benefits as circumstantial evidence
- § 5:87 — — — Collateral source benefits as impeachment evidence
- § 5:88 — — — Standard for admissibility
- § 5:89 — — — Compare offset for payments made by, or on behalf of, defendant
- § 5:90 — Future medical expenses—Requirements and proof
- § 5:91 — — Evidence supporting future medical claims
- § 5:92 — — — Establishing reasonable certainty of future medical expenses
- § 5:93 — — — Establishing reasonable value of future medical care
- § 5:94 — — — Review of award on appeal
- § 5:95 — Defense attack on medical claims
- § 5:96 — — Claimant is a “malingerer”
- § 5:97 — — Incompetent treatment
- § 5:98 — — Failure to obtain prompt treatment
- § 5:99 — — Pre-existing injury
- § 5:100 — — Unpaid bills
- § 5:101 — Future medical expenses—Defense attack on future medical
- § 5:102 Loss of earnings and earnings capacity
- § 5:103 — Intellectual impairment
- § 5:104 — Award based on gross earnings—No deduction for income tax liability
- § 5:105 — No deduction for income tax liability—No evidence of, or reference to, tax liability
- § 5:106 — — — Rationale
- § 5:107 — — — Compare federal practice
- § 5:108 — Benefits from collateral sources not deducted
- § 5:109 — Personal injury required
- § 5:110 — Proving past earnings loss
- § 5:111 — — Plaintiff’s testimony should be corroborated
- § 5:112 — — Defense attack
- § 5:113 — — Self-employed claimants

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 5:114	— — —Past profits as evidence of damages
§ 5:115	— — —Diminished earnings as evidence of damages
§ 5:116	—Proving loss of future earnings
§ 5:117	— —Requirements and proof, generally
§ 5:118	— — —Time factor
§ 5:119	— — —Expert testimony, generally
§ 5:120	— — —Self-employment
§ 5:121	— —Defense attack
§ 5:122	— — —Inability to work conjectural
§ 5:123	— — —Alternative employment
§ 5:124	— —Calculating prospective earnings loss damages; economic adjustments
§ 5:125	— — —Discount to present value
§ 5:126	— — —Present value table
§ 5:127	— — —Life expectancy tables
§ 5:128	— — —Effect of inflation
§ 5:129	— — —Jury instruction discretionary
§ 5:130	— — —Caveat discount and inflation adjustments are separate calculations
§ 5:131	— — —Deduction from “lost years” awards for “saved necessities”
§ 5:132	—Special considerations re unemployed claimants
§ 5:133	— —Adult claimants
§ 5:134	— — —Relevance of work history
§ 5:135	— —Minor claimants
§ 5:136	Pain and suffering
§ 5:137	—What constitutes “pain and suffering”
§ 5:138	— —Damages for loss of enjoyment of life or physical impairment
§ 5:139	— —Physical impact requirement
§ 5:140	— —Fright and nervousness
§ 5:141	— —Wrongful pregnancy or wrongful birth
§ 5:142	—Amount recoverable
§ 5:143	—Verdicts that fail to include pain and suffering compensation
§ 5:144	—Proving past pain and suffering
§ 5:145	— —Claimant’s own testimony
§ 5:146	— — —Physical pain
§ 5:147	— — —Emotional trauma
§ 5:148	— — —Using plaintiff’s “diary”
§ 5:149	— —Demonstrative evidence photos, illustrations, films, and other depictions of plaintiff’s condition
§ 5:150	— —Medical testimony
§ 5:151	— —Medical records
§ 5:152	— —Testimony of family, friends, and coworkers

- § 5:153 — — Impaired enjoyment of life
- § 5:154 — — — Examples
- § 5:155 — — Proof
- § 5:156 — — Physical impairment proof
- § 5:157 — Proof re infant claimants—Presumed damages
- § 5:158 — — Parents
- § 5:159 — Proving future pain and suffering
- § 5:160 — — Inference
- § 5:161 — — Medical opinion
- § 5:162 — — Effect of proof
- § 5:163 — Defense attack on pain and suffering claims
- § 5:164 — — Evidence of conduct inconsistent with claim
- § 5:165 — — Conflicting expert opinion
- § 5:166 — — Compare—Claimant’s peculiar sensitivities no defense
- § 5:167 — — Failure to mitigate pain and suffering with remedial treatment
- § 5:168 — Calculating pain and suffering damages
- § 5:169 — — “Per diem” arguments
- § 5:170 — — “Price for relief from pain” argument
- § 5:171 — — “Golden rule” argument disallowed
- § 5:172 — — Unconstitutional statutory limitation on amount of recovery in medical malpractice actions
- § 5:173 — Specific items of “nonpecuniary” damages
- § 5:174 — — In general
- § 5:175 — — Disfigurement
- § 5:176 — — — Proving humiliation and embarrassment from disfigurement
- § 5:177 — — — Future disfigurement
- § 5:178 — — Shortened life expectancy
- § 5:179 — — — Application—Minor plaintiffs
- § 5:180 — — — Duplicate recovery limitation
- § 5:181 — — — Compare—Shortened work-life expectancy
- § 5:182 — — — — Loss of chance of survival
- § 5:183 Compensation for intentional mental distress where no physical contact
- § 5:184 — Sufficiency of evidence
- § 5:185 — Methodology
- § 5:186 — Fear of contracting asbestos-related disease not sufficient “bodily injury”
- § 5:187 — Compare—Emotional distress arising from property damage
- § 5:188 — Proof—Actions for divorce
- § 5:189 — Contrasting rights of bystanders
- § 5:190 Mental anguish

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 5:191 —Special relationships  
§ 5:192 —Availability in specific circumstances  
§ 5:193 —Proof  
§ 5:194 Wrongful death—Damages—General considerations  
§ 5:195 — —Elements of wrongful death damages  
§ 5:196 — —Funeral expenses  
§ 5:197 — —Nominal damages  
§ 5:198 Calculating wrongful death damages—Factors  
§ 5:199 — —Life expectancy limitation  
§ 5:200 — —Decedent’s earning capacity  
§ 5:201 — —Discount to present value  
§ 5:202 — —Apportionment of award between claimants  
§ 5:203 — —Special findings allowed  
§ 5:204 — —Damages not subject to debts  
§ 5:205 — —Reduction for comparative fault  
§ 5:206 — — —Negligence of wrongful death claimant  
§ 5:207 — — —Negligence of decedent  
§ 5:208 —Proof of wrongful death damages  
§ 5:209 — —Direct pecuniary losses  
§ 5:210 — — —No need to prove legal support obligation  
§ 5:211 — —Recovery by child  
§ 5:212 — —Recovery by adult child  
§ 5:213 — —Recovery by an adult child—Compare  
inadequate proof of pecuniary loss  
§ 5:214 — —Recovery by parent  
§ 5:215 — —Evidence of child’s earning capacity  
§ 5:216 — —Evidence of family relationship  
§ 5:217 — —Loss of services, advice or training  
§ 5:218 — —Tangible and “intangible” losses compensable  
§ 5:219 — —Evidence of value of lost services  
§ 5:220 — —Loss of services, advice, or training—Recovery by  
spouse  
§ 5:221 — — —Recovery by child  
§ 5:222 — — —Recovery by parent—Minor child decedent  
§ 5:223 —Factors considered in calculating wrongful death  
damages—Loss of services, advice, or training—  
Recovery by parent—Adult child decedent  
§ 5:224 Wrongful death—Compromise, settlement, and  
release  
§ 5:225 —Liability for punitive damages—Homicide  
§ 5:226 —Prejudgment interest  
§ 5:227 — —Governmental defendants  
§ 5:228 —Prior adjudication; “one action rule”  
§ 5:229 — —Statute of limitations runs separately on each  
heir’s claim

- § 5:230 Review of non-economic damage awards
- § 5:231 Damage to personal property
- § 5:232 —Measure of damages
- § 5:233 — —Permanent or temporary damage to property
- § 5:234 — —Property lost or destroyed (permanent damage)
- § 5:235 — — —Intrinsic value of trees exception
- § 5:236 — —Property repairable (temporary damage)
- § 5:237 — — —Economic feasibility exception
- § 5:238 — —Additional recovery for loss of use
- § 5:239 — —Repair bills or estimates
- § 5:240 — —Use of experts
- § 5:241 —Evidence of value

#### **IV. LIMITATIONS ON RECOVERY**

- § 5:242 Proportionate responsibility
- § 5:243 —Designation of responsible third party
- § 5:244 —Application to punitive damages
- § 5:245 —Determination of responsibility
- § 5:246 —“Percentage of responsibility” defined
- § 5:247 —Application to derivative actions
- § 5:248 —Settlement credit
- § 5:249 —Amount of recovery
- § 5:250 —Effect of partial settlement
- § 5:251 —Cases not covered by comparative causation scheme
- § 5:252 “Avoidable consequences”—Duty to mitigate damages
- § 5:253 —Burden of proof on mitigation
- § 5:254 —Duty does not apply to conduct before injury
- § 5:255 —Example of failure to mitigate—Failure to submit to certain medical care
- § 5:256 — —Failure to minimize lost earnings
- § 5:257 —Collateral source rule
- § 5:258 —Effect on assumption of risk
- § 5:259 —Effect on joint enterprise doctrine
- § 5:260 —Applicability of joint and several liability
- § 5:261 Statutory damage caps
- § 5:262 —Medical Liability Act
- § 5:263 — —Periodic payments
- § 5:264 — — —Future damages
- § 5:265 —Texas Tort Claims Act

#### **V. PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

- § 5:266 Nature and purpose of punitive damages
- § 5:267 —Constitutionality of statute

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 5:268	Tort reform and the Insurance Act
§ 5:269	Credit against judgment after trebling
§ 5:270	Discovery
§ 5:271	—Financial worth
§ 5:272	—Additur
§ 5:273	Recovery—Negligence actions
§ 5:274	—Under Civil Practice and Remedies Code
§ 5:275	—Standards for recovery
§ 5:276	— —Fraud
§ 5:277	— —Malice
§ 5:278	—Standards of recovery—Gross negligence
§ 5:279	—Clear and convincing evidence required
§ 5:280	—Factors precluding recovery
§ 5:281	—Limitation on amount of recovery
§ 5:282	— —Actual damages
§ 5:283	— —No prejudgment interest for exemplary damages
§ 5:284	—Award specific to defendant
§ 5:285	—Plaintiff's death caused by defendant
§ 5:286	— —Homicide
§ 5:287	—Wrongful death
§ 5:288	—Workers' compensation cases
§ 5:289	—Corporate liability for agent's acts
§ 5:290	—Employer liability for acts of managers
§ 5:291	—Liability of minor
§ 5:292	Sovereign immunity
§ 5:293	—Rationale
§ 5:294	—Public employees also immune
§ 5:295	—Proprietary functions distinguished
§ 5:296	Wrongful death—Damages; Liability for punitive damages
§ 5:297	Effect of defendant's death
§ 5:298	Amount of punitive damages award
§ 5:299	—Factors considered, generally
§ 5:300	— —Nature of the wrong
§ 5:301	— —Character of the conduct involved
§ 5:302	— —Degree of culpability of the wrongdoer
§ 5:303	— —Situation and sensibilities of the parties concerned
§ 5:304	— —The extent to which defendant's conduct offends public sense of justice and propriety
§ 5:305	— —Net worth of defendant
§ 5:306	—Relationship to actual damages; reasonableness test
§ 5:307	—Relationship to actual damages; no fixed ratio
§ 5:308	—Relationship to civil penalty

- § 5:309 —Contributory negligence
- § 5:310 —Other considerations in assessing punitive damages

**VI. FORMS, CHECKLISTS, AND TABLES**

- § 5:311 Damages evaluation checklist
- § 5:312 Present value table
- § 5:313 Life expectancy table

# Table of Contents

## CHAPTER 6. SETTLING THE CASE

### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- § 6:1 Most cases will settle
- § 6:2 Factors motivating settlement
- § 6:3 —Public policy factors
- § 6:4 —Claimant's concerns
- § 6:5 — —Avoiding delay
- § 6:6 — —Reducing costs
- § 6:7 — —Minimizing trial uncertainty risks
- § 6:8 — —Efficient law practice
- § 6:9 —Insurance company concerns
- § 6:10 — —Bad faith liability and statutory obligations
- § 6:11 — — —Unfair settlement practices
- § 6:12 — — —Private cause of action under Deceptive Trade Practices Act
- § 6:13 — — —Private cause of action under Unfair Settlement Practices Act
- § 6:14 — — —Government enforcement
- § 6:15 — — —Common law claim of bad faith
- § 6:16 — —Duty of good faith and fair dealing
- § 6:17 — — —Reasonably clear standard
- § 6:18 — —Tort of bad faith—Stower's Doctrine
- § 6:19 — — —Stowers doctrine—Negligent acts of insurer
- § 6:20 — —Damages for negligence
- § 6:21 — —Statutory damages
- § 6:22 — — —Windstorm and hail insurance policies
- § 6:23 — —Breach of contract
- § 6:24 — — —Exemplary damages
- § 6:25 — —Limitation—Failure to defend
- § 6:26 — —Statute of limitations
- § 6:27 — —Accrual of cause of action
- § 6:28 — —Abatement
- § 6:29 — —Workers' compensation carriers
- § 6:30 — —Economic factors
- § 6:31 — — —Expenses to insurance carrier
- § 6:32 — — —Inflationary verdicts
- § 6:33 — — —Reserves placed on claim
- § 6:34 — — —Prejudgment interest
- § 6:35 — —Comment—Conflicting view regarding settlement incentive

- § 6:36 When to commence settlement negotiations
- § 6:37 —Settlement’s effect on defendant’s participation at trial
- § 6:38 Confidentiality of communications

## II. DETERMINING SETTLEMENT VALUE OF A BODILY INJURY CLAIM

- § 6:39 Factors affecting settlement value
- § 6:40 —Liability factors
- § 6:41 — —Effect of malicious, or wanton and willful misconduct
- § 6:42 — — —Settlement less likely where conduct tantamount to intentional misconduct
- § 6:43 — —Evidence of malice, oppression, or fraud
- § 6:44 —Bodily injury factors
- § 6:45 —Other relevant factors
- § 6:46 — —Venue
- § 6:47 — —Target defendants
- § 6:48 — —Sympathetic plaintiffs
- § 6:49 — —Policy limits and defendant’s assets
- § 6:50 — —Reputation and ability of attorneys
- § 6:51 — —Economic realities of litigation
- § 6:52 Methods used to evaluate claim
- § 6:53 —Jury verdict sheets
- § 6:54 — —Subscription services available
- § 6:55 — —Information included
- § 6:56 —Advice from other lawyers
- § 6:57 —Multiplying the specials
- § 6:58 — —Typical formula
- § 6:59 — —Caveat—Multiplying the specials may be inaccurate

## III. EFFECTIVE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

- § 6:60 Negotiations with insurance claims representative
- § 6:61 —Identifying the claims representative
- § 6:62 —Claimant’s counsel should open settlement negotiations
- § 6:63 —Information to provide the claims representative
- § 6:64 — —Reports and records of damages
- § 6:65 Notice of filing suit
- § 6:66 Compare; Information not to provide the carrier
- § 6:67 Compare; Client’s account of the accident
- § 6:68 Compare; Witness statements
- § 6:69 Compare; Claimant’s past medical history

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 6:70	Making the initial demand
§ 6:71	—Ascertaining initial demand amount
§ 6:72	— —Have a bottom line figure in mind
§ 6:73	— —Where to start; high-low range
§ 6:74	—Involving claimant in the initial demand process
§ 6:75	— —Obtain client’s express authority to settle
§ 6:76	— —Unauthorized settlement unenforceable
§ 6:77	— —Multiple parties
§ 6:78	— —Keeping claimant informed at initial demand stage
§ 6:79	— —Compare—Duty to apprise client of settlement offers
§ 6:80	Tips on negotiating with claims representative
§ 6:81	—Prepare for negotiations
§ 6:82	—Know the details of the claim
§ 6:83	—Focus on uniqueness of claim
§ 6:84	—Avoid overstating facts
§ 6:85	—Appear ready to litigate
§ 6:86	—Emphasize defendant’s exposure
§ 6:87	—Avoid take-it-or-leave-it demands
§ 6:88	—Do not retreat from initial demand too hastily
§ 6:89	—Treat the claims representative as a professional
§ 6:90	Responding to the demand counteroffer; when to terminate negotiations and file suit
§ 6:91	—Offer equaling fair settlement value
§ 6:92	—Offer below fair settlement value
§ 6:93	—No offer made, but carrier willing to pay something
§ 6:94	—Offer to settle for nuisance value
§ 6:95	—Acceptable offer not forthcoming—Time to file suit
§ 6:96	—Caveat—Advising client
§ 6:97	— —Malpractice trap
§ 6:98	Negotiations with defense counsel after suit is filed
§ 6:99	—Insurer’s duty to act regarding settlement
§ 6:100	—Settlement brochure
§ 6:101	—Things to know about insurance defense counsel— In-house vs. independent counsel
§ 6:102	—Advantages of negotiating with defense counsel
§ 6:103	—When to negotiate with defense counsel
§ 6:104	Other opportunities to settle
§ 6:105	—At deposition
§ 6:106	—After defense medical examination
§ 6:107	—At the settlement conference or mediation
§ 6:108	—During trial
§ 6:109	—After jury retires
§ 6:110	—After verdict or judgment

- § 6:111 — —To circumvent delayed satisfaction of judgment at trial level
- § 6:112 — —To avoid appeal risks
- § 6:113 —On appeal
- § 6:114 —Award of litigation costs—Statutory settlement procedures
- § 6:115 — — —Settling claim against governmental unit
- § 6:116 — — —Offer
- § 6:117 — — —Withdrawal, rejection, and acceptance of offer
- § 6:118 — — —Award of costs

#### **IV. TECHNIQUES WHERE SETTLEMENT NOT FORTHCOMING**

- § 6:119 Introduction
- § 6:120 Sending Stowers or bad-faith letter
- § 6:121 —Contents
- § 6:122 — —Introduction
- § 6:123 — —Factual summary
- § 6:124 — —Injuries sustained
- § 6:125 — —Medical bills
- § 6:126 — —Lost wages and impairment of future earning capacity
- § 6:127 — —Conclusion
- § 6:128 — —Unconditional demand
- § 6:129 —Impact
- § 6:130 Demand necessary to trigger Stowers duty
- § 6:131 —Penalty imposed by the State Board of Insurance
- § 6:132 Statutory offer or demand to compromise under workers' compensation
- § 6:133 —Penalty for nonpayment
- § 6:134 Plaintiff's failure to accept settlement under Deceptive Trade Practices Act—Example
- § 6:135 —Special procedure in medical malpractice cases
- § 6:136 Judge's approval
- § 6:137 Piecemeal settlements in multidefendant cases
- § 6:138 —Risk of empty chair argument to jury
- § 6:139 —Economic feasibility of going to trial against remaining defendant
- § 6:140 —Impact of piecemeal settlement on defendant's rights
- § 6:141 — —Nonsettling defendants entitled to reduction in amount of recovery
- § 6:142 — — —Settlement discharges settling defendant from liability for comparative contribution or partial indemnity in comparative negligence cases

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 6:143 — — —Setoff appropriate against independent tortfeasor liable for the same tort
- § 6:144 — — —Settlement credit only applies to actual damage settlements
- § 6:145 — — —Good-faith settlement discharges settling defendant from liability for contribution
- § 6:146 — — —Compare—Indemnification or equitable subrogation rights of defendant
- § 6:147 — — —Equitable subrogation
- § 6:148 —Form of the piecemeal settlement
- § 6:149 — — —Attorney’s fees
- § 6:150 — — —Credit
- § 6:151 — — —Burden of proof
- § 6:152 — — —Mary Carter agreements
- § 6:153 — — —Definition of a Mary Carter agreement
- § 6:154 — — —Previous differing definitions
- § 6:155 — — —Invalidity
- § 6:156 — — —Prospective applicability
- § 6:157 — — —Pre-judgment assignments invalid
- § 6:158 — — —No agreed judgment to set up insurance company

## V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS

- § 6:159 Nature of structured settlements
- § 6:160 Advantages to claimant
- § 6:161 —Avoids risk of mismanagement
- § 6:162 —Tax-free periodic payments
- § 6:163 — — —Limitations
- § 6:164 — — —Fixed and determinable payments
- § 6:165 — — —Plaintiff cannot have actual or constructive receipt of the present value
- § 6:166 — — —Compare—Taxable lump-sum settlements
- § 6:167 Advantages to defense—Insurance company savings
- § 6:168 Caveat—Potential disadvantages and pitfalls for claimant
- § 6:169 —Risk of inflation
- § 6:170 —Conflict of interest with client regarding attorney’s fees
- § 6:171 — — —Separate negotiations for fees
- § 6:172 — — —Contingency fee complications
- § 6:173 — — —Percentage of amount
- § 6:174 — — —Lump-sum or periodic payments
- § 6:175 —Malpractice concerns

**VI. COURT-CONDUCTED SETTLEMENT  
PROCEEDINGS: OPTIONAL AND MANDATORY  
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES**

- § 6:176 Introduction
- § 6:177 —Basic purposes
- § 6:178 — —Service to litigants
- § 6:179 — —Calendar management
- § 6:180 — — —Timing on calendar
- § 6:181 — —Expense savings
- § 6:182 — —Good-faith attempt to settle
- § 6:183 — —Alternative dispute resolution
- § 6:184 —Preparing for the settlement conference
- § 6:185 — —Settlement conference statements
- § 6:186 — — —Contents of the statement
- § 6:187 — — —Tone of the statement
- § 6:188 — — —Avoid inflammatory language
- § 6:189 — — —Objective presentation
- § 6:190 — — —Statement not an evidentiary admission
- § 6:191 — —Gather pertinent documents to bring to the  
conference
- § 6:192 — — —Evidence regarding damages
- § 6:193 — — —Evidence regarding liability
- § 6:194 — —Consultation with experts
- § 6:195 — — —Expert input may be essential to valuation
- § 6:196 — —Obtain settlement authority from client
- § 6:197 — — —Verify client’s own authority to settle
- § 6:198 — — —Be candid with client
- § 6:199 — — —Explain costs of trial
- § 6:200 — — —Obtain written authority
- § 6:201 — — —Become familiar with judge’s practices
- § 6:202 — —Try to negotiate with subrogation or lien  
interests before the conference
- § 6:203 —Appearances at the settlement conference
- § 6:204 — —Trial counsel to appear
- § 6:205 — —Parties and persons with settlement authority to  
appear
- § 6:206 — — —Insured defendants may be excused
- § 6:207 — — —Appearance of workers’ compensation and  
other lien claimants
- § 6:208 Negotiations at the settlement conference
- § 6:209 —Common assumptions of settlement conference  
judge
- § 6:210 — —All parties desire to settle
- § 6:211 — —Each party wants as much as possible through  
settlement

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 6:212 — —Some positions are asserted solely for negotiating purposes
- § 6:213 — —Defendant will pay more, and plaintiff will take less, than the original settlement demand
- § 6:214 — —Optimum time to settle is when pressure of trial is imminent
- § 6:215 — —Attorneys negotiate more freely when their clients are not present
- § 6:216 —Beginning the conference
- § 6:217 — —Discussions regarding liability
- § 6:218 — — —Corroborating evidence
- § 6:219 — — —Admission of liability
- § 6:220 — — —Strengths and weaknesses
- § 6:221 — —Discussions regarding damages
- § 6:222 — — —Medical specials
- § 6:223 — — —Loss of earnings
- § 6:224 — — —Disfigurement
- § 6:225 — — —Pain and suffering
- § 6:226 — — —Future disability
- § 6:227 —Suggestions regarding conference negotiations
- § 6:228 — —Convincing opponent
- § 6:229 — —Settlement authority
- § 6:230 — —Settlement and opposing
- § 6:231 — —Counterproductive negotiating techniques
- § 6:232 — — —Painting one's self into a corner
- § 6:233 — — —Asking for the moon
- § 6:234 — — —Hostile rhetoric
- § 6:235 — — —Denying the obvious
- § 6:236 — — —Sandbagging
- § 6:237 — —Time limitations in complex cases
- § 6:238 — —Remember your client!
- § 6:239 —Judge's role in conference negotiations
- § 6:240 — —Conferring separately with each side
- § 6:241 — — —Purpose
- § 6:242 — — —Confidentiality
- § 6:243 — — —Candid appraisals
- § 6:244 — — —Secret evidence
- § 6:245 — —Focusing the evaluations
- § 6:246 — — —Estimates
- § 6:247 — — —Compromising the estimates
- § 6:248 — —Judge's expression of opinion
- § 6:249 — — —Kinds of opinions
- § 6:250 — — —Effect of opinion on negotiations
- § 6:251 — —Closing the deal
- § 6:252 — —Should judge talk directly to client?

- § 6:253 — — — Judge’s concerns
- § 6:254 — — — Exceptional circumstances
- § 6:255 — — — Nature of judge-client conference
- § 6:256 — — — Presence of third persons at judge-client conference
- § 6:257 Special problems at settlement conferences
- § 6:258 — — — Multiparty cases
- § 6:259 — — — Multiple defendants
- § 6:260 — — — General concerns
- § 6:261 — — — Concerns regarding piecemeal settlements
- § 6:262 — — — Multiple plaintiffs
- § 6:263 — — — Caveat—Conflict of interest problems
- § 6:264 — — — Lien claimants
- § 6:265 — — — Types of liens
- § 6:266 — — — Deducting workers’ compensation attorney’s fees but not expenses
- § 6:267 — — — Negotiating reduction of lien
- § 6:268 — — — Professional negligence (malpractice) cases
- § 6:269 — — — Necessity for insured’s consent
- § 6:270 — — — Additional complications
- § 6:271 Trial date settlement conference
- § 6:272 — — — Informal procedure
- § 6:273 — — — Local restrictions
- § 6:274 — — — Settlement discussions before trial judge
- § 6:275 — — — Caveat; Pitfalls of sandbagging

**VII. CONCLUDING AND ENFORCING THE SETTLEMENT**

- § 6:276 Concluding settlements
- § 6:277 — — — Obtaining insurer’s consent
- § 6:278 — — — Settlements reached before petition filed—  
Execution of release
- § 6:279 — — — Nature of release
- § 6:280 — — — Variations
- § 6:281 — — — Effect of settlement
- § 6:282 — — — Effect on other tortfeasors
- § 6:283 — — — Effect on respondeat superior liability
- § 6:284 — — — Effect on insurer
- § 6:285 — — — Effect on bank
- § 6:286 — — — Drafting the release
- § 6:287 — — — Reformation of release
- § 6:288 — — — Setting aside the release
- § 6:289 — — — Release from gross negligence not valid

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 6:290 —Settlements reached after complaint filed—Release and dismissal of action
- § 6:291 — —Request for dismissal
- § 6:292 — — —Procedure
- § 6:293 — —Settlements concluded at in-court conference— Putting the settlement on the record
- § 6:294 — — —Purposes
- § 6:295 — — —Procedure
- § 6:296 — —Rule 11 settlements
- § 6:297 — — —Agreements to arbitrate
- § 6:298 — —Special rules for concluding settlement where claimant is a minor or incompetent
- § 6:299 — — —Court approval of settlement required
- § 6:300 — — —Appointment of guardian, conservator, or guardian ad litem prerequisite
- § 6:301 — — —Procedures for court approval
- § 6:302 — — —Where to file
- § 6:303 — — —Revocation of consent
- § 6:304 — — —Collection of settlement proceeds
- § 6:305 — — —Wrongful death actions
- § 6:306 — —Attorney’s fees and costs
- § 6:307 — —Disposition of settlement proceeds
- § 6:308 —Health care liability indemnity from state
- § 6:309 Enforcing settlement agreements
- § 6:310 —Suit upon the contract
- § 6:311 Interest
- § 6:312 —Rate and calculation
- § 6:313 — —When settlement is unclear
- § 6:314 —Accrual
- § 6:315 — —Effect of settlement offer on accrual of prejudgment interest
- § 6:316 —Noncash settlement offer
- § 6:317 —Attorney’s fees and expenses

## **VIII. SETTING ASIDE AND RESCISSION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

- § 6:318 Contract principles apply
- § 6:319 —Fraudulent inducement
- § 6:320 —Unilateral mistake
- § 6:321 — —Mutual mistake
- § 6:322 —Mistake as to existence of injury
- § 6:323 —Workers’ compensation settlements

## **IX. FORMS**

- § 6:324 Policy limits demand letter

- § 6:325 Failure to negotiate demand letter
- § 6:326 Offer of settlement under Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act
- § 6:327 Suggested settlement conference statement form
- § 6:328 Sample release agreement
- § 6:329 Joint motion to dismiss
- § 6:330 Agreement to participate in moderated settlement conference
- § 6:331 Motion to refer case to moderated settlement conference under Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Ann. § 154.025
- § 6:332 Order referring case to moderated settlement conference and appointing moderators
- § 6:333 Court's notice of intent to refer case to alternative dispute resolution
- § 6:334 Motion to refer case to alternative dispute resolution
- § 6:335 Motion for summary judgment in action to enforce settlement
- § 6:336 Sample petition—To recover damages for negligent misrepresentation of medical condition resulting in adverse settlement of damage claim
- § 6:337 Authorization form for release of protected health information pursuant to Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Ann. § 74.053

## CHAPTER 7. FILING SUIT

### I. PRELAWSUIT FILINGS AND NOTICE

- § 7:1 Suits against governmental units
- § 7:2 —Plaintiff's burden to establish waiver of immunity
- § 7:3 —Tangible property
- § 7:4 —Operation or use of a motor-driven vehicle
- § 7:5 —Emergency action
- § 7:6 —Municipal governmental functions
- § 7:7 —Notice requirement
- § 7:8 — —Purpose
- § 7:9 — —Failure to provide notice
- § 7:10 — —Exceptions—Notice excused
- § 7:11 — — —Actual notice
- § 7:12 — — —Insufficient actual notice
- § 7:13 — — —Imputation of notice
- § 7:14 — — —Minority
- § 7:15 — — —Physical or mental incapacity
- § 7:16 — —Estoppel to assert notice bar

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 7:17 — — Compare—Additional requirements under charters and ordinances
- § 7:18 — — — Exceptions to city charter notice requirements
- § 7:19 — — Content of notice
- § 7:20 — — Substantial compliance
- § 7:21 — — Time for presentation of notice
- § 7:22 — — — Charter provisions
- § 7:23 Claims against decedent’s estate
- § 7:24 — Generally
- § 7:25 — Claims in litigation at death of defendant
- § 7:26 — Form and method of presentation
- § 7:27 — Authentication of claim
- § 7:28 — Lost or destroyed claims
- § 7:29 — Referral of disputed claim
- § 7:30 Medical malpractice actions
- § 7:31 — Failure to give notice
- § 7:32 — — Abatement for modified or revoked authorization
- § 7:33 — — — Abatement beyond extended limitations period
- § 7:34 — Statute of limitations tolled
- § 7:35 — Statute of repose
- § 7:36 — Summary of time limit rules
- § 7:37 Workers’ compensation
- § 7:38 — Notice of accident to the employer
- § 7:39 — — Scope of the notice
- § 7:40 — — Occupational disease
- § 7:41 — Time for filing notice of accident
- § 7:42 — Lack of timely notice excused
- § 7:43 — — Good cause and claimant’s conduct
- § 7:44 — — Actual knowledge of employer
- § 7:45 — — Employee’s failure to realize seriousness of injury
- § 7:46 — — Mental incapacity of claimant; minor dependent of employee
- § 7:47 — Claim filing
- § 7:48 — — Death cases
- § 7:49 — — Statutory extension of claim filing time
- § 7:50 — — Consequences of noncompliance

## II. WHEN TO SUE

- § 7:51 Generally
- § 7:52 — General statute of limitations
- § 7:53 — Time runs from accrual of cause of action
- § 7:54 — — Death actions
- § 7:55 — — Conspiracy claims
- § 7:56 — — Time-of-event or legal injury rule

- § 7:57 — —Discovery rule
- § 7:58 — — —Meaning of inherently undiscoverable and objectively verifiable
- § 7:59 — — —Discovery of injury
- § 7:60 — — —Fraudulent concealment
- § 7:61 — — —Application
- § 7:62 — —Continuing torts
- § 7:63 — —Tolling for actions based on fraud
- § 7:64 — — —Plaintiff's burden of proof
- § 7:65 — —Computing time
- § 7:66 — —Due diligence in obtaining service
- § 7:67 — —Refiled actions
- § 7:68 —Special statutes
- § 7:69 — —Medical malpractice actions
- § 7:70 — —Products liability actions
- § 7:71 — —Employee third-party actions
- § 7:72 — —Wrongful death
- § 7:73 Postponement or suspension of statute; tolling
- § 7:74 —Absence of defendant
- § 7:75 — —Defendant subject to service of process
- § 7:76 —Medical malpractice actions
- § 7:77 —Disability of plaintiff
- § 7:78 —Disability or incapacity; cumulative disabilities
- § 7:79 — —Statute of limitations
- § 7:80 — —Disability or incapacity must exist when right of action accrues
- § 7:81 — — —Minority
- § 7:82 — — —Medical malpractice actions and minors
- § 7:83 — —Unsound mind
- § 7:84 — —Insanity—Medical malpractice actions and insanity
- § 7:85 —Imprisonment and tolling
- § 7:86 —Husband and wife relationship and tolling
- § 7:87 —Injunction
- § 7:88 —Probate of will
- § 7:89 —Pending litigation
- § 7:90 — —Tacking disabilities
- § 7:91 — —Limitation—Time disability arises
- § 7:92 — — —Death of plaintiff or defendant
- § 7:93 — — —Executor or administrator qualification
- § 7:94 — — —Medical malpractice actions and death
- § 7:95 —Pending proceedings preventing effective suit
- § 7:96 — —Bankruptcy
- § 7:97 — —Lack of jurisdiction by original filing
- § 7:98 — —Compare—Estoppel to assert the statute

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 7:99 —Duress
- § 7:100 Other special statutes of limitations or repose
- § 7:101 —Actions against governmental unit or employees
- § 7:102 —Actions against architects, engineers, interior designers, and landscape architects furnishing design, planning, or inspection of construction or improvements—Statute of repose
- § 7:103 — —General 10-year time limitation
- § 7:104 — —Suit brought by governmental entity
- § 7:105 — —Extension after presentation of claim
- § 7:106 — —No extension of statute of limitations
- § 7:107 —Actions against surveyors
- § 7:108 —Actions against persons furnishing construction or repair of improvements
- § 7:109 — —General 10-year time limitation
- § 7:110 — —Burden of proof
- § 7:111 — —Suit brought by governmental entity
- § 7:112 — —Suit involving residence
- § 7:113 — —Extended limitations period after presentation of claim
- § 7:114 — —Extended limitations period if injury or death occurs in 10th year
- § 7:115 — —Affirmative defenses
- § 7:116 —Workers' compensation
- § 7:117 —Uninsured motorist claims
- § 7:118 —Maritime claims
- § 7:119 —Products liability: Statute of repose
- § 7:120 —Sexual exploitation by mental service health providers
- § 7:121 —Malicious prosecution, libel, slander, or breach of promise of marriage
- § 7:122 —Fraud
- § 7:123 —Personal injuries from violation of certain penal statutes
- § 7:124 —Damages or other relief arising from a real estate appraisal
- § 7:125 Commencing proceedings to stop running of statute
- § 7:126 —Filing complaint
- § 7:127 —Counterclaims and cross claims
- § 7:128 —Compare—Cross claims between tortfeasors for equitable indemnity
- § 7:129 —Adding causes of action by amendment
- § 7:130 —Relation back of amendments
- § 7:131 —Burden of proof
- § 7:132 —Question of law and fact

- § 7:133 —Sufficiency of evidence; nonsuit and directed verdict
- § 7:134 —Effect of cause of action arising outside of state
- § 7:135 Estoppel to assert the statute of limitations
- § 7:136 Application of limitations periods to arbitration
- § 7:137 Misidentification and misnomer of defendant
- § 7:138 Waiver
- § 7:139 Accrual of causes of action
- § 7:140 —Tort actions, generally
- § 7:141 —Venue
- § 7:142 —Personal injury
- § 7:143 —Loss of consortium
- § 7:144 —Malicious prosecution and abuse of process
- § 7:145 —Defamation and slander
- § 7:146 —Negligence, generally
- § 7:147 — —Duty of care
- § 7:148 —Emotional distress
- § 7:149 —Malpractice, generally
- § 7:150 — —Medical malpractice
- § 7:151 — — —Discovery of foreign object
- § 7:152 — —Attorney and accountant malpractice
- § 7:153 —Wrongful death
- § 7:154 —Nuisance

### III. PARTIES

- § 7:155 Who can sue
- § 7:156 —Generally, person who suffered the injury
- § 7:157 — —Rights of plaintiff in relation to bringing action
- § 7:158 — —Necessity of indicating status as agent or representative capacity
- § 7:159 — —Effect of variance in names
- § 7:160 —Real party in interest
- § 7:161 — —Claims based on subrogation
- § 7:162 — — —Subrogee may sue in own name or name of subrogor
- § 7:163 —Representative suit (class actions)
- § 7:164 —Challenging standing to sue
- § 7:165 — —Issue waived
- § 7:166 —Capacity limitations
- § 7:167 — —Minors and incompetents
- § 7:168 — — —Next friend
- § 7:169 — — —Appointment of guardian
- § 7:170 — —Estates
- § 7:171 — —Challenging lack of capacity
- § 7:172 — — —Pleas in abatement

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 7:173	— — —Leave to amend to substitute party with capacity
§ 7:174	—Who are potential parties to lawsuit
§ 7:175	— —Medical malpractice
§ 7:176	— —Products liability
§ 7:177	Joinder of parties
§ 7:178	—Practical considerations
§ 7:179	— —Products liability actions
§ 7:180	— —Employer liability
§ 7:181	— —Procedure upon misjoinder and nonjoinder
§ 7:182	—Necessary or compulsory joinder
§ 7:183	— —Failure to join
§ 7:184	— — —Explanation required
§ 7:185	— — —Involuntary plaintiffs may be joined
§ 7:186	— — —Joinder will be ordered, if feasible
§ 7:187	— — —If joinder not feasible, court must decide if action should continue
§ 7:188	— — —Factors considered
§ 7:189	— — —Challenging nonjoinder
§ 7:190	— — —Contents of pleading
§ 7:191	— — —Order compelling joinder
§ 7:192	— — —Waiver
§ 7:193	— — —Insurer, or insured, may be a necessary party
§ 7:194	— — —Permissive joinder
§ 7:195	— —Plaintiffs
§ 7:196	— —Defendants
§ 7:197	— —Party need not be interested in all relief
§ 7:198	— —Separate trials
§ 7:199	— —Judgment
§ 7:200	—Challenging improper joinder
§ 7:201	Practical considerations regarding deciding whom to sue under permissive joinder rules
§ 7:202	—Advantages of suing all possible defendants
§ 7:203	— —Avoids statute of limitations problems
§ 7:204	— —Avoids empty chair defense
§ 7:205	—Disadvantages of suing all possible defendants
§ 7:206	— —Delays and complicates proceedings
§ 7:207	— —Stalls settlement possibilities
§ 7:208	— —Facilitating proof
§ 7:209	Third-party practice
§ 7:210	—When plaintiff may bring in a third party
§ 7:211	Intervention, is it possible?
§ 7:212	—Who may intervene
§ 7:213	— —Intervention as a plaintiff
§ 7:214	— — —Interest necessary

- § 7:215 — — Intervention as a defendant
- § 7:216 — — Time for intervention
- § 7:217 — — Procedure
- § 7:218 — — Effect of intervention
- § 7:219 — — — Intervenor has same rights as any party
- § 7:220 — — — Intervenor-Subrogee survives dismissal of plaintiff
- § 7:221 — — — Relation back for statute of limitations purposes
- § 7:222 Death of a party
- § 7:223 — Survival
- § 7:224 — Abatement and substitution
- § 7:225 — Death of plaintiff
- § 7:226 — Death of defendant
- § 7:227 — Death of executor or administrator
- § 7:228 — Requisites of scire facias
- § 7:229 — Suggestion of death on record
- § 7:230 — Suit for use of another
- § 7:231 — Death after verdict or close of evidence
- § 7:232 Class actions
- § 7:233 — Requisites of a class action
- § 7:234 — — Standing of representative

#### IV. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- § 7:235 Generally
- § 7:236 Personal jurisdiction
- § 7:237 — Jurisdiction over nonresidents
- § 7:238 — — Long-arm statute
- § 7:239 — — Due process requires minimum contacts
- § 7:240 — — General and limited jurisdiction
- § 7:241 — — Tests
- § 7:242 — — Application
- § 7:243 — — — Physical presence in state when served
- § 7:244 — — — Domicile
- § 7:245 — — — Doing business in Texas
- § 7:246 — — — Internet activity
- § 7:247 — — — Local purchases
- § 7:248 — — — Liability-producing act committed in Texas
- § 7:249 — — — Auto accident in state
- § 7:250 — — — Example—Incidental contacts with state
- § 7:251 — — — Liability-producing act outside Texas, causing effect within state
- § 7:252 — — — Appearance or consent
- § 7:253 — — — Scope of jurisdiction conferred by general appearance

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 7:254 — — — Compare—No jurisdiction on basis of a special appearance

§ 7:255 — — — Mere appearance in court

§ 7:256 — — — Consent

§ 7:257 — — — Special considerations regarding corporate defendants

§ 7:258 — — — Texas corporations

§ 7:259 — — — Authorized foreign corporations

§ 7:260 — — — Unauthorized foreign corporations

§ 7:261 — — — Successor liability and subsidiaries

§ 7:262 — — — Jurisdiction over corporate employees or officers

§ 7:263 — — — Compare—Lack of capacity

§ 7:264 — Challenging personal jurisdiction

§ 7:265 — — — Special appearance

§ 7:266 — — — Procedure

§ 7:267 — — — Burden of proof

§ 7:268 — — — Types of evidence

§ 7:269 — — — Affidavits

§ 7:270 — — — Risk of waiver

§ 7:271 — — — Proceeding on merits may waive defect

§ 7:272 — — — Relief from denial of special appearance

§ 7:273 — — — Sustained special appearance

§ 7:274 — — — Suffer default judgment and then attack on jurisdiction grounds

§ 7:275 Requirements for subject matter jurisdiction

§ 7:276 — Multiple plaintiffs

§ 7:277 — Survival and wrongful death actions

§ 7:278 — Judgments against nonappearing defendant; proof of jurisdiction

§ 7:279 — Effect of attachment on jurisdiction

§ 7:280 — Effect of lack of jurisdiction

§ 7:281 — Counterclaims

§ 7:282 — Reviewing court

§ 7:283 Quasi in rem jurisdiction

§ 7:284 Venue

§ 7:285 — General venue rule

§ 7:286 — — Residence means domicile

§ 7:287 — — Multiparty actions—Residence of any defendant

§ 7:288 — — Principal office

§ 7:289 — — Multiple plaintiffs

§ 7:290 — — Intervention as a plaintiff

§ 7:291 — Multiple causes of action

§ 7:292 — Mandatory venue provisions

- § 7:293 — —Counterclaims, cross claims, and third-party claims
- § 7:294 —Special venue rules in actions against corporations or other entities
- § 7:295 — —Corporations, unincorporated associations, and partnerships
- § 7:296 —Special rule in actions against government entities
- § 7:297 — —Suit against the state
- § 7:298 — —County defendants
- § 7:299 —Change of venue rules—In general
- § 7:300 — —Motion to transfer venue
- § 7:301 — — —Time for filing
- § 7:302 — — —How to file
- § 7:303 — — —Requisites of motion
- § 7:304 — — —Response and reply
- § 7:305 — — —Notice of filing
- § 7:306 — — —Plaintiff as movant
- § 7:307 — — —Effect of nonsuit while motion pending
- § 7:308 — — —Determination of motion
- § 7:309 — — —Movant to request setting
- § 7:310 — — —Notice
- § 7:311 — — —Filing of response
- § 7:312 — — —Burden of establishing venue
- § 7:313 — — —Affidavits and attachments
- § 7:314 — — —Hearing
- § 7:315 — — —Effect of adequate pleading
- § 7:316 — — —Effect of inadequate pleading
- § 7:317 — — —Jury
- § 7:318 — — —Rehearing
- § 7:319 — — —Interlocutory appeals
- § 7:320 — — — —Mandamus
- § 7:321 — — — —Review after trial on merits
- § 7:322 — — —Discovery and venue
- § 7:323 — — —Waiver
- § 7:324 — — —Use of discovery products by court
- § 7:325 — — —Motion sustained
- § 7:326 — — —Costs
- § 7:327 — — —Transcript
- § 7:328 — — —Notice and filing fees
- § 7:329 — — —Compare—Forum non conveniens
- § 7:330 —Change of venue by consent
- § 7:331 — —Time for filing
- § 7:332 —Change of venue due to prejudice
- § 7:333 — — —Determination of motion
- § 7:334 — — —Discovery

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 7:335 — —County to which action will be transferred
- § 7:336 Forum non conveniens
- § 7:337 —Proof requirements for moving party
- § 7:338 —Terms and conditions may be set
- § 7:339 —General procedural requirements in wrongful death and personal injury actions
- § 7:340 — —Filing motion for stay or dismissal
- § 7:341 — —Discovery
- § 7:342 — —Hearing on motion
- § 7:343 — —Extensions of time
- § 7:344 — —Modification of order granting stay or dismissal—Mandatory withdrawal of order
- § 7:345 —General exception—Application
- § 7:346 In-state transfers for the convenience of the parties
- § 7:347 Conflict of laws; federal versus state court?
- § 7:348 —Diversity jurisdiction over claims exceeding \$75,000
- § 7:349 — —Complete diversity required
- § 7:350 —Removal jurisdiction
- § 7:351 — —Exception where a defendant is domiciled in Texas
- § 7:352 —Factors to consider
- § 7:353 — —Substantive rules the same
- § 7:354 — —Procedural rules may differ
- § 7:355 — — —Attorney signature on complaint or petition
- § 7:356 — — —Discovery and pretrial conferences
- § 7:357 — — —Practical considerations
- § 7:358 — — —Court congestion
- § 7:359 — — —Geographic convenience
- § 7:360 — — —Out of state transfer
- § 7:361 — — —Judge
- § 7:362 — — —Juries
- § 7:363 —Conflict of law between states
- § 7:364 — —Choice of law
- § 7:365 — — —Substantive matters
- § 7:366 — — —Procedural matters

## V. PLEADINGS

- § 7:367 General pleading considerations
- § 7:368 —Form and content
- § 7:369 — —Generally
- § 7:370 —Matters asserted in opponent's pleading
- § 7:371 —Frivolous pleadings
- § 7:372 —Effect of admission of fact in pleadings
- § 7:373 — —Admissions in answer

- § 7:374 Complaint
- § 7:375 —General format
- § 7:376 —Request for discovery control plan
- § 7:377 —Designating parties
- § 7:378 — —Corporations
- § 7:379 — — —Corporate plaintiffs, qualified to do business allegation
- § 7:380 — — —Corporate defendants
- § 7:381 — — —Alleging a corporation
- § 7:382 — — —Effect of merger of corporations
- § 7:383 — —Partnership and unincorporated association—As plaintiff
- § 7:384 — — —As defendant
- § 7:385 — —Sole proprietor
- § 7:386 — —Persons acting in representative capacity—  
Executor, administrator, etc
- § 7:387 — — —Guardian ad litem
- § 7:388 — —Unknown parties
- § 7:389 — —Incomplete or erroneous designations
- § 7:390 —Venue allegations
- § 7:391 —Alleging the cause of action
- § 7:392 — —Each cause of action separately stated
- § 7:393 — —Nature of claim and parties affected
- § 7:394 — —Paragraph numbering
- § 7:395 — —Statement required
- § 7:396 — — —Ultimate facts
- § 7:397 — — —Pleading basis for punitive damages
- § 7:398 — — —Sufficient allegations
- § 7:399 — — —Insufficient allegations
- § 7:400 — — —Employer liability
- § 7:401 — —Construction of allegations in complaint
- § 7:402 — — —Incorporation by reference
- § 7:403 — — —Exhibits
- § 7:404 — — —Alternative and conflicting allegations
- § 7:405 — — —Negligent infliction of emotional distress
- § 7:406 — — —Violation of statute
- § 7:407 — — —Breach of contractual duties
- § 7:408 — — —Act of God
- § 7:409 — — —Doctrine of last clear chance or discovered peril
- § 7:410 — — —Contributory negligence
- § 7:411 — — —Damages
- § 7:412 — — —Premises liability action against governmental entity
- § 7:413 — — —Medical malpractice

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 7:414 —Complaint filed by out-of-state attorney  
§ 7:415 —Striking of complaint  
§ 7:416 —Joinder of causes of action  
§ 7:417 — —Permissive joinder  
§ 7:418 — — —Court may sever  
§ 7:419 —Prayer for relief  
§ 7:420 — —General prayer  
§ 7:421 — —Special prayer  
§ 7:422 — —Combination prayer  
§ 7:423 — —Alternative prayer  
§ 7:424 — —Pleading not frivolous  
§ 7:425 — —Jurisdictional amount  
§ 7:426 —Signature  
§ 7:427 — —Certification  
§ 7:428 — — —Sanctions  
§ 7:429 — — —Good-faith filing requirement  
§ 7:430 — — —No grace period  
§ 7:431 — — —Report to grievance committee  
§ 7:432 — — —Standards for imposing sanctions  
§ 7:433 — — —Appellate review of sanctions  
§ 7:434 —Verification  
§ 7:435 — —Required by statute or rule  
§ 7:436 — —Required as matter of policy  
§ 7:437 — —Who may verify  
§ 7:438 — — —Information and belief verification  
§ 7:439 — —Who may take affidavits for verification of pleadings  
§ 7:440 — —Form  
§ 7:441 — —Omission of verification  
§ 7:442 The answer and responsive pleadings  
§ 7:443 —Time for filing  
§ 7:444 — —Justice court  
§ 7:445 —Cases removed to United States District Court  
§ 7:446 —General format and contents  
§ 7:447 — —Paragraphs  
§ 7:448 — —Indorsements  
§ 7:449 — —Responses in body of complaint  
§ 7:450 — —Alternative defenses  
§ 7:451 — —Incorporation by reference  
§ 7:452 —General denials  
§ 7:453 — —Counterclaims or cross-claims  
§ 7:454 — —Limitation on usefulness of general denial  
§ 7:455 — —Pleading not frivolous  
§ 7:456 Pleading special matters; avoidance and affirmative

- § 7:457 —Affirmative defenses
- § 7:458 — —Examples in Rules of Civil Procedure
- § 7:459 — —Assumption of risk
- § 7:460 — — —Felonies
- § 7:461 — — —Suicides
- § 7:462 — — —Dry fire hydrants
- § 7:463 — —Additional affirmative defenses
- § 7:464 — — —Capacity and authority to sue
- § 7:465 — — —Mistake or condition of mind
- § 7:466 — — —Conditions precedent
- § 7:467 — — —Official document or act
- § 7:468 — — —Defenses to libel and slander
- § 7:469 — —Special immunity defenses for government entity defendants (subject matter jurisdiction)
- § 7:470 — —Special immunity defenses for government entity defendants—Challenges to subject matter jurisdiction
- § 7:471 — — —Failure to amend plea for jurisdiction
- § 7:472 — — —Suits based on claims arising from certain governmental functions
- § 7:473 — — —Claims based on discretionary powers
- § 7:474 — — —Claims based on civil disobedience and certain intentional torts
- § 7:475 — —Lack of notice
- § 7:476 — —Special immunity defenses for government entity defendants—Claims based on traffic and road control services
- § 7:477 — — —Municipalities
- § 7:478 — — —Other miscellaneous claims
- § 7:479 — — —Permission to sue state or its agencies
- § 7:480 — — —Federal preemption
- § 7:481 — —Immunity defense of government employees
- § 7:482 — — —Medical malpractice exception
- § 7:483 — — —Protection where claim against government entity has been disposed of
- § 7:484 — — —School employees
- § 7:485 — —Form of allegation
- § 7:486 — —Pleading inconsistently
- § 7:487 —Pleas in abatement
- § 7:488 —Pleas in bar
- § 7:489 — —Effect of new matter—Deemed controverted
- § 7:490 — — —Plaintiff deemed entitled to relief
- § 7:491 —Prayer
- § 7:492 —Attorney’s fees
- § 7:493 —Signature and verification

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 7:494 —Service  
§ 7:495 Demand for jury trial; Generally  
§ 7:496 Demand for jury trial; District Courts  
§ 7:497 Demand for jury trial; Justice court  
§ 7:498 Demand for jury trial; Time for demand  
§ 7:499 Demand for jury trial; Demand for jury trial in pleadings  
§ 7:500 Demand for jury trial; Waiver of jury trial  
§ 7:501 —Presumption regarding failing to demand  
§ 7:502 —Resetting of case  
§ 7:503 Demand for jury trial; waiver of jury trial—Unclean hands  
§ 7:504 —Withdrawal  
§ 7:505 Counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party  
§ 7:506 —Contributory negligence: counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party claims  
§ 7:507 —Counterclaim  
§ 7:508 — —Who may file  
§ 7:509 — —Counterclaims against plaintiff—Permissive versus compulsory  
§ 7:510 — — —Permissive  
§ 7:511 — — —Compulsory  
§ 7:512 — — —Effect of failure to plead  
§ 7:513 — — —Default judgments  
§ 7:514 — —Omitted counterclaim  
§ 7:515 — —Statute of limitations as barring counterclaim  
§ 7:516 — —Answer as stating counterclaim  
§ 7:517 — —Action involving setoffs and counterclaims  
§ 7:518 — —Separate trials; separate judgments  
§ 7:519 —Third-party claims  
§ 7:520 — —Joinder of other claims permitted  
§ 7:521 — —Joinder of other parties permitted  
§ 7:522 — —When leave of court required  
§ 7:523 — — —Limitation in tort cases  
§ 7:524 — — —Common-law indemnity  
§ 7:525 — — —Contractual indemnity for negligence  
§ 7:526 —Cross-claims  
§ 7:527 — —Joinder  
§ 7:528 —Procedural matters for claims, generally  
§ 7:529 — —When leave of court required  
§ 7:530 — —Format  
§ 7:531 — — —Allegations  
§ 7:532 — — —Prayer for relief  
§ 7:533 — —Service of counterclaim

- § 7:534 — —Third-party defendant’s claims against nonparties
- § 7:535 — —Statute of limitations concerns
- § 7:536 — — —Same transaction or occurrence
- § 7:537 — — —Different transaction or occurrence
- § 7:538 — —Notice requirements
- § 7:539 — — —Indemnity in certain health care liability cases
- § 7:540 —Contribution of other parties
- § 7:541 — —Exception—No contribution from settling persons
- § 7:542 — —Basis of contribution right under proportionate responsibility statutes
- § 7:543 — — —Responsibility exceeding 50%
- § 7:544 — —Raised by third-party claim or cross claim
- § 7:545 — — —As against plaintiff
- § 7:546 — —Damages in proportion
- § 7:547 — —Contribution defendants
- § 7:548 — —Settlement
- § 7:549 — — —Right of contribution against settling person
- § 7:550 — — —Plaintiff’s recovery
- § 7:551 — — —Complete releases
- § 7:552 — —Contribution not covered by comparative responsibility statutes
- § 7:553 — —Effect of statute of limitations in primary suit
- § 7:554 Amended pleadings
- § 7:555 —Definition and function
- § 7:556 —Amendments as of right
- § 7:557 — —Deficient petition
- § 7:558 —Amendments or responses requiring leave of court
- § 7:559 — —Surprise to opposing party
- § 7:560 — —Effect
- § 7:561 —Trial amendment
- § 7:562 — —Right to amend
- § 7:563 — —Leave of court required
- § 7:564 — — —Tendering written trial amendment to preserve error
- § 7:565 — —Time to amend
- § 7:566 — —Postverdict amendment
- § 7:567 —Form and content
- § 7:568 —Effect on original pleading
- § 7:569 — —Exceptions
- § 7:570 — —Omitted parties
- § 7:571 — —Effect on opposing party’s pleadings

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 7:572 —Amendments to conform to issues tried without objection
- § 7:573 — —Purpose of rule
- § 7:574 — —Application of rule
- § 7:575 — —Statute of limitations concerns
- § 7:576 — — —Amendment changing theory of recovery
- § 7:577 — — —Amendment changing allegation of name or capacity of party
- § 7:578 — —Amended petition exceeding jurisdictional limits
- § 7:579 Supplemental pleadings
- § 7:580 —Governing law
- § 7:581 —Definition and function
- § 7:582 — —Effect of misnomer
- § 7:583 — —New parties
- § 7:584 — —Effect on opposing party’s pleadings
- § 7:585 —Necessity

## VI. CHALLENGING PLEADINGS

- § 7:586 Form of motions
- § 7:587 —Motions, generally
- § 7:588 —Requirements of motions
- § 7:589 — —Effect of failure to comply with requirements
- § 7:590 — —Hearing
- § 7:591 —General demurrer
- § 7:592 —Special exceptions
- § 7:593 — —Rule 91
- § 7:594 — — —General demurrer compared
- § 7:595 — — —Dilatory matters
- § 7:596 — — —Speaking demurrer
- § 7:597 —Motion to challenge frivolous pleadings
- § 7:598 — —Contents of motion
- § 7:599 — —Sanctions
- § 7:600 — —Limitation of sanctions
- § 7:601 — —Award of costs
- § 7:602 Defenses and objections
- § 7:603 —Generally
- § 7:604 —Waiver or preservation of defenses or objections
- § 7:605 —Effect of dismissal of some claims on remaining claims
- § 7:606 Particular defenses
- § 7:607 —Defense of failure to state claim
- § 7:608 —Motion to dismiss
- § 7:609 — —Appearance
- § 7:610 — —Grounds

- § 7:611 — —Notice of motion
- § 7:612 — —Function of motion to dismiss; allegations of complaint taken as true
- § 7:613 — —Appeal from order denying motion
- § 7:614 — —Relationship of motion to dismiss to motion for summary judgment; consideration of matters outside of pleadings
- § 7:615 — —Motion for judgment on the pleadings, generally
- § 7:616 — —Lack of jurisdiction
- § 7:617 — —Motion to strike
- § 7:618 — —Contributory negligence, generally
- § 7:619 — —Knowledge and appreciation of danger
- § 7:620 — — —Degree and standard of care in discovery and avoidance
- § 7:621 — —Proximate cause; avoidable consequences
- § 7:622 — —Assumption of risk
- § 7:623 — —Constitutional considerations
- § 7:624 — —Mail service as a minimum where defendant's whereabouts ascertainable
- § 7:625 — —Compare—Texas statutory requirements
- § 7:626 — — —Defendant may waive statutory service
- § 7:627 — — —Federal rules
- § 7:628 — —Issuance of summons
- § 7:629 — —Territorial limits
- § 7:630 — —Procedure for issuance
- § 7:631 — —Defects or omissions
- § 7:632 — — —Motion
- § 7:633 — — —Cure and amendment
- § 7:634 — —Form of summons—In general
- § 7:635 — — —Requisites of summons by publication
- § 7:636 — —Preparation by plaintiff
- § 7:637 — —Security for costs
- § 7:638 Service, generally
- § 7:639 — —Who may make service
- § 7:640 — —Officer or other person
- § 7:641 — — —Duty of officer or person receiving
- § 7:642 — —Authorized adult
- § 7:643 — —Service on natural persons
- § 7:644 — — —Nonresident individuals
- § 7:645 — —Person served
- § 7:646 — —Time of service
- § 7:647 — —Endorsement
- § 7:648 — —Alias or additional citations
- § 7:649 — —Defects or attacks on service
- § 7:650 — —Waiver

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 7:651 —Methods of effecting service  
§ 7:652 — —Proof of service and return, generally  
§ 7:653 — —Mail  
§ 7:654 — —When personal or mail service fails  
§ 7:655 — —Service by publication  
§ 7:656 — — —Affidavit or application in relation to order of publication  
§ 7:657 — — —Due diligence in ascertainment of defendant’s whereabouts  
§ 7:658 — — —Strict compliance  
§ 7:659 — — —How served  
§ 7:660 — —Other substituted service  
§ 7:661 — —Manner of service—Specific applications  
§ 7:662 — — —Defendant absent from state or is nonresident  
§ 7:663 — — —Process in foreign countries  
§ 7:664 — —Service on governmental agencies  
§ 7:665 — — —Suit against state for tort liability  
§ 7:666 — — —Suit against county  
§ 7:667 — — —Suit against city  
§ 7:668 — — —Suit against school district  
§ 7:669 — —Service on business entities  
§ 7:670 — — —Partnership  
§ 7:671 — — —Joint-stock association  
§ 7:672 — —Service on unincorporated associations and unions  
§ 7:673 — —Service on corporations  
§ 7:674 — — —Domestic corporations  
§ 7:675 — — —Service on Secretary of State  
§ 7:676 — — —How served  
§ 7:677 — — —Duty of Secretary  
§ 7:678 — — —Records  
§ 7:679 — — —Foreign corporations  
§ 7:680 — — —Service on president and registered agent  
§ 7:681 — — —Service on foreign corporation by Secretary of State  
§ 7:682 — — —Service of process, notice or demand  
§ 7:683 — — —Duty of Secretary  
§ 7:684 — — —Records  
§ 7:685 — —Service on certain noncorporate business agents  
§ 7:686 — — —Effect  
§ 7:687 — — —Defaults  
§ 7:688 — —Service under long-arm statutes  
§ 7:689 — — —Insurance companies  
§ 7:690 — — —Serving commissioner of insurance as service on insurance company

- § 7:691 — — — Suit on business transaction or tort
- § 7:692 — — — Substituted service on Secretary of State
- § 7:693 — — — Notice to nonresident
- § 7:694 — — — Method
- § 7:695 — — — Service on nonresidents in action to recover for negligent operation of automobiles in Texas
- § 7:696 — — — Who is subject to service
- § 7:697 — — — Method of service and notice
- § 7:698 — — — Effect of substituted service
- § 7:699 — — — Failed substituted service
- § 7:700 — — — Default judgment
- § 7:701 — — — Continuance or postponement
- § 7:702 — — — Miscellaneous service provisions
- § 7:703 — — — Nonresident employer
- § 7:704 — — — Nonresident utility supplier
- § 7:705 — — — Foreign railway
- § 7:706 — — — Incompetent persons
- § 7:707 — Amendment
- § 7:708 — Waiver of citation
- § 7:709 — — By memorandum
- § 7:710 — — By entering appearance
- § 7:711 — — Implied waiver
- § 7:712 — — — Answer
- § 7:713 — — — Constructive appearance
- § 7:714 — — Prelawsuit waiver
- § 7:715 — Proof of service; return
- § 7:716 — — Proof of service by mail
- § 7:717 — — Proof of service prior to judgment by default
- § 7:718 — — Verification
- § 7:719 — — Specific applications
- § 7:720 — — — Service by registered or certified mail
- § 7:721 — — — Service by alternative method when personal or mail service fails
- § 7:722 — — — Service by other substituted method
- § 7:723 — — — Service on nonresident or absent defendant
- § 7:724 — — — Service in foreign countries
- § 7:725 — — — Service by publication
- § 7:726 — — — Service on nonresident motor vehicle operator
- § 7:727 — — Failure to serve
- § 7:728 — — Default judgment
- § 7:729 — Challenging service of process
- § 7:730 — — Motion to quash citation or service
- § 7:731 — — Special appearance
- § 7:732 — — After default judgment, on appeal, or writ of error

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 7:733 —Reversal of judgment
- § 7:734 —Abuse of process of service, generally

## VII. DEFAULTS

- § 7:735 Nature of default
- § 7:736 —Distinction between entry of default and default judgment
- § 7:737 —Failure to answer or appear as basis of default judgment
- § 7:738 —Twenty days to answer, generally
- § 7:739 —Service by publication
- § 7:740 — —No default judgments
- § 7:741 —Records
- § 7:742 —Attorney’s fees
- § 7:743 —Case remanded from federal court
- § 7:744 Parties to whom default judgment applicable
- § 7:745 —Defendants in active military service
- § 7:746 —Involuntary plaintiffs
- § 7:747 —Infants
- § 7:748 Default cannot exceed demanded relief
- § 7:749 —Re-serving defendant
- § 7:750 Res judicata effect of default judgment
- § 7:751 Where only some answer
- § 7:752 Default procedure
- § 7:753 —Entry of default
- § 7:754 —Prerequisites
- § 7:755 — —Sufficiency of process
- § 7:756 — — —Citation or process on file
- § 7:757 — —Sufficiency of pleadings of evidence to sustain default
- § 7:758 — — —Test of sufficiency
- § 7:759 — — —Additional requirement with substituted service under the long-arm statute
- § 7:760 Nature of clerk’s authority to enter default or default judgment
- § 7:761 —Judgment
- § 7:762 — —Assessing damages on liquidated demands
- § 7:763 — —Unliquidated demands
- § 7:764 — — —Hearings
- § 7:765 — — —Defendant may be present
- § 7:766 Effect of default judgment
- § 7:767 —Effect of defendant’s default on liability insurance company
- § 7:768 —Right of defendant to present proof as to amount of damages

- § 7:769 —Finality of judgment by default
- § 7:770 —Notice of default judgment
- § 7:771 — —Failure to receive
- § 7:772 Defendant’s options to obtain relief from default
- § 7:773 —Restricted Appeal
- § 7:774 — —Time for taking
- § 7:775 — —Error must be apparent
- § 7:776 — —Compliance with Texas Rules of Civil Procedure  
must be shown
- § 7:777 — — —No presumption of valid service
- § 7:778 — — —Affirmative showing needed
- § 7:779 — —Meritorious defense need not be established
- § 7:780 — — —Unconstitutionality of requirement
- § 7:781 —Caveat—Effect of appearing to attack default

**VIII. DISMISSAL FOR WANT OF PROSECUTION**

- § 7:782 In general
- § 7:783 —Lack of diligence by more than one party
- § 7:784 —Grounds for dismissal
- § 7:785 — —Settlement activity
- § 7:786 — —Adverse party’s failure to complain about delay
- § 7:787 —Notice of dismissal
- § 7:788 —Dismissal hearing
- § 7:789 — —Factors to be considered
- § 7:790 —Notice of order
- § 7:791 Reinstatement
- § 7:792 —Grounds for reinstatement
- § 7:793 —Requirements of motion for reinstatement
- § 7:794 — —Jurisdictional nature of time requirement
- § 7:795 —Procedure
- § 7:796 — —Burden to obtain setting
- § 7:797 —Ruling on motion
- § 7:798 —Inapplicability to dismissal under court’s inherent  
power
- § 7:799 —Effect on perfecting appeal
- § 7:800 —Parties entitled

**IX. CHECKLISTS**

- § 7:801 Checklist—Choosing forum
- § 7:802 Pleadings checklist—Drafting petition in personal  
injury suit based on negligence
- § 7:803 —Drafting petition in premises liability suit (injuries  
to invitee)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 7:804 Checklist—Premises liability case—Petition in suit for injuries arising from dog bite
- § 7:805 —Petition—Products liability case—Breach of warranty
- § 7:806 —Drafting petition in personal injury suit arising from automobile collision
- § 7:807 —Drafting petition of pedestrian in personal injury suit arising from automobile accident
- § 7:808 —Drafting petition for medical malpractice
- § 7:809 —Drafting petition for personal injuries arising from negligent operation of pleasure boat
- § 7:810 —Drafting petition for personal injuries caused by negligence of hospital employees
- § 7:811 —Grounds for abatement

## X. FORMS

- § 7:812 Plea in abatement—Misjoinder
- § 7:813 —Misnomer
- § 7:814 —Prior suit filed
- § 7:815 —Death of defendant
- § 7:816 Motion for leave to amend pleading
- § 7:817 Motion for leave to file trial amendment
- § 7:818 Motion for sanctions for failure to serve or deliver copy of pleadings or motions
- § 7:819 Motion for summary judgment—Statute of limitations defense
- § 7:820 Plaintiff's response to defendant's assertion of statute of limitations defense—Defendant's temporary absence from state
- § 7:821 —Legal disability of plaintiff
- § 7:822 Citation—Personal service
- § 7:823 Affidavit waiving citation and accepting service of process
- § 7:824 Motion for abatement or dismissal—Defective service
- § 7:825 Sample answer—Medical malpractice case
- § 7:826 — —No physician-patient relationship with oncall physician
- § 7:827 Sample petition—Medical malpractice case
- § 7:828 —Release of Health Information
- § 7:829 —Medical malpractice case—Sponge left in patient's body
- § 7:830 Release of Health Information
- § 7:831 Sample petition—Bicyclist struck by automobile
- § 7:832 —Negligent entrustment of automobile
- § 7:833 —Personal injury suit

TEXAS PERSONAL INJURY

- § 7:834 Allegation that trauma aggravated preexisting condition
- § 7:835 Sample petition—Premises liability case
- § 7:836 — —Injury to beauty salon patron
- § 7:837 — —Injury to home-improvement-store patron
- § 7:838 — —Injury to bank customer during robbery at night depository
- § 7:839 — —Slip and fall on ice accumulated on building stairs
- § 7:840 — —Slip and fall on improperly waxed floor
- § 7:841 — —Slip and fall on trampled fruit on grocery store floor
- § 7:842 — —Slip and fall on staircase with open handrail
- § 7:843 — —Trip and fall over stock cart at grocery store
- § 7:844 — —Slip and fall on step at video store
- § 7:845 —Products liability case—Against manufacturer of blouse for burn injuries
- § 7:846 — —Negligent misrepresentation
- § 7:847 — —Injury from use of diving board
- § 7:848 Motion to transfer venue
- § 7:849 Plaintiff's controverting affidavit to defendant's motion to transfer venue
- § 7:850 Motion for substituted service
- § 7:851 Affidavit in support of motion for substituted service
- § 7:852 Plea in abatement and motion to quash service of citation
- § 7:853 Defendant's special appearance
- § 7:854 Nonmilitary affidavit
- § 7:855 Motion for default judgment
- § 7:856 Individual verification
- § 7:857 Corporate verification for affirmative defense
- § 7:858 General denial
- § 7:859 Cross claim in personal injury action
- § 7:860 Plea in abatement, special exceptions, general denial, and affirmative defense in original answer

# Table of Contents

## CHAPTER 8. DISCOVERY

### I. INTRODUCTION

- § 8:1 Nature and purpose of discovery—Formal fact acquisition
- § 8:2 —Discovery purposes
- § 8:3 — —Promoting pretrial resolution
- § 8:4 — — —Settlement
- § 8:5 — — —Dismissal
- § 8:6 — — —Summary judgment
- § 8:7 — —Narrowing the issues
- § 8:8 — —Preserving evidence
- § 8:9 — —Impeachment at trial
- § 8:10 —Definition of judge for discovery rules
- § 8:11 Overview of discovery tools
- § 8:12 —Required disclosure
- § 8:13 —Depositions
- § 8:14 —Interrogatories
- § 8:15 —Requests for admissions
- § 8:16 —Production of documents and things
- § 8:17 —Entry on land
- § 8:18 —Examination of persons
- § 8:19 — —Physical and mental examinations
- § 8:20 Responses to discovery
- § 8:21 Duty to supplement discovery information
- § 8:22 —General rule of no duty to supplement
- § 8:23 —Exceptions
- § 8:24 — —Thirty-day rule
- § 8:25 — —Expert witness information must be updated
- § 8:26 —Imposition of duty
- § 8:27 —Stipulations
- § 8:28 Sequence, timing, and control of discovery
- § 8:29 —Control of discovery and discovery control plans
- § 8:30 — —Required petition allegation
- § 8:31 — — —Failure to allege
- § 8:32 — —Discovery control plan levels
- § 8:33 — — —Level 1
- § 8:34 — — —Level 2
- § 8:35 — — —Level 3
- § 8:36 — —Modification of a discovery control plan

- § 8:37 — — Excepted discovery
- § 8:38 — — Discovery requests
- § 8:39 — — Other discovery forms
- § 8:40 — Venue
- § 8:41 — Resetting of trial
- § 8:42 Filing of discovery
- § 8:43 — Exceptions
- § 8:44 — Retention requirement

## **II. THE RIGHT TO CONDUCT DISCOVERY**

- § 8:45 Generally; Usually a matter of right
- § 8:46 Exceptions where leave of court required
- § 8:47 — Physical and mental examination of persons
- § 8:48 — — Deposition to perpetuate testimony or to investigate claims
- § 8:49 — — Discovery sought from a foreign national and comity
- § 8:50 — — — Optional nature of Hague Evidence Convention
- § 8:51 — — Depositions in foreign jurisdictions
- § 8:52 — — — By notice and before authorized person
- § 8:53 — — — Before person commissioned by court
- § 8:54 — — — Pursuant to letter rogatory, letter of request, or other device
- § 8:55 — — — Deposition by electronic means
- § 8:56 — — — Pursuant to applicable treaty or convention
- § 8:57 — — Discovery sought from nonparty foreign nation
- § 8:58 — — Deposition in Texas for use in foreign jurisdiction
- § 8:59 — — Limitations on discovery imposed by discovery control plans

## **III. THE DISCOVERY CONFERENCE**

- § 8:60 Generally
- § 8:61 Discovery certification
- § 8:62 — Supplementation of written discovery
- § 8:63 — — Time of amended or supplemental response
- § 8:64 — — Form of amended or supplemental response
- § 8:65 — — Experts
- § 8:66 — — Failure to supplement
- § 8:67 — — Completeness required
- § 8:68 — — Witness identification
- § 8:69 — — Good cause for the failure to supplement
- § 8:70 — — Supplementation not required

## **IV. SCOPE OF DISCOVERY, GENERALLY**

- § 8:71 Scope of discovery

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 8:72 —Discoverable matters  
§ 8:73 —Matters not discoverable  
§ 8:74 Discovery scope—Discovery definitions  
§ 8:75 Discovery of specific information and things  
§ 8:76 —Basic scope of discovery  
§ 8:77 —Documents and tangible things  
§ 8:78 —Persons with knowledge of relevant facts  
§ 8:79 —Trial witnesses  
§ 8:80 —Testifying and consulting experts  
§ 8:81 —Indemnity and insuring agreements  
§ 8:82 —Settlement agreements  
§ 8:83 —Statements of persons with knowledge of relevant facts  
§ 8:84 —Potential parties  
§ 8:85 —Contentions  
§ 8:86 Limitations on scope of discovery  
§ 8:87 Relevancy requirement  
§ 8:88 —Construction of requirement  
§ 8:89 —Effect of inadmissibility at trial  
§ 8:90 —Application  
§ 8:91 — —Identifying tangible evidence  
§ 8:92 — —Information about witnesses  
§ 8:93 — — —Exchange of witness lists  
§ 8:94 — — —Identity of expert trial witnesses  
§ 8:95 — —Witness credibility  
§ 8:96 — —Information about other claimants  
§ 8:97 —Reports of other accidents  
§ 8:98 —Adversary’s opinions and contentions  
§ 8:99 —Information as to insurance coverage  
§ 8:100 — —Exception for governmental defendants under Tort Claims Act  
§ 8:101 —Medical records and authorizations  
§ 8:102 —Discoverability of settlement offers or negotiations  
§ 8:103 —Previous statements  
§ 8:104 —Defendant’s net worth  
§ 8:105 —Tax returns  
§ 8:106 —Indemnity agreements  
§ 8:107 Burden of production of documents  
§ 8:108 —Objections to request  
§ 8:109 Discovery regarding testifying experts  
§ 8:110 —Permissible discovery tools  
§ 8:111 —Scope of discovery of experts  
§ 8:112 —Expert disclosures  
§ 8:113 —Schedule for designating experts  
§ 8:114 —Scheduling depositions

- § 8:115 — — Seeking affirmative relief
- § 8:116 — — — If no report furnished
- § 8:117 — — — If report is furnished
- § 8:118 — — Not seeking affirmative relief
- § 8:119 — — Use of subpoenas and discovery from nonparties
- § 8:120 — Oral deposition
- § 8:121 — — Time to make expert available for deposition
- § 8:122 — — Fees
- § 8:123 — Disclosure and designation of experts
- § 8:124 — — Time for service
- § 8:125 — — Time for designating experts
- § 8:126 — — Expert reports in medical liability cases
- § 8:127 — — — Required content
- § 8:128 — — — Multiple defendants
- § 8:129 — — — Multiple claims
- § 8:130 — — — Stay of discovery
- § 8:131 — — De-designation of Experts—Timing
- § 8:132 — Amendment and supplementation
- § 8:133 — Expert witness expense
- § 8:134 — Discovery of consulting experts
- § 8:135 Discovery from nonparties
- § 8:136 — Discovery by court order or by subpoena
- § 8:137 — Notice
- § 8:138 — Production of documents without deposition
- § 8:139 — Notice contents
- § 8:140 — Requests for production of medical or mental health records of other nonparties
- § 8:141 — Response
- § 8:142 — Inspection and copying
- § 8:143 — Expenses of production
- § 8:144 Privileges, introduction
- § 8:145 — Assertion of privilege
- § 8:146 — — Burden of proof
- § 8:147 — — Request for identification
- § 8:148 — — Response to request
- § 8:149 — — Exemption
- § 8:150 — — Privilege not waived by production
- § 8:151 — — Protective orders
- § 8:152 — Specificity required in stating privilege grounds
- § 8:153 — — Waiver
- § 8:154 — — Affirmative showing
- § 8:155 — — In camera inspection
- § 8:156 — — Ruling
- § 8:157 — — Use of material or information when there is no ruling

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 8:158 Typical privileges relevant to bodily injury litigation

§ 8:159 —Lawyer-client privilege

§ 8:160 — —Legal services

§ 8:161 — —Communication

§ 8:162 — — —Representatives

§ 8:163 — — —Exceptions—Material facts

§ 8:164 — —Insured’s report to insurer

§ 8:165 — —Governmental context

§ 8:166 — —Collateral or preexisting documents

§ 8:167 — —Confidential communication

§ 8:168 — —Requirement of confidentiality

§ 8:169 — — —What are confidential communications

§ 8:170 — — —Disclosure in another proceeding

§ 8:171 — — —Exceptions

§ 8:172 — — —Waiver by voluntary disclosure

§ 8:173 — — —Permissible third parties

§ 8:174 — —Waiver by verification of pleading

§ 8:175 — —Fundamental fairness—Implied waiver by  
tender of issue

§ 8:176 — — —Putting substance of advice in issue

§ 8:177 — — —Compare—No waiver by alleging emotional  
distress

§ 8:178 —Work product privilege

§ 8:179 — —Work product defined

§ 8:180 —Core work product privilege

§ 8:181 — —Scope of the privilege

§ 8:182 — — —Not work product

§ 8:183 — — —Incidental disclosure of attorney mental  
processes

§ 8:184 — — —Limiting disclosure of mental processes

§ 8:185 — — —Continuing nature of doctrine

§ 8:186 — —Application—Derivative or interpretative  
material subject to the privilege

§ 8:187 — — —Investigation reports

§ 8:188 — — —Lay witnesses to be called at trial and their  
connection to the case

§ 8:189 — — —Expert witnesses to be called at trial

§ 8:190 — — —Potential parties and witnesses

§ 8:191 — — —Consulting experts

§ 8:192 — — —Experts giving opinions as basis for affidavits  
or reports in health care liability claims

§ 8:193 — — —No application to documents not prepared in  
anticipation of litigation or for trial

§ 8:194 — —Identity of witnesses is discoverable

§ 8:195 — —Witness statements subject to discovery

- § 8:196 — —Anticipation of litigation
- § 8:197 — —Routine investigations
- § 8:198 — —Texas Workers' Compensation Commission  
proceedings
- § 8:199 — —Burden of proof
- § 8:200 — —Exceptions
- § 8:201 — —Evidence rules exceptions
- § 8:202 — —Qualified immunity
- § 8:203 — —Absolute protections
- § 8:204 — —Physician-patient privilege
- § 8:205 — —Redaction of identifying information
- § 8:206 — —Privacy rights of nonparties
- § 8:207 — —Exceptions
- § 8:208 — — —Condition of patient at issue
- § 8:209 — — —Offensive use of privilege
- § 8:210 — — —Medical malpractice actions
- § 8:211 — — —Consent
- § 8:212 — — —Disciplinary investigation or proceeding  
against physician or registered nurse
- § 8:213 — — —Other exceptions
- § 8:214 — —Medical records
- § 8:215 — —Required reports
- § 8:216 — —Marital privileges
- § 8:217 — —General rule
- § 8:218 — —Who may claim privilege
- § 8:219 — —Exceptions
- § 8:220 — —Medical committee matters
- § 8:221 — —Communications to clergymen
- § 8:222 — —Identity of informer
- § 8:223 — —Psychologist and psychiatrist privileges
- § 8:224 — —Trade secrets
- § 8:225 — —Waiver by disclosure, in general
- § 8:226 — —Compelled disclosure
- § 8:227 — —Opportunity to claim privilege
- § 8:228 — —Refreshing recollection of witness
- § 8:229 — —Offensive use of privilege
- § 8:230 — —Written statements of potential witnesses and parties
- § 8:231 — —What constitutes a written statement
- § 8:232 — —Limitation in health care liability actions
- § 8:233 — —Other limitations on discovery
- § 8:234 — —No fishing excursions allowed
- § 8:235 — —Inability to comply
- § 8:236 — —Prerequisite to court involvement
- § 8:237 — —Procedure to exclude written discovery
- § 8:238 — —Hearings and evidence

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 8:239 — —In camera inspections
- § 8:240 — — —Objections not on basis of specific immunity or exemption
- § 8:241 — — —In camera inspection does not waive privilege
- § 8:242 — —Time limit and waiver

## V. CREATION OF A DISCOVERY PLAN

- § 8:243 Determining what discovery should be conducted
- § 8:244 —Analysis of your own case
- § 8:245 — —Determine legal elements
- § 8:246 — —Identification of the facts necessary to establish elements
- § 8:247 — —Determine sources of proof
- § 8:248 — —Identify contested matters
- § 8:249 —Analysis of opponent's case
- § 8:250 — —Determine adversary's claims or defenses
- § 8:251 — —Consideration of elements, facts, and sources of proof
- § 8:252 — —Ascertain necessary counterproof
- § 8:253 Choosing appropriate discovery tools
- § 8:254 —Practical concerns—Weighing discovery costs against the value of the case
- § 8:255 — —Value of the case
- § 8:256 — —Cost of discovery
- § 8:257 —Weighing the pros and cons of each discovery tool
- § 8:258 — —Advantages of required disclosures
- § 8:259 — —Disadvantages of required requests disclosures
- § 8:260 — —Depositions
- § 8:261 — — —Advantages to depositions
- § 8:262 — — —Disadvantages to depositions
- § 8:263 — —Interrogatories
- § 8:264 — — —Advantages
- § 8:265 — — —Disadvantages
- § 8:266 — — —Rule 190 limits
- § 8:267 — — —Defining a single interrogatory
- § 8:268 — — —Exclusions from Tex. R. Civ. P. 190
- § 8:269 — — —Verification required
- § 8:270 — —Requests for admissions (RFAs)
- § 8:271 — — —Advantages
- § 8:272 — — —Disadvantages
- § 8:273 — —Discovery of documents and things for inspection
- § 8:274 — — —Subpoena
- § 8:275 — — —Request for production
- § 8:276 — — —Possession, custody and control

- § 8:277 — — —Requests to nonparty
- § 8:278 — —Physical and mental examinations
- § 8:279 — — —Interaction of Rule 204 and Confidentiality requirements of Texas Rules of Evidence
- § 8:280 —Considering sequence of use
- § 8:281 — —Clarify claims and contentions
- § 8:282 — —Obtain documents early
- § 8:283 — —Depositions following other discovery
- § 8:284 —Coordination of use of discovery tools

## **VI. DISCOVERY TOOLS PERTINENT TO BODILY INJURY LITIGATION**

- § 8:285 Required disclosures
- § 8:286 —Content of request
- § 8:287 —Time for disclosures
- § 8:288 —Purpose
- § 8:289 —Exemptions
- § 8:290 —Testifying experts
- § 8:291 —Pretrial disclosures
- § 8:292 —Purpose—Medical authorizations
- § 8:293 —Admissibility and impeachment use of information
- § 8:294 —Protected information
- § 8:295 Depositions, generally
- § 8:296 —Parties and nonparties
- § 8:297 —Corporations and other entities
- § 8:298 —No objection
- § 8:299 —Opposing experts
- § 8:300 —Multiple depositions of same person
- § 8:301 —Signing, certifying, and use of oral and written depositions
- § 8:302 — —Provide transcript
- § 8:303 — — —Changes by witness
- § 8:304 — — —Exceptions to presentment and signature
- § 8:305 — —Certification
- § 8:306 — —Delivery of deposition
- § 8:307 — —Deposition exhibits
- § 8:308 —Motion to suppress
- § 8:309 —Use of depositions, generally
- § 8:310 — —Use in same proceeding
- § 8:311 — — —Use against joined party
- § 8:312 — —Use in different proceedings
- § 8:313 — —Use of depositions at trial or a hearing
- § 8:314 — — —Effect of taking or using depositions
- § 8:315 Preparing client for deposition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 8:316 Oral depositions

§ 8:317 —Notice

§ 8:318 — —Agreement by stipulation

§ 8:319 —Contention interrogatories

§ 8:320 —Composite knowledge

§ 8:321 —Sanctions for failure to answer

§ 8:322 —Notice content

§ 8:323 —Compelling witness to attend

§ 8:324 —Objections to time and place

§ 8:325 —Oral deposition conduct

§ 8:326 — —Attendance

§ 8:327 — —Oath and examination

§ 8:328 — —Time limitation

§ 8:329 — —General conduct and conferences

§ 8:330 — —Objections

§ 8:331 — — —Waiver of objection

§ 8:332 — — —Hearing on objection or assertion of privilege

§ 8:333 — —Instruction not to answer

§ 8:334 — —Suspending the deposition

§ 8:335 —Deposition by telephone, other electronic device, or video

§ 8:336 Written depositions

§ 8:337 —Notice

§ 8:338 — —Content

§ 8:339 —Corporate depositions

§ 8:340 —Compelling witness to attend

§ 8:341 —Objections and other questions

§ 8:342 — —Objection to the form of the question

§ 8:343 —Conduct of deposition on written questions

§ 8:344 Depositions before commencement of action

§ 8:345 —Petition

§ 8:346 —Notice and service

§ 8:347 — —Personal service

§ 8:348 — —Service by publication

§ 8:349 — —Objection to notice by publication

§ 8:350 —Probate cases

§ 8:351 —Order granting deposition

§ 8:352 —Use in subsequent suit

§ 8:353 Deposition pending appeal

§ 8:354 Deposition of persons confined in prisons, mental institutions, or hospitals

§ 8:355 Depositions taken in Texas for use outside of state

§ 8:356 Depositions in other states and foreign countries for use in Texas proceedings

- § 8:357 —Objections to form of letter rogatory, letter of request, or other device
- § 8:358 —Admissibility of evidence
- § 8:359 —Deposition by electronic means
- § 8:360 —Deposition officer
- § 8:361 Subpoenas
- § 8:362 —Subpoena procedure
- § 8:363 — —Organizations
- § 8:364 — —Production of documents at deposition
- § 8:365 — — —Supporting affidavit not required
- § 8:366 —Subpoena contents
- § 8:367 —Limitations of subpoena
- § 8:368 —Issuance of subpoena
- § 8:369 —Service of subpoena
- § 8:370 —Compliance with subpoena
- § 8:371 — —Production of documents and things
- § 8:372 — —Objection to subpoena
- § 8:373 — —Protective orders
- § 8:374 —Trial subpoenas
- § 8:375 — —Unreasonable and oppressive subpoena
- § 8:376 —Subpoena enforcement
- § 8:377 Interrogatories
- § 8:378 Subpoenas—Interrogatories—Coparties and cross-parties included
- § 8:379 Interrogatories—Business entities
- § 8:380 —Service
- § 8:381 — —Multiparty Case
- § 8:382 —Time to propound interrogatories
- § 8:383 — —Scope of interrogatories
- § 8:384 — —Not within scope
- § 8:385 — —Use prohibited
- § 8:386 — —Public records
- § 8:387 — —Business records
- § 8:388 —Protective orders available
- § 8:389 —Number of interrogatories
- § 8:390 —Experts on attorney’s fees
- § 8:391 —Experts as rebuttal witnesses
- § 8:392 —Medical records with nontestifying expert’s opinions
- § 8:393 — —Duty to supplement information
- § 8:394 —Tips on drafting interrogatories
- § 8:395 — —Frame precise questions
- § 8:396 — —Avoid overlap with requests for disclosure
- § 8:397 — —Avoid irrelevant boilerplate questions
- § 8:398 — —Avoid excessive definitions

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 8:399	— —Avoid excessive subparts
§ 8:400	—Answers and objections
§ 8:401	— —Time extension
§ 8:402	— — —On stipulation
§ 8:403	— — —On motion
§ 8:404	— —Form and scope of answer
§ 8:405	— —Opening paragraph format
§ 8:406	— —Cumulative answers improper
§ 8:407	— —Catchall expert designations
§ 8:408	— —Answers must be on available information
§ 8:409	— —Option to allow inspection of documents in certain cases
§ 8:410	— —Answers must be verified
§ 8:411	— —Form of supplemental answers
§ 8:412	— —Objections
§ 8:413	— — —Common objections
§ 8:414	— — —Waiver for failure to object
§ 8:415	— — —Propounding party’s remedy
§ 8:416	— —Filing
§ 8:417	— —Service on all parties
§ 8:418	— —Use of interrogatories at trial
§ 8:419	— —Special procedures for standard interrogatories in health care liability actions
§ 8:420	Request for admissions—Between parties only
§ 8:421	— —Requirement that each admission be separately set out
§ 8:422	—Service of request
§ 8:423	— —Time to serve
§ 8:424	— —Filing requirement
§ 8:425	— —Genuineness of documents
§ 8:426	—Form and content
§ 8:427	—Attach relevant documents
§ 8:428	—Content of questions
§ 8:429	—Responding to requests for admissions
§ 8:430	— —Time limitation
§ 8:431	— — —Special rule regarding defendant
§ 8:432	— — —Additional time under rules
§ 8:433	— —Scope of responding party’s obligation and the effect of admissions
§ 8:434	— — —Express admissions
§ 8:435	— — —Denials
§ 8:436	— — —Caveat—Consequences where denied RFA proved true at trial
§ 8:437	— — —Inability to admit or deny
§ 8:438	— — —Qualified answer

- § 8:439 — —Objections
- § 8:440 — — —Reason must be stated
- § 8:441 — — —Requesting party’s remedy
- § 8:442 — —Deemed admissions from failure to respond  
timely
- § 8:443 — — —Conclusive effect
- § 8:444 — —Motion not required
- § 8:445 — —Deemed admissions as basis for summary  
judgment
- § 8:446 — —Objections to controverting evidence required
- § 8:447 — —Evasive or incomplete answer
- § 8:448 — —Effect of admission on pending action only
- § 8:449 — —Withdrawal of admissions
- § 8:450 — — —Due process concerns
- § 8:451 — — —Motion and notice required
- § 8:452 — —Filing
- § 8:453 —Fees and expenses to prove unadmitted document  
or fact
- § 8:454 Physical and mental examination of persons
- § 8:455 —Order for examination
- § 8:456 — —Necessity of showing good cause
- § 8:457 —Persons who may be examined
- § 8:458 — —Example—Minors and employees
- § 8:459 — —All other nonparties excluded
- § 8:460 —Motion procedure
- § 8:461 — —Notice
- § 8:462 — —Contents of moving papers
- § 8:463 — —Time for motion
- § 8:464 —Contents of order
- § 8:465 — —Defective order not enforceable
- § 8:466 —Stipulation
- § 8:467 — —Stipulation versus court order
- § 8:468 —Requirement: Condition in controversy
- § 8:469 — —Examples
- § 8:470 — — —Mental anguish
- § 8:471 — —Determining whether condition in controversy
- § 8:472 — — —Pleadings
- § 8:473 — — —Discovery
- § 8:474 —Good cause for examination
- § 8:475 — —Liberally interpreted
- § 8:476 — —Showing of attempted stipulation may be  
required
- § 8:477 — —More specific allegation required on request for  
second exam

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 8:478 — —Codefendants not entitled to separate examinations

§ 8:479 — —Mental examinations

§ 8:480 — — —Relevancy

§ 8:481 — — —Reasonable nexus

§ 8:482 — — —No alternative means

§ 8:483 —Who may conduct the examination

§ 8:484 — —Physician defined

§ 8:485 — —Psychologists and psychiatrists

§ 8:486 — —Moving party's choice usually appointed

§ 8:487 —Time and place of examination—Generally at the doctor's convenience

§ 8:488 — —Local appearance by nonresident parties

§ 8:489 —Scope of examination

§ 8:490 —Nature of examination

§ 8:491 —Limitations on examination

§ 8:492 — —Presence of third persons

§ 8:493 — — —Presence of attorneys

§ 8:494 — — —Presence of others subject to court discretion

§ 8:495 — — —Third parties at psychiatric or psychological examination

§ 8:496 — —Recording also may be refused

§ 8:497 — —Other procedural safeguards available

§ 8:498 —Report of examining physician

§ 8:499 — —Examinee entitled to report on request

§ 8:500 — —Waiver of privilege

§ 8:501 — —Also applies to other reports

§ 8:502 — —Written report required

§ 8:503 — —Stipulated examinations

§ 8:504 — —Voluntary examinations

§ 8:505 —When no exam is conducted

§ 8:506 —Family Code cases

§ 8:507 Production of documents or things and inspection of property

§ 8:508 —Persons not parties

§ 8:509 —Advantages over notice of deposition procedure

§ 8:510 —Scope

§ 8:511 — —Any physical evidence

§ 8:512 — —Reports of experts

§ 8:513 —Self-authentication

§ 8:514 — —Exception to self-authentication

§ 8:515 —Procedure

§ 8:516 — —Time to request

§ 8:517 — —Filing and service

§ 8:518 — —Contents

- § 8:519 — —Description by category
- § 8:520 — —Designation of time, place, and manner of inspection
- § 8:521 —Required response and production
- § 8:522 — —Time for response
- § 8:523 — —Content of response
- § 8:524 — —Failure to respond within time limit
- § 8:525 — —Production cost
- § 8:526 — —Objections to production
- § 8:527 — —Time and place of production
- § 8:528 — —Copies
- § 8:529 — —Organize and label documents
- § 8:530 — —Electronic or magnetic data
- § 8:531 — — —Metadata
- § 8:532 — — —Cell phone data
- § 8:533 — —Limiting the inspection
- § 8:534 — — —Stipulation to conditions
- § 8:535 — — —Protective order
- § 8:536 — —Affirmative duty regarding exemption or immunity
- § 8:537 — —Conditional agreement to production
- § 8:538 —Destruction or alteration of article
- § 8:539 — —Nonparty medical or mental health records
- § 8:540 — — —Exception
- § 8:541 —Bill of discovery
- § 8:542 —Access to land
- § 8:543 — —Request or motion
- § 8:544 — — —Unknown nonparty
- § 8:545 — —Time, place, and conditions
- § 8:546 — —Response to request
- § 8:547 — — —Content
- § 8:548 — —Requirements for order
- § 8:549 Discovery in aid of enforcement of judgment
- § 8:550 —Available to successful party
- § 8:551 — —Successor or assignee of successful party
- § 8:552 —Proper court
- § 8:553 —Pretrial discovery rules apply

**VII. ENFORCEMENT OF DISCOVERY RIGHTS**

- § 8:554 Duty to attempt resolution without court intervention
- § 8:555 Necessity of enforcement
- § 8:556 Motion for sanctions or order to compel discovery
- § 8:557 —Exhibits
- § 8:558 —Compulsion not sanction prerequisite

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 8:559	— —Depositions
§ 8:560	—Notice
§ 8:561	—Appropriate court
§ 8:562	—Award of expenses of motion
§ 8:563	— —Motion granted
§ 8:564	— —Motion denied
§ 8:565	— —Motion granted in part and denied in part
§ 8:566	— —Reasonableness of expenses
§ 8:567	—Grounds for sanctions or order compelling discovery
§ 8:568	— —Failure to make required designation
§ 8:569	— —Failure to appear for deposition
§ 8:570	— —Failure to answer deposition question
§ 8:571	— —Failure to answer interrogatories
§ 8:572	— —Failure to respond to request to produce and inspect
§ 8:573	—Protective orders when motion denied
§ 8:574	Sanctions for particular acts
§ 8:575	—Order against a party
§ 8:576	—Order against a nonparty for failure to comply with request to produce
§ 8:577	—Failure to provide person’s own statement
§ 8:578	—Considerations in imposition
§ 8:579	— —Sanctions related to conduct
§ 8:580	—Limitations on excessive sanctions
§ 8:581	—Fees and expenses of movant and opponent
§ 8:582	—Procedure on claim that sanctions preclude access to courts
§ 8:583	—Compelled waiver of privilege
§ 8:584	—Dismissal or default
§ 8:585	— —Parties aligned with disobedient party
§ 8:586	— —Jury trial on damages
§ 8:587	— —Abuse of discovery process
§ 8:588	— —Written findings
§ 8:589	Abuse of discovery process
§ 8:590	—Harshness of sanctions
§ 8:591	—Sanctions fashioned by trial court
§ 8:592	—Limitations
§ 8:593	—Failure to attend deposition
§ 8:594	— —By party giving notice of taking deposition
§ 8:595	— —By witness
§ 8:596	— —Contempt in district where deposition is taken
§ 8:597	— —Sanctions by court in which action is pending
§ 8:598	—Falsely denying request for admissions
§ 8:599	— —Order to compel answer

- § 8:600 — Failure to respond or make required supplementation of discovery
- § 8:601 — — Propounding party’s duty
- § 8:602 — — Good cause
- § 8:603 — — Timeliness of filing
- § 8:604 — Testimony exclusion
- § 8:605 — — Disqualification of expert witness
- § 8:606 — — Rebuttal witnesses
- § 8:607 — — — Experts
- § 8:608 — — Address information
- § 8:609 — — Contradicting evidence from nondisclosing party
- § 8:610 — — Summary judgment affidants
- § 8:611 — Bad-faith conduct during litigation
- § 8:612 Challenging discovery orders
- § 8:613 — By appeal
- § 8:614 — — Final judgment required
- § 8:615 — — Interlocutory judgment not appealable
- § 8:616 — — — Pretrial discovery ruling generally considered interlocutory
- § 8:617 — — Exception if primary litigation is in foreign jurisdiction
- § 8:618 — — Exception if order grants sanctions
- § 8:619 — Trial court discretion—By mandamus
- § 8:620 — By mandamus—Pleading requirements
- § 8:621 — — Notice and hearing
- § 8:622 — — Challenging discovery rulings
- § 8:623 — — To restrain judge from acting without jurisdiction
- § 8:624 — — Clear abuse of discretion
- § 8:625 — — — Supreme Court judgment
- § 8:626 — — — Contrary discovery order
- § 8:627 — — — Privileged or confidential information
- § 8:628 — — — Striking a pleading
- § 8:629 — — — Privileged material disclosure
- § 8:630 — — — Timing
- § 8:631 — — — Overly broad discovery
- § 8:632 — — Not available where ruling is merely incidental
- § 8:633 — — Generally not available where there are other remedies
- § 8:634 — — Effect on right to appeal

**VIII. PROTECTIVE ORDERS TO CONTROL ABUSIVE DISCOVERY**

- § 8:635 Generally

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 8:636 —Motion made by party or person from whom discovery sought and other affected
- § 8:637 —Orders
- § 8:638 —Time and place
- § 8:639 —Exhibits
- § 8:640 —Trade secrets
- § 8:641 Grounds for protective orders
- § 8:642 —Discovery sought from corporate official
- § 8:643 —Appeals

## IX. CHECKLISTS

- § 8:644 Sample deposition checklist; deposition of treating physician
- § 8:645 Sample deposition checklist; spouse of injured party
- § 8:646 Sample deposition checklist; before-and-after witness
- § 8:647 Sample deposition checklist; opposing driver in automobile-collision case
- § 8:648 Sample deposition checklist; accident reconstruction expert
- § 8:649 Sample deposition checklist; manufacturer's representative in products liability case
- § 8:650 Sample deposition checklist; property owner in premises liability case
- § 8:651 Sample deposition checklist; owner of dog in dogbite case
- § 8:652 Sample deposition checklist; server of alcoholic beverages in dram shop action
- § 8:653 Sample deposition checklist; employer in negligent hiring case
- § 8:654 Sample deposition checklist; plaintiff to defendant host—Liability for intoxicated guest
- § 8:655 Sample deposition checklist; plaintiff to defendant—Assault and battery case
- § 8:656 Sample deposition checklist; defendant to plaintiff—Assault and battery case
- § 8:657 Sample deposition checklist; premises liability case arising from fire—Plaintiff to defendant
- § 8:658 Sample deposition checklist; defective or dangerous conditions in premises liability case
- § 8:659 Sample deposition checklist; opposing expert in personal injury case
- § 8:660 Checklist; choosing form of discovery
- § 8:661 Checklist; objections to discovery requests
- § 8:662 Checklist; potential witnesses to depose in automobile collision case

- § 8:663 Checklist; potential documents to obtain in discovery of automobile collision case

**X. FORMS**

- § 8:664 Discovery control plan statement
- § 8:665 Notice of intent to take oral deposition of corporate representative and for production of documents at deposition
- § 8:666 Notice of intention to take oral deposition and for production of documents at deposition
- § 8:667 Notice of intent to take a video deposition
- § 8:668 Subpoena
- § 8:669 Subpoena duces tecum
- § 8:670 Sample interrogatory format
- § 8:671 Request for admission of relevant facts and genuineness of documents
- § 8:672 Notice that matters deemed admitted
- § 8:673 Subpoena duces tecum to nonparty corporate witness
- § 8:674 Notice of defendant's motion for medical examination
- § 8:675 Motion for medical examination
- § 8:676 Motion for physical examination
- § 8:677 Order for independent medical examination
- § 8:678 Stipulation to independent medical examination
- § 8:679 Client's confidential report to attorney following independent medical examination
- § 8:680 Request for discovery and/or production of documents and things for inspection, copying, and photographing
- § 8:681 Order for production and inspection
- § 8:682 Notice of motion for order compelling deposition answers
- § 8:683 Motion for sanctions
- § 8:684 Request for production of documents for inspection and copying in medical malpractice case
- § 8:685 Request for production of documents for inspection and copying to manufacturer in products liability case
- § 8:686 Request for production of documents for inspection and copying to defendant in premises liability case
- § 8:687 Requests for admissions to owner in a premises liability case
- § 8:688 Requests for admissions to manufacturer in products liability case
- § 8:689 Requests for admissions to defendant physician in medical malpractice case

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 8:690 Requests for admissions to defendant driver in automobile collision case
- § 8:691 Notice of motion for protective order
- § 8:692 Motion for protective order
- § 8:693 Protective order
- § 8:694 Original petition to take deposition to perpetuate testimony
- § 8:695 Sample interrogatories; personal injury case
- § 8:696 Sample interrogatories; premises liability case—Slip and fall on foreign substance on floor
- § 8:697 Sample interrogatories; medical malpractice case—To defendant
  - § 8:698 —To plaintiff
  - § 8:699 —Informed consent
  - § 8:700 —Negligently performed operation
- § 8:701 Sample interrogatories; premises liability case—Dogbite attack—To Plaintiff
- § 8:702 —Slip and fall—To plaintiff

## CHAPTER 9. ARBITRATION

### I. INTRODUCTION

- § 9:1 Generally
- § 9:2 —Nonbinding and binding arbitration
- § 9:3 —Reason for arbitration
- § 9:4 —Arbitration agreement, generally
- § 9:5 —Governing authority
- § 9:6 —Statutory
- § 9:7 — —Preemption
- § 9:8 —Common-law
- § 9:9 —Uniform Arbitration Act
- § 9:10 — —Contracts containing arbitration clause
- § 9:11 — —International commercial arbitration
- § 9:12 —Federal Arbitration Act
- § 9:13 — —Involving commerce
- § 9:14 — — —Factors
- § 9:15 — —Basis for revocation of “any contract” in law or equity
- § 9:16 — — —Revocation on the grounds of unconscionability
- § 9:17 — — —Revocation on the grounds of lack of consideration
- § 9:18 — — —Revocation on grounds of excessive costs
- § 9:19 — — —Revocation on grounds of fraud
- § 9:20 — —Arbitrability of dispute

- § 9:21 — — —Class actions
- § 9:22 — — —Delegation of determination to arbitrator
- § 9:23 — — —Substantive law
- § 9:24 — — —Procedural law
- § 9:25 — — —Texas General Arbitration Act prevails
- § 9:26 — — —Nonbinding arbitration
- § 9:27 — — —Discretionary referral
- § 9:28 — — —Cases subject to referral with consent of parties
- § 9:29 — — —Court rules
- § 9:30 — — —Plead as affirmative defense
- § 9:31 — — —Local court rules
- § 9:32 — — —De novo trial right

## II. TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PREPARATION

- § 9:33 Plaintiff's considerations
- § 9:34 —Faster monetary recovery
- § 9:35 —Cost and expense savings
- § 9:36 —Potential for a higher recovery
- § 9:37 —Potential risks
- § 9:38 Defense considerations
- § 9:39 —Cost and expense savings
- § 9:40 —Potential ceiling for insurance carrier exposure
- § 9:41 Submission to arbitration
- § 9:42 —Arbitration by agreement

## III. ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO PRIVATE AGREEMENT

- § 9:43 Agreement to arbitrate, generally
- § 9:44 Application to personal injury cases
- § 9:45 —Presumption favoring arbitration
- § 9:46 —Pre-emption
- § 9:47 —Standing
- § 9:48 —Prejudgment interest
- § 9:49 —Waiver of arbitration
- § 9:50 Uniform Arbitration Act and private agreements
- § 9:51 —Requirement of agreement
- § 9:52 — —Nature, construction, and content
- § 9:53 —Effect of agreement on right to seek judicial relief
- § 9:54 — —Stay of court proceedings
- § 9:55 Appointment and duties of arbitrators
- § 9:56 —Appointment
- § 9:57 — —Arbitrator as a party

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 9:58 — —Authority of arbitrator  
§ 9:59 — —Appointment by court  
§ 9:60 —Majority action by arbitrators  
§ 9:61 Proceedings to compel or stay arbitration  
§ 9:62 —Actions to compel  
§ 9:63 — —Motion evidence  
§ 9:64 — —Mandamus  
§ 9:65 —Actions to stay  
§ 9:66 Waiver of right to arbitrate  
§ 9:67 —Burden of proof  
§ 9:68 —Affirmative defense  
§ 9:69 —Test for waiver  
§ 9:70 —Conduct of the parties constituting waiver  
§ 9:71 —Other claims  
§ 9:72 —Election  
§ 9:73 —Conduct indicating no waiver  
§ 9:74 —Presumption against waiver  
§ 9:75 Arbitration enforcement and non-signatories  
§ 9:76 —Equitable estoppel and direct benefits estoppel  
§ 9:77 —Agency  
§ 9:78 Matters arbitrable  
§ 9:79 —Generally  
§ 9:80 —Other claims and causes of action  
§ 9:81 —Punitive damage claims  
§ 9:82 Pre-arbitration orders  
§ 9:83 Orders available when arbitration is pending or  
concluded  
§ 9:84 Hearing  
§ 9:85 —Generally  
§ 9:86 — —Waiver of hearing irregularities  
§ 9:87 —Representation by attorney  
§ 9:88 — —Attorney’s fees  
§ 9:89 —Parties  
§ 9:90 —Evidence and witnesses  
§ 9:91 — —Witness oath  
§ 9:92 — —Witness deposition  
§ 9:93 — —Subpoenas  
§ 9:94 — —Witness fees  
§ 9:95 —Hearing record  
§ 9:96 Award  
§ 9:97 —Time for making award  
§ 9:98 —Award, generally  
§ 9:99 — —Damages  
§ 9:100 — —Certain and definite

- § 9:101 — —Fees and expenses
- § 9:102 — — —Arbitrators' expenses and fees
- § 9:103 — — —Attorney's fees
- § 9:104 — —Judgment or decree on award
- § 9:105 —Conclusiveness of award
- § 9:106 — —Binding effect
- § 9:107 — —Bar to action on original obligation
- § 9:108 — —Correction or modification by arbitrators
- § 9:109 Applications to court to confirm, vacate, or modify award
- § 9:110 —Motion to set aside award
- § 9:111 — —Corruption, fraud or undue means
- § 9:112 —Confirmation of award
- § 9:113 —Vacation of award
- § 9:114 — —Time for application to vacate
- § 9:115 — —Grounds for vacation
- § 9:116 —Resubmission to arbitrators
- § 9:117 —Modification or correction
- § 9:118 — —Granting award to modify
- § 9:119 Appeals of award
- § 9:120 Appealable orders
- § 9:121 —Not appealable orders and other relief
- § 9:122 — —Denial of application to compel arbitration
- § 9:123 — —Grant of stay of arbitration
- § 9:124 —Manner of appeal
- § 9:125 — —Scope of review; presumption of validity

#### **IV. NONBINDING ARBITRATION PROCEDURES**

- § 9:126 Generally
- § 9:127 —Actions subject to arbitration
- § 9:128 — —Commencing arbitration
- § 9:129 —Arbitrators
- § 9:130 — —Authority of arbitrators
- § 9:131 —Hearing
- § 9:132 — —Location and time of hearings
- § 9:133 — —Documents and exhibits
- § 9:134 — —Applicability of rules of evidence
- § 9:135 — —Requirement of the presence of the parties
- § 9:136 — —Right to counsel
- § 9:137 — —Effects of failure to appear
- § 9:138 — —Sanctions for failure to participate in good faith and meaningful manner
- § 9:139 — —Confidentiality, privileges, and immunities
- § 9:140 Conclusion of arbitration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 9:141 —Contents of award
- § 9:142 —Sealing of award
- § 9:143 —Judgment on award
- § 9:144 Right to trial de novo
- § 9:145 —Summary jury trial; former de novo trial

**V. FORMS**

- § 9:146 Demand for arbitration
- § 9:147 Arbitrator's disclosure statement
- § 9:148 Arbitrator's oath of acceptance
- § 9:149 Approval of arbitrators

# Table of Contents

## CHAPTER 10. PREPARING FOR TRIAL/ PRETRIAL

### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- § 10:1 The effect of the discovery period
- § 10:2 Becoming familiar with local court rules and customs
- § 10:3 —Validity
- § 10:4 —Effect as law
- § 10:5 —Need to premark exhibits and the like
- § 10:6 —Informing the client and witnesses that trial is  
upcoming
- § 10:7 —Checking counsel’s, client’s, and witnesses’  
schedules for conflicts
- § 10:8 Organizing files
- § 10:9 —Updating litigation control system, as necessary
- § 10:10 Final review of pleadings
- § 10:11 —Amending pleadings
- § 10:12 —Coordinate with discovery results
- § 10:13 —Make sure necessary claims, defenses, or theories  
are properly pleaded
- § 10:14 —Review pleadings in light of information obtained  
through discovery
- § 10:15 — —Further action
- § 10:16 —Amending pleadings
- § 10:17 — —Need for leave of court or consent of opponent
- § 10:18 — —Discretion of court
- § 10:19 — — —Leave freely granted when justice so requires
- § 10:20 — — —Effect of imminence of trial
- § 10:21 — —Pleading in response to amended pleading
- § 10:22 —Did events or injuries occur after the filing of the  
original pleading?
- § 10:23 — —Need for supplemental pleading
- § 10:24 — —Distinction from amended pleading
- § 10:25 Any change of parties?
- § 10:26 —Advisability of dismissing parties when discovery  
indicates that liability is questionable
- § 10:27 — —Consider the possibility of sanctions where claim  
appears frivolous
- § 10:28 — —Notice or stipulation of voluntary dismissal
- § 10:29 — — —When opponent has counterclaim or other  
claims for affirmative relief

- § 10:30 — — —With or without prejudice; dismissal rule
- § 10:31 — — —Dismissal on court order
- § 10:32 — — —Reinstatement
- § 10:33 — — —Motion
- § 10:34 — — —Power of court to drop or add parties
- § 10:35 — — —Motion to dismiss if party unnecessarily joined
- § 10:36 —Substitution
- § 10:37 — — —Death
- § 10:38 — — —Plaintiff's death
- § 10:39 — — —Defendant's death
- § 10:40 — — —One or more parties' death
- § 10:41 — — —Corporate parties
- § 10:42 — — —Action against public officer or entity
- § 10:43 — — —State
- § 10:44 — — —How accomplished
- § 10:45 — — —Need to bring in third parties at this stage
- § 10:46 — — —Requirement of same transaction
- § 10:47 — — —Compliance with procedures
- § 10:48 — — —Not a matter of right
- § 10:49 — — —At any time
- § 10:50 — — —Without delay
- § 10:51 — — —Service of summons and third-party complaint
- § 10:52 — — —Striking of claim
- § 10:53 Consulting with experts
- § 10:54 — — —Does he or she recommend additional discovery?
- § 10:55 Attempt to settle in light of facts developed in  
discovery
- § 10:56 Alternative dispute resolution
- § 10:57 —Referral
- § 10:58 —Notice and objection
- § 10:59 — — —Mandatory nature of requirements
- § 10:60 —ADR procedures
- § 10:61 — — —Mediation
- § 10:62 — — —Minitrial
- § 10:63 — — —Moderated settlement conference
- § 10:64 — — —Summary jury trial
- § 10:65 — — —Arbitration
- § 10:66 — — —Impartial third parties
- § 10:67 — — —Qualified immunity
- § 10:68 — — —Effect of written settlement agreement
- § 10:69 — — —Enforcement of agreement
- § 10:70 — — —Confidentiality of communications
- § 10:71 — — —Confidentiality restricted to matters occurring  
during settlement process

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 10:72	— —Confidentiality restricted to subject matter of civil or criminal dispute
§ 10:73	— —Records
§ 10:74	— —Exception
§ 10:75	— —Conflict with other disclosure requirements
§ 10:76	—Local rules
§ 10:77	—Trial by special judge
§ 10:78	— —Motion for referral
§ 10:79	— —Referral order
§ 10:80	— —Powers of special judge
§ 10:81	— —Procedure and evidence
§ 10:82	— —Costs and fees
§ 10:83	— —Verdict
§ 10:84	— —New trial
§ 10:85	— —Appeal
§ 10:86	—Arbitration
§ 10:87	—Compensation claims with respect to ADR
§ 10:88	— —Mediation
§ 10:89	— —Arbitration
§ 10:90	— — —Binding effect

## II. PRETRIAL PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS

§ 10:91	Demanding a jury trial
§ 10:92	—Right to jury trial, generally
§ 10:93	—Opposition to jury trial
§ 10:94	— —Equitable claims included
§ 10:95	— —Limitations
§ 10:96	— — —Certain proceedings
§ 10:97	— — —Incidental or ancillary matters
§ 10:98	—Making a timely demand
§ 10:99	— —Request
§ 10:100	— —Fees
§ 10:101	— — —Oath of inability
§ 10:102	— —Risk of waiver
§ 10:103	— — —Waiver after demand is made
§ 10:104	— — —Waiver by adversary
§ 10:105	Pretrial conference
§ 10:106	—Preliminary steps in preparation for pretrial conference
§ 10:107	— —Review your own calendar
§ 10:108	— — —Screen for calendar conflicts
§ 10:109	— — —Confirm client availability
§ 10:110	— — —Clear trial dates
§ 10:111	— — —Confirm witness availability to attend trial

- § 10:112 —Function of PTC
- § 10:113 —Location of PTC
- § 10:114 —Attendance mandatory
- § 10:115 —Matters considered at PTC
- § 10:116 — —Dilatory pleas
- § 10:117 — — —Hearing of plea
- § 10:118 — —Jury demand
- § 10:119 — — —Waiver of jury determination
- § 10:120 — —Waiver of plea
- § 10:121 — —Ruling on the plea
- § 10:122 — —Motions and exceptions
- § 10:123 — — —Time for determination
- § 10:124 — — —Admissions
- § 10:125 — —Simplification of issues
- § 10:126 — —Necessity and desirability of amendments to  
the pleadings
- § 10:127 — —Discovery schedules
- § 10:128 — —Lists of direct fact witnesses
- § 10:129 — —Lists of expert witnesses
- § 10:130 — —Jury charge or nonjury findings
- § 10:131 — —Exhibits
- § 10:132 — — —Objections
- § 10:133 — —Reference of issues to a master or auditor
- § 10:134 — — —Appointment of master
- § 10:135 — — —Complex issues only
- § 10:136 — — —Power of appointed master
- § 10:137 — — —Order defining power
- § 10:138 — — —Discovery matters
- § 10:139 — — —Appointment of auditor
- § 10:140 — — —Verification of report
- § 10:141 — — —Timing of request to appoint an auditor
- § 10:142 — — —Time for exceptions
- § 10:143 — —Settlements
- § 10:144 — —Other matters
- § 10:145 —The pretrial order
- § 10:146 — —Specificity of order
- § 10:147 — —Effect of order
- § 10:148 — —Finality of order
- § 10:149 — —Pretrial order generally considered  
interlocutory
- § 10:150 — —Sanctions for failing to obey order
- § 10:151 — —Modification of pretrial order
- § 10:152 — —Stipulations
- § 10:153 Setting case for trial
- § 10:154 —Assignment of cases for trial

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 10:155	— —Preparedness for trial
§ 10:156	— —Duty of litigant to keep posted
§ 10:157	— —Noncontested cases
§ 10:158	— —Notice requirement
§ 10:159	— — —Lack of notice as ground for reversal
§ 10:160	— — —Notice of certification not sufficient
§ 10:161	— — —Clerk to give notice of settings
§ 10:162	— — —Failure to give notice
§ 10:163	—Cases tried when set
§ 10:164	— —Removal from trial docket
§ 10:165	—Preference for certain types of cases
§ 10:166	— —Primary priorities
§ 10:167	— —Secondary priorities
§ 10:168	—Priority between jury and nonjury cases
§ 10:169	Continuances
§ 10:170	—Procedure
§ 10:171	— —Affidavits
§ 10:172	— —Time for filing motion
§ 10:173	— — —Earliest time to file
§ 10:174	— — —Exception
§ 10:175	— — —Latest time to file
§ 10:176	— — —Another exception
§ 10:177	— —Number of continuances allowed
§ 10:178	—Grounds for granting motion
§ 10:179	— —Want of testimony or need for additional discovery
§ 10:180	— —Specificity required of motion
§ 10:181	— —Secondary or subsequent application for a continuance
§ 10:182	— —Absence of counsel
§ 10:183	— —Withdrawal of attorney
§ 10:184	— —Attendance in legislature
§ 10:185	— — —Procedure
§ 10:186	— — —Opposition
§ 10:187	— —Religious holiday
§ 10:188	— —Other grounds
§ 10:189	—Continuance by agreement
§ 10:190	— —Not mandatory on the court

### III. SUFFICIENCY OF DISCOVERY AND CASE ANALYSIS

§ 10:191	Determine the litigation theme
§ 10:192	Reviewing the sufficiency of discovery and implementing final discovery

- § 10:193 —Determining what final discovery should be conducted
- § 10:194 — —Factors considered generally
- § 10:195 —Weighing the pros and cons of final discovery
- § 10:196 —Consider what further discovery can accomplish
- § 10:197 — —Demands for final witness lists
- § 10:198 — — —Expert witnesses
- § 10:199 — — — —De-designation of experts
- § 10:200 — —Follow-up interrogatories
- § 10:201 — — —Caveat
- § 10:202 — —Possibility of further admissions
- § 10:203 — —Any outstanding medical examinations?
- § 10:204 — —Supplementing or updating prior responses
- § 10:205 — —Calendar final discovery
- § 10:206 — —General dates to keep in mind
- § 10:207 — — —End of the discovery period
- § 10:208 — — —Last date for initiating written discovery
- § 10:209 — — —Notice
- § 10:210 — — —Coordinating service date with response date
- § 10:211 — —Deposition dates
- § 10:212 — — —Oral deposition
- § 10:213 — — —Written deposition
- § 10:214 — — —Subpoena to nonparty witnesses
- § 10:215 — — —Subpoena duces tecum for production of documents
- § 10:216 — — —Reading, changing, and signing deposition transcript
- § 10:217 — — —Allow time for hearing on motions to compel
- § 10:218 — —Interrogatory dates
- § 10:219 — — —Service must account for time to respond
- § 10:220 — — —Service should also account for motions to compel
- § 10:221 — —Requests for production or inspection
- § 10:222 — — —Allow time for response
- § 10:223 — — —Allow time for production
- § 10:224 — — —Coordinate with other discovery
- § 10:225 — —Requests for admission dates
- § 10:226 — — —Allow time for response
- § 10:227 — — —Special provision for defendants
- § 10:228 — — —Withdrawal or amendment of responses
- § 10:229 — —Medical examination dates
- § 10:230 — — —Time of examination
- § 10:231 — — —Clear date with examining physician in advance
- § 10:232 — — —Allow for service of order

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 10:233 — — Summary judgment motion dates
- § 10:234 — — — Allow time to file and serve motion
- § 10:235 — — — Coordinate timing with other discovery
- § 10:236 — — — Enforcing final discovery—Be sure all  
discovery motions are heard before cut-off date
- § 10:237 — — Marshalling the experts
- § 10:238 — — — Evaluating need for additional experts
- § 10:239 — — — Consult with existing experts
- § 10:240 — — Posting jury fees

## IV. COORDINATING DISCOVERY FOR PRESENTATION AT TRIAL

- § 10:241 Concluding final discovery
- § 10:242 — — Follow up on demand for exchange of expert  
witness lists
- § 10:243 — — Late-acquired experts—Remember to update your  
lists
- § 10:244 — — Procedure
- § 10:245 — — Make new experts available for deposition
- § 10:246 — — Deposing experts after disclosure
- § 10:247 — — Informally consulted expert exempted from  
discovery
- § 10:248 — — — Exceptions
- § 10:249 — — Deciding which experts to depose—Should you  
depose all of them?
- § 10:250 — — Preparing your experts for deposition by the  
opponent
- § 10:251 — — Explain deposition nuts and bolts
- § 10:252 — — Rehearse for the expert’s substantive testimony
- § 10:253 — — Compile and review the expert’s file
- § 10:254 Marshalling evidence for trial
- § 10:255 — — Admissibility of demonstrative evidence, in  
general
- § 10:256 — — Judicial discretion to exclude
- § 10:257 — — Illustrations
- § 10:258 — — Demonstrative evidence usage
- § 10:259 — — In conjunction with expert testimony
- § 10:260 — — In conjunction with opening statement or final  
argument
- § 10:261 — — To demonstrate “pain and suffering”
- § 10:262 — — To convince opponent in settlement negotiations
- § 10:263 — — Types of demonstrative evidence
- § 10:264 — — Problems with using demonstrative evidence
- § 10:265 — — Risk of backfiring

- § 10:266 — —Use of the evidence to impeach your experts
- § 10:267 — —Confusion of jury and witness
- § 10:268 — —Inadequate facilities
- § 10:269 — —Preparing documentary evidence
- § 10:270 — —Coordinate with expert consultations
- § 10:271 — —Don't forget the details
- § 10:272 — —Procuring documentary evidence for trial
- § 10:273 — —Request to produce to parties
- § 10:274 — —Subpoena duces tecum to witnesses
- § 10:275 — —Unreasonable and oppressive subpoenas
- § 10:276 — —Expense of compliance
- § 10:277 — —Time to serve subpoena
- § 10:278 — —Preparing for introduction of duplicates
- § 10:279 — —Preparing for introduction of matters on judicial notice
- § 10:280 — —Mandatory versus discretionary matters
- § 10:281 — —Converting discretionary matters into mandatory judicial notice matters
- § 10:282 — — —Notice to adverse party
- § 10:283 — — —Marshalling supporting information for the court
- § 10:284 Securing witness attendance at trial
- § 10:285 — —Voluntary attendance
- § 10:286 — —Compelling attendance of witness by subpoena
- § 10:287 — —150-mile range
- § 10:288 — —Time and method of service
- § 10:289 — —Failure to attend
- § 10:290 — —Payment of witness fees
- § 10:291 — — —Amount
- § 10:292 — — —Form
- § 10:293 — —Compelling party attendance
- § 10:294 Can summary judgment be used to avoid a trial in a personal injury case?
- § 10:295 — —No-evidence summary judgment
- § 10:296 — —Negligence, personal injury, and summary judgment
- § 10:297 — —What is a material issue of fact
- § 10:298 Summary judgment as a final discovery tool
- § 10:299 — —Summary judgment versus other discovery procedures
- § 10:300 — —To solidify admissions and deemed admissions
- § 10:301 — —Summary judgment that defendant without fault rules out empty chair arguments
- § 10:302 — —Motion for complete summary judgment
- § 10:303 — —Consideration of motion and affidavits

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 10:304 —Motion for complete summary judgment—Burden on party seeking summary judgment
- § 10:305 — — —No-evidence motions
- § 10:306 — — —Opposing party’s duty
- § 10:307 — —Lay witness versus expert—Medical malpractice summary judgment evidence
- § 10:308 — —Interested witnesses
- § 10:309 — —Right to amend defective petition
- § 10:310 — —Possibility of partial summary judgment to limit issues to be tried
- § 10:311 —Drawbacks to moving for summary judgment as pretrial discovery tool
- § 10:312 —When defendant may be entitled to judgment as matter of law
- § 10:313 — —Statute of limitations
- § 10:314 — —Contributory negligence and summary judgment
- § 10:315 — —Release of liability and summary judgment
- § 10:316 — —Expert’s affidavit in malpractice case
- § 10:317 — — —Insufficient affidavit
- § 10:318 — — —Conclusory or speculative affidavits
- § 10:319 Procedure, generally
- § 10:320 Motion and supporting affidavits
- § 10:321 —Sham affidavits
- § 10:322 —Admissible evidence
- § 10:323 —Form of affidavits
- § 10:324 —Burden on moving party
- § 10:325 —Need to file affidavits or other discovery materials in response
- § 10:326 —Time
- § 10:327 — —Deadline for motion and papers
- § 10:328 — — —Adding grounds to motion
- § 10:329 — — —Computing 21 days
- § 10:330 — —Deadline for opposing papers
- § 10:331 — —Noncompliance with rule deadlines
- § 10:332 Discovery concerns
- § 10:333 Amendment of petition after defendant moves for summary judgment

## V. FINAL PREPARATION

- § 10:334 Generally
- § 10:335 Organizing files for trial
- § 10:336 —Eliminate nontrial materials
- § 10:337 —Organize trial-related materials
- § 10:338 — —Pleadings

- § 10:339 — —Correspondence
- § 10:340 — —Discovery
- § 10:341 — — —Interrogatories and requests for admission
- § 10:342 — — —Deposition transcripts
- § 10:343 — — —Work papers, legal research, and  
investigation results
- § 10:344 — — —Original documents
- § 10:345 — —Exhibits
- § 10:346 — —Lists to be exchanged pursuant to local rule
- § 10:347 — —Premarking sometimes required
- § 10:348 — —Have copies made
- § 10:349 — —Witnesses
- § 10:350 Determining if witnesses will be available
- § 10:351 — —Any witnesses need to be subpoenaed?
- § 10:352 — —Procedure for obtaining and serving subpoenas
- § 10:353 — — —Return of service
- § 10:354 — —Payment of witness fees
- § 10:355 Preparing witnesses
- § 10:356 — —Matters to address
- § 10:357 — —Caveat—Do not put words in the witness' mouth
- § 10:358 — —Reviewing prior statements with witness
- § 10:359 — —Reviewing records with witness
- § 10:360 — —Areas where recollection may need to be refreshed
- § 10:361 — —Rehearsing direct and cross-examination
- § 10:362 — —General instruction regarding appearance
- § 10:363 — —General instruction regarding demeanor
- § 10:364 — —Special advice to witnesses regarding  
cross-examination
- § 10:365 Preparing experts
- § 10:366 — —Discussing or rehearsing proposed testimony and  
cross-examination
- § 10:367 — —Qualifications
- § 10:368 — —Litigation theme
- § 10:369 — —Inconsistencies
- § 10:370 — —Technical terms
- § 10:371 — —Re-examining documents and other basis for  
opinion
- § 10:372 — — —Experiments or tests
- § 10:373 — — —Demonstrative evidence
- § 10:374 — —Hypotheticals
- § 10:375 Collecting and identifying real evidence
- § 10:376 Preparing any necessary demonstrative aids
- § 10:377 — —Obtaining medical diagrams
- § 10:378 — —Demonstration of injuries
- § 10:379 — —Diagrams of the accident scene

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 10:380 —Authentication and admissibility  
§ 10:381 —Use during trial  
§ 10:382 —Day in the life or surveillance videos  
§ 10:383 —Preparing computer simulations  
§ 10:384 —Demonstrating how a product functions  
§ 10:385 —Obtaining necessary display devices  
§ 10:386 — —Make sure courtroom can accommodate the devices  
§ 10:387 Make sure that the product has been thoroughly tested  
§ 10:388 —Discovery limitations  
§ 10:389 Creating a trial book  
§ 10:390 —Function  
§ 10:391 —Contents  
§ 10:392 — —Motions to be made  
§ 10:393 — —Outline of opening statement  
§ 10:394 — — —Suggestions as to form  
§ 10:395 — — —Topics to be covered  
§ 10:396 — — —Tone of the statement  
§ 10:397 — —Witnesses  
§ 10:398 — — —Identification and references  
§ 10:399 — — —Purpose of witness list  
§ 10:400 — —Summary of witness testimony  
§ 10:401 — — —Deposition summaries  
§ 10:402 — — —Paginated summary  
§ 10:403 — — —Summary by category  
§ 10:404 — — —Narrative summary  
§ 10:405 — — —Condensed transcript depositions with word indices  
§ 10:406 — — —Interrogatory summaries  
§ 10:407 — — —Miscellaneous witness statements  
§ 10:408 — —Proposed voir dire  
§ 10:409 — — —Advantages  
§ 10:410 — — —Disadvantages  
§ 10:411 — —Exhibits  
§ 10:412 — — —Exhibit list  
§ 10:413 — — —Coordinating with witness section  
§ 10:414 — —Preliminary jury charge  
§ 10:415 — — —Duty of attorney  
§ 10:416 — — —Danger of waiving request  
§ 10:417 — —Final argument notes  
§ 10:418 Preparing a trial brief  
§ 10:419 —Function  
§ 10:420 —Contents  
§ 10:421 — —Keep it brief

- § 10:422 — —Introduction
- § 10:423 — —Citations
- § 10:424 — —Quotations
- § 10:425 — —Separate issues of fact and law
- § 10:426 — — —Treat each issue separately

## **VI. CHECKLISTS**

- § 10:427 Checklist; Matters that may be considered at pretrial conference
- § 10:428 Checklist; Items to include in plaintiff's motion in limine

## **VII. FORMS**

- § 10:429 Sample petition; premises liability
- § 10:430 Sample petition; against social host
- § 10:431 Letter to medical expert confirming availability to appear at trial
- § 10:432 Motion for pretrial conference
- § 10:433 Order for pretrial conference
- § 10:434 Agreement to set case for pretrial conference
- § 10:435 Joint pretrial order
- § 10:436 Motion for preferential setting
- § 10:437 Motion for continuance
- § 10:438 Agreed motion for continuance
- § 10:439 Motion for continuance; additional time needed for expert witness in preparing for case
- § 10:440 Response to motion for continuance; motion based on absence of witness for trial
- § 10:441 Plaintiff's motion in limine
- § 10:442 Defendant's motion in limine
- § 10:443 Request to take judicial notice of facts
- § 10:444 Request to take judicial notice of law of United States, other state, or territory
- § 10:445 Request to take judicial notice of city ordinance or county regulation
- § 10:446 Motion and affidavit for summary judgment
- § 10:447 Motion to exclude expert testimony
- § 10:448 Motion to exclude doctor's testimony
- § 10:449 Response to motion to exclude doctor's testimony

## **CHAPTER 11. TRIAL**

### **I. TRIAL SCHEDULING**

- § 11:1 Calendaring the case

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 11:2 —Time it usually takes to get a personal injury case to trial
- § 11:3 — —Acceleration is exceptional
- § 11:4 —Placing the case on the court trial calendar and notice requirement
- § 11:5 — —Local court rules
- § 11:6 — —Pretrial conference trial setting
- § 11:7 — —Attorney’s duty to stay abreast of calendar
- § 11:8 Continuances
- § 11:9 —When to ask for a continuance
- § 11:10 —When continuances are likely to be granted or denied
- § 11:11 — —Unpreparedness of counsel
- § 11:12 Consolidation of trials
- § 11:13 —Duty to notify court
- § 11:14 Separate trials
- § 11:15 —Situations where desirable

## II. DISQUALIFICATIONS OF ASSIGNED TRIAL JUDGE AND RECUSAL

- § 11:16 Basis for removal of judges
- § 11:17 Right to an unbiased judge
- § 11:18 Statutory grounds for disqualification
- § 11:19 Statutory grounds for recusal and disqualification
- § 11:20 Statutory grounds for recusal or disqualification—  
Partiality or bias
- § 11:21 — —Burden
- § 11:22 Waiver—Distinction between disqualification and recusal
- § 11:23 Tertiary motions
- § 11:24 Time for motion
- § 11:25 Motion or request to disqualify or recuse; affidavits of interest
- § 11:26 —Papers served
- § 11:27 —Clerk’s duties
- § 11:28 —Duties of Regional Presiding Judge
- § 11:29 — —Summary denial for noncompliance
- § 11:30 — —Interim orders; discovery
- § 11:31 — —Hearing
- § 11:32 Discretion of judge
- § 11:33 Review of motion
- § 11:34 Mandamus relief
- § 11:35 —When mandamus relief is required
- § 11:36 Sanctions

- § 11:37 Mandatory disqualification
- § 11:38 Objection to assigned judge
- § 11:39 —Procedure
- § 11:40 —Only one objection allowed; Exception

### III. PRETRIAL CONFERENCES

- § 11:41 Preliminary matters
- § 11:42 —Possible grounds for judge’s disqualification
- § 11:43 —Trial time estimates and commitments
- § 11:44 — —Adjustments
- § 11:45 —Clarification of courtroom schedule
- § 11:46 —Broadcast of trial
- § 11:47 Review of pleadings and issues
- § 11:48 Settlement possibilities
- § 11:49 Time frame for filing proposed questions
- § 11:50 Matters regarding jury
- § 11:51 —Miscellaneous jury stipulations
- § 11:52 —Jury basics
- § 11:53 —Challenge for cause
- § 11:54 —Peremptory jury challenges
- § 11:55 — —Test with multiple litigants
- § 11:56 —Alternate jurors
- § 11:57 —Voir dire questions
- § 11:58 —Voir dire purposes
- § 11:59 —Voir dire—Waiver
- § 11:60 — —Restrictions
- § 11:61 — —Abuse of discretion
- § 11:62 —Jury questionnaires
- § 11:63 — —Criminal history
- § 11:64 Premarking exhibits
- § 11:65 Judge’s “ground rules”
- § 11:66 —Manner of objecting
- § 11:67 —Jury preinstruction
- § 11:68 —Conduct between counsel
- § 11:69 —Stipulations
- § 11:70 —Attire
- § 11:71 —Opening statements
- § 11:72 —Judge’s power to punish improper behavior
- § 11:73 Motions in limine
- § 11:74 —Nature of motion in limine
- § 11:75 —Purposes of motions in limine
- § 11:76 — —Minimizes jury exposure to inadmissible evidence
- § 11:77 — —Settlement tool

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 11:78 — —Helps witness preparation
- § 11:79 —Examples
- § 11:80 —Manner of presenting the motion
- § 11:81 — —Written motion preferred
- § 11:82 — —Form of written motion
- § 11:83 —Determination on motion
- § 11:84 — —Court order; effect
- § 11:85 — —Put on the record
- § 11:86 Videotape at trial

## IV. SELECTING THE JURY

- § 11:87 Jury selection process—In general
- § 11:88 Stipulation of jury of less than twelve
- § 11:89 Reduction in number due to challenges
- § 11:90 Right to cross section
- § 11:91 —Objection to jury array and selection process and  
motion to challenge panel
- § 11:92 —Panel for the week
- § 11:93 —Motion to shuffle jury panel
- § 11:94 Panel for the case
- § 11:95 —Use of jury lists
- § 11:96 —Selection of jury panel
- § 11:97 — —Alternate jurors
- § 11:98 — — —Selection
- § 11:99 — — —Use of alternate jurors
- § 11:100 —Qualification of jurors
- § 11:101 —Persons disqualified to act as jurors
- § 11:102 — —Deafness
- § 11:103 — — —Interpreter
- § 11:104 —Judicial excuse of jurors
- § 11:105 — —Excuse for economic reasons
- § 11:106 —Motion to shuffle jury panel
- § 11:107 Voir dire
- § 11:108 —Who conducts
- § 11:109 —Questioning by counsel, generally
- § 11:110 — —Jury handbook
- § 11:111 —Areas of inquiry
- § 11:112 — —Competence of juror
- § 11:113 — —Educational or technical background
- § 11:114 — —Publicity about case
- § 11:115 — —Prior contacts or prejudices
- § 11:116 — — —Acquaintance with party or witness
- § 11:117 — — —Service in a similar case
- § 11:118 — — —Use of same or similar product

- § 11:119 — — —Familiarity with the premises
- § 11:120 — — —Patient of same doctor or hospital
- § 11:121 — — —Work for insurance company
- § 11:122 — — —Had similar accident or suffered similar injury
- § 11:123 — — —Had similar suit pending
- § 11:124 — — —Preconceived views on propriety of punitive damages; damages for pain and suffering
- § 11:125 — — —Attitudes regarding tort reform or “lawsuit abuse”
- § 11:126 — — —Belief that corporate defendants or insurance companies have “deep pockets”
- § 11:127 — — —Juror understanding of burden of proof
- § 11:128 — — —Questioning by the court
- § 11:129 — — —Preliminary instructions
- § 11:130 Challenges for cause
- § 11:131 — — —Grounds
- § 11:132 — — —“Blanket” excusals for cause
- § 11:133 — — —Reasons for challenging “for cause”
- § 11:134 — — —Deciding between challenge for cause and peremptory challenge
- § 11:135 — — —How challenge for cause exercised
- § 11:136 — — —Procedure if court refuses to strike juror for cause
- § 11:137 Peremptory challenges
- § 11:138 — — —Using the peremptory challenge
- § 11:139 — — —Number of challenges
- § 11:140 — — —Whom to excuse
- § 11:141 — — —General considerations
- § 11:142 — — —Challenge of discriminatory use of peremptory challenges
- § 11:143 — — —Procedure for making “Batson” challenge
- § 11:144 — — —“Natural” bias
- § 11:145 — — —Negative attitude
- § 11:146 — — —Obvious candidate for foreperson
- § 11:147 — — —Incompatible life-style
- § 11:148 — — —“Ideal” plaintiffs’ jurors
- § 11:149 — — —“Ideal” defense jurors
- § 11:150 — — —Use of jury consultant
- § 11:151 — — —Main jury is sworn after peremptory challenges
- § 11:152 Examination of alternates
- § 11:153 — — —Some courts summon alternates with main jury panel
- § 11:154 Request that juror be excused and alternate be substituted
- § 11:155 — — —Grounds

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 11:156	—Challenges to alternate jurors
§ 11:157	Examination of jurors by counsel
§ 11:158	—Purposes of attorney voir dire
§ 11:159	— —Creates a record for purposes of challenging verdict later on
§ 11:160	— —“Breaks the ice”
§ 11:161	— —Limitation against “preconditioning” the jurors
§ 11:162	—Scope of examination
§ 11:163	— —Determination on objections
§ 11:164	—General approach to attorney voir dire
§ 11:165	— —Advice to client
§ 11:166	— —Approaching the panel
§ 11:167	— —Describe the case
§ 11:168	— —Review jurors’ responsibilities
§ 11:169	— —Explain the procedure of the case
§ 11:170	— —Avoid controversial or sensitive topics
§ 11:171	— —Don’t argue
§ 11:172	— —Questioning strategy
§ 11:173	— —Use of jury chart
§ 11:174	—Improper questioning
§ 11:175	— —How to object to improper questions
§ 11:176	—Potential questions for prospective jurors in bodily injury cases
§ 11:177	— —Plaintiff’s counsel
§ 11:178	— — —Specific questions to jurors
§ 11:179	— —Follow-up questions by defense counsel
§ 11:180	— —Defense questions to remaining jurors
§ 11:181	— —Additional example
§ 11:182	Reopening voir dire
§ 11:183	After selection is completed, trial is ready to commence

## V. OPENING STATEMENTS

§ 11:184	In general
§ 11:185	Right of each party
§ 11:186	Time for presenting; order of presentation
§ 11:187	Scope
§ 11:188	Nature and purpose
§ 11:189	—Statement is not “evidence”
§ 11:190	—Introduces jury to the nature of the case
§ 11:191	—Establishes rapport with jurors
§ 11:192	—Objections to improper statement
§ 11:193	Content
§ 11:194	—What the evidence will show

- § 11:195 — —Negligence and comparative responsibility
- § 11:196 — —Loss of consortium
- § 11:197 —Exposing the weak as well as the strong points
- § 11:198 —Argument about injuries
- § 11:199 —Argument about damages
- § 11:200 —Explaining the law
- § 11:201 —Explaining technical matters
- § 11:202 —Use of visual aids
- § 11:203 — —Examples
- § 11:204 — —Limitation—Must be admissible evidence
- § 11:205 —Tips regarding effective communications and presentation style
- § 11:206 — —Personal appearance
- § 11:207 — —Posture and speaking ability
- § 11:208 Procedure regarding objection to opening statement

## **VI. CHECKLISTS**

- § 11:209 Checklist; Drafting motion to consolidate actions
- § 11:210 Checklist; Drafting motion for severance and separate trials

## **VII. FORMS**

- § 11:211 Pretrial order checklist; Western District of Texas
- § 11:212 Scheduling order; Western District of Texas
- § 11:213 Sample motion in limine
- § 11:214 Juror qualification questionnaire; Western District of Texas
- § 11:215 Voir dire for personal injury and wrongful death cases
- § 11:216 Sample voir dire medical malpractice case
- § 11:217 Motion for consolidated trial
- § 11:218 —Cases arising from same automobile accident
- § 11:219 Order consolidating separate suits
- § 11:220 Motion for severance
- § 11:221 —Medical malpractice case
- § 11:222 Defendant's motion to open and close argument and evidence
- § 11:223 Plaintiff's response to defendant's motion to open and close argument and evidence

# **CHAPTER 12. PROVING THE CASE**

## **I. ORDER OF TRIAL AND PROOF**

- § 12:1 Determination of matters to be tried first

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 12:2	—Dependent on the burden of proof
§ 12:3	— —Presentation of adversary’s case
§ 12:4	— —Rebuttal evidence
§ 12:5	— —Additional testimony
§ 12:6	— —Evidence closed; final argument
§ 12:7	— — —Discretion of the court to vary
§ 12:8	— — —Presentation of final argument
§ 12:9	— — —Intervenor
§ 12:10	—Order of presentation in multiparty cases
§ 12:11	—Severance of issues; bifurcated trial
§ 12:12	—Grounds for severance or bifurcation
§ 12:13	—Severable issues
§ 12:14	— —Personal injury actions
§ 12:15	—Discretion of judge
§ 12:16	—Motion to sever
§ 12:17	— —Time limitations

## II. BURDEN OF PROOF; PRIMA FACIE CASE OR DEFENSE

§ 12:18	Burden of proof, generally
§ 12:19	Burden as between plaintiff and defendant
§ 12:20	—Admissions
§ 12:21	—Plaintiff’s burden
§ 12:22	—Defendant’s burden
§ 12:23	— —Laches
§ 12:24	— —Cross-actions
§ 12:25	—Contributory negligence and similar defenses
§ 12:26	— —Violation of statute
§ 12:27	— —Rescue or imminent peril as negating contributory negligence
§ 12:28	Use of presumptions or inferences
§ 12:29	—Spoliation
§ 12:30	—Use and rebuttal
§ 12:31	—Res ipsa loquitur
§ 12:32	— —Factors
§ 12:33	— —Medical malpractice
§ 12:34	—Presumption of due care
§ 12:35	Evidence required to make prima facie case
§ 12:36	—Duty of care and breach
§ 12:37	— —Negligence
§ 12:38	— —Factors
§ 12:39	— —Premises liability
§ 12:40	— — —Status of plaintiff and degree of care owed
§ 12:41	— — —Trespasser

- § 12:42 — — — — Licensee
- § 12:43 — — — — Invitee
- § 12:44 — — — — Factors distinguishing licensees and invitees
- § 12:45 — — — — Public-safety officers
- § 12:46 — — — — Independent contractor
- § 12:47 — — — — Independent contractor; Right of control in certain industries
- § 12:48 — — — — Duty owed
- § 12:49 — — — — Warning
- § 12:50 — — — — Animals
- § 12:51 — — — — — Horses
- § 12:52 — — — — Agents
- § 12:53 — — — — Duty owed by party who creates dangerous condition
- § 12:54 — — — — Liability for criminal acts of third parties
- § 12:55 — — Negligent undertaking
- § 12:56 — — Liability of volunteer health care providers
- § 12:57 — — Public safety
- § 12:58 — — Space flight activities
- § 12:59 — — In malpractice case; proving the existence of physician-patient relationship and the requisite standard of care
- § 12:60 — — Negligence
- § 12:61 — — Establishing duty to warn in product liability cases
- § 12:62 — — Obvious risk
- § 12:63 — — Adequacy of warning
- § 12:64 — Foreseeability
- § 12:65 — Proximate cause
- § 12:66 — Last clear chance
- § 12:67 — Existence of injury and amount of damages
- § 12:68 — — Proof of medical treatment
- § 12:69 — — Proof of medical expenses incurred
- § 12:70 — — Burden of proof
- § 12:71 — — Proof of shortened life expectancy; use of mortality tables
- § 12:72 — — Proof of lost earnings (tax returns, pay stubs, and the like)
- § 12:73 — — Proof of cost of future care
- § 12:74 — — Jury considerations
- § 12:75 — — Proof of loss of enjoyment of life
- § 12:76 — — Loss of consortium
- § 12:77 — — Amount of punitive damages; admissibility of evidence of defendant's worth

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 12:78	Motion for directed verdict
§ 12:79	Motion for directed verdict at close of plaintiff's case—Time and manner of presenting
§ 12:80	—Grounds
§ 12:81	— —Failure to specify ground
§ 12:82	— —Absence of disputed question of fact
§ 12:83	— — —What constitutes?
§ 12:84	— —Plaintiff failed to establish prima facie case
§ 12:85	— — —What happens if plaintiff does establish prima facie case
§ 12:86	—Right (and advisability) of presenting evidence if motion denied
§ 12:87	— —Waiver of right to appeal a denial of motion if defense proceeds with case
§ 12:88	Rebutting plaintiff's case
§ 12:89	—Establishing lack of duty
§ 12:90	— —Premises liability defenses
§ 12:91	— — —Plaintiff as a trespasser or the like
§ 12:92	— — —Limited liability with livestock or agricultural land
§ 12:93	— — —Recreational use doctrine
§ 12:94	— — — —Certain public utilities
§ 12:95	— — — —Community gardens
§ 12:96	— — — —Applicability of statute
§ 12:97	— — — —Limitation on money damages
§ 12:98	— — — —Limited liability of certain officers
§ 12:99	— — — —Recreational vehicle parks and campground activities
§ 12:100	— — — —Trespassing children
§ 12:101	— —Motor vehicle guests
§ 12:102	— —First responders; Wellness check at civil commitment facility
§ 12:103	— —Duty owed by construction monitoring and inspection services
§ 12:104	— —Obvious danger
§ 12:105	— —Limitation of liability for actions against sport shooting ranges
§ 12:106	— —Limited liability for failure to retrofit certain rented or leased vehicles
§ 12:107	— —Immunity for donation of donated medical devices
§ 12:108	— —Immunity for donation of feminine hygiene products
§ 12:109	—Establishing conformity to standard of care
§ 12:110	—Establishing lack of proximate cause

- § 12:111 —Mitigation of damages
- § 12:112 — —Failure to seek medical treatment
- § 12:113 — —Burden of proof
- § 12:114 — —Preexisting condition
- § 12:115 — —Proof of malingering
- § 12:116 Evidence required to make out a defense
- § 12:117 —Contributory negligence
- § 12:118 — —As a matter of law
- § 12:119 —Informed consent to treatment
- § 12:120 — —Inherently unsafe products
- § 12:121 —Actions arising from certain pregnancy complications

### III. PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE, GENERALLY

- § 12:122 Relevancy and competency
- § 12:123 —General requirements of the law of evidence
- § 12:124 —Preliminary determination by the court
- § 12:125 — —Conditionally relevant evidence
- § 12:126 — —Presence of jury
- § 12:127 — —Weight and credibility
- § 12:128 —Discretion of the court to allow
- § 12:129 —Argument heard outside jury’s presence
- § 12:130 —Relevance of particular types of evidence in a personal injury case
- § 12:131 — —Subsequent conditions or repairs
- § 12:132 — —Similar accidents
- § 12:133 — —Custom; customary methods of practice
- § 12:134 — —Violation of statute
- § 12:135 — —Deviation from government or industry codes
- § 12:136 — —Existence of insurance
- § 12:137 — —Collateral source rule
- § 12:138 — —Offer of compromise
- § 12:139 —Objections
- § 12:140 —Need to object to preserve record
- § 12:141 — —Failure to object is waiver
- § 12:142 — — —Expert testimony
- § 12:143 —Grounds for objection
- § 12:144 — —Irrelevant
- § 12:145 — —Incompetent
- § 12:146 — —Immaterial
- § 12:147 — —Lack of foundation
- § 12:148 — —Inadmissible as a whole
- § 12:149 — — —Part admissible evidence
- § 12:150 — — —Objecting to inadmissible part only

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 12:151 — — Document objections
- § 12:152 — — Need to clearly bring alleged error to trial court's attention
- § 12:153 — — — Time
- § 12:154 — — When evidence is admissible in part or for certain purposes
- § 12:155 — — Objection that proof was not within the issues raised by the pleadings
- § 12:156 — — — Allowance of amendment to conform to the proof
- § 12:157 — — — Otherwise issue tried by consent of the parties
- § 12:158 — Objection must be timely
- § 12:159 Motion to strike
- § 12:160 — Time to make
- § 12:161 — Admonition to jury; effectiveness
- § 12:162 — Grounds
- § 12:163 — — Incompetent evidence objection
- § 12:164 Making record of excluded evidence
- § 12:165 — Reserved rulings
- § 12:166 — Offer of proof
- § 12:167 — — Necessity
- § 12:168 — — Content
- § 12:169 — — Exceptions
- § 12:170 — — Procedure
- § 12:171 Evidence presentation strategy
- § 12:172 When to call the strongest witnesses
- § 12:173 — Using admissions in pleadings
- § 12:174 Using information gained through discovery
- § 12:175 — Admissions
- § 12:176 — — Waiver of admissions
- § 12:177 — Admissibility of deposition

## IV. EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES

- § 12:178 Strategic considerations
- § 12:179 — Should client testify
- § 12:180 — Order of presenting witnesses
- § 12:181 — — Request for exclusion of witnesses; effect
- § 12:182 — — — Parties and essential persons not excluded
- § 12:183 — — — When witness exclusion rule is breached
- § 12:184 — Oath
- § 12:185 Competency
- § 12:186 — Assumption that all witnesses are competent
- § 12:187 — — Establishing that witness has personal knowledge

- § 12:188 — —Testing the witnesses ability to perceive
- § 12:189 —Insane persons
- § 12:190 —Children
- § 12:191 —Deaf persons
- § 12:192 — —Court appointed interpreters
- § 12:193 — — —Certification
- § 12:194 — — —Position in court
- § 12:195 — — —Oath
- § 12:196 — — —Recording of testimony
- § 12:197 — — —Privilege
- § 12:198 —Persons needing language interpreters
- § 12:199 — —Application
- § 12:200 — —Appointment
- § 12:201 — —Qualifications
- § 12:202 —Competency of spouses
- § 12:203 —Voir dire to determine competence
- § 12:204 — —Determination by court
- § 12:205 — —Reconsideration by jury of personal knowledge  
objection
- § 12:206 Privilege
- § 12:207 —Burden of proof
- § 12:208 —Privilege asserted at trial
- § 12:209 —Waiver of privilege
- § 12:210 — —Waiver in malpractice cases
- § 12:211 Method of examination
- § 12:212 —General tips regarding demeanor and style
- § 12:213 — —Addressing the court
- § 12:214 — —Addressing the witness
- § 12:215 — —Avoid gestures and comments of approval or  
disapproval
- § 12:216 — —Questioning the witness
- § 12:217 — —Stating objections
- § 12:218 —Scope of direct, cross, and redirect
- § 12:219 —Making objections
- § 12:220 — —Question is argumentative
- § 12:221 — — —Typically occurs on cross-examination
- § 12:222 — —Question is cumulative
- § 12:223 — —Question is uncertain, ambiguous or  
unintelligible
- § 12:224 — —Compound questions
- § 12:225 — —Question too general or calls for narrative  
answer
- § 12:226 — —Question assumes facts not in evidence
- § 12:227 — — —Applies on cross as well as direct  
examination

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 12:228 — — Question misstates the evidence or misquotes witness testimony

§ 12:229 — — Harassing or insulting questions

§ 12:230 — — — Also applies to conduct by counsel

§ 12:231 — — Questions calling for speculation

§ 12:232 Direct examination

§ 12:233 — — Limitation on form of question—Leading questions generally forbidden

§ 12:234 — — What constitutes a leading question

§ 12:235 — — Compare—May be asked on cross-examination

§ 12:236 — — Exception—Cross-examination of friendly witness

§ 12:237 — — Other instances in which leading questions may be asked

§ 12:238 — — Examining adverse party on direct

§ 12:239 — — Same rule applies to witnesses identified with a party

§ 12:240 — — Effect on subsequent phases of examination

§ 12:241 — — Impeaching own witness

§ 12:242 — — Record preservation

§ 12:243 Cross-examination

§ 12:244 — — Scope of cross-examination

§ 12:245 — — Broad nature of relevancy

§ 12:246 — — No other limitations

§ 12:247 — — Judge’s discretion

§ 12:248 — — Form of questions

§ 12:249 — — Leading questions allowed

§ 12:250 — — Multiparty cases

§ 12:251 — — Cross-examination of friendly witnesses

§ 12:252 Redirect

§ 12:253 Recross

§ 12:254 Examination by trial judge

§ 12:255 Impeachment

§ 12:256 — — Methods

§ 12:257 — — Contrary evidence

§ 12:258 — — Evidence showing lack of knowledge or perceptive ability

§ 12:259 — — Evidence showing poor credibility

§ 12:260 — — Court’s discretion to exclude impeachment evidence

§ 12:261 — — Character evidence

§ 12:262 — — Specific instances of conduct

§ 12:263 — — Rehabilitation by proof of good character

§ 12:264 — — Conviction of crime

§ 12:265 — — — Time limit

- § 12:266 — — —Effect of pardon, annulment, or certificate of rehabilitation
- § 12:267 — — —Effect of nolo contendere plea
- § 12:268 — — —Juvenile adjudication
- § 12:269 —Pendency of appeal
- § 12:270 — — —Notice
- § 12:271 — — —Religious beliefs or opinions
- § 12:272 —Bias or interest
- § 12:273 —Inconsistent or consistent statement
- § 12:274 — — —Prior inconsistent statement to impeach
- § 12:275 — — —Foundation required
- § 12:276 — — —Inconsistent statement as to financial condition
- § 12:277 — — —Prior consistent statement to rehabilitate
- § 12:278 Opinion testimony
- § 12:279 —Basis for opinion
- § 12:280 —Foundational testimony may be required
- § 12:281 —Testimony excludible if based on improper matter

## V. EXPERT WITNESSES

- § 12:282 Need and right to call
- § 12:283 —Court discretion to limit number of experts
- § 12:284 —Testimony may be barred for noncompliance with expert witness disclosure requirements
- § 12:285 — — —Procedure
- § 12:286 — — —Court discretion to allow testimony notwithstanding
- § 12:287 —Permissible when scientific, technical, or specialized knowledge required
- § 12:288 — — —Daubert analysis as adopted in Texas
- § 12:289 — — —Rule 702 as standard for admission of expert testimony
- § 12:290 —Need in malpractice cases
- § 12:291 —Need in product liability cases
- § 12:292 — — —Compliance with industrial safety standards
- § 12:293 —Use of accident reconstructionists
- § 12:294 —Use of forensic meteorologist
- § 12:295 —To determine the nature and extent of injury and damages
- § 12:296 — — —Cause of death
- § 12:297 — — —Ability to work
- § 12:298 — — —Pain and suffering
- § 12:299 — — —Psychic distress
- § 12:300 — — —Need for future treatment

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 12:301	Locating an expert
§ 12:302	Qualifications
§ 12:303	—How to establish
§ 12:304	— —In health care liability claims against physicians
§ 12:305	— — —Locality rule
§ 12:306	— — —Alternative to qualifications required by statute
§ 12:307	— — —Compare experts on causation
§ 12:308	— — —Experts in health care claim against health care providers
§ 12:309	— — —Determination
§ 12:310	— — —Testimony by member of different school of medicine, nonspecialist, or nurse
§ 12:311	— —Use of evidence
§ 12:312	— —Foundational evidence of qualifications requirements
§ 12:313	— — —Evidence Rule 104 determination
§ 12:314	Scope of testimony
§ 12:315	—Subject must be beyond common experience
§ 12:316	—Opinion on ultimate issue
§ 12:317	Basis for opinion
§ 12:318	—Limitation if precluded by law
§ 12:319	— —Hearsay to prove point of impact
§ 12:320	— —Accident reconstruction
§ 12:321	—Opinion may be based on opinion or statement of another
§ 12:322	— —Adversary’s right to cross-examine
§ 12:323	— — —Other person need not be available
§ 12:324	—Disclosure of underlying facts
§ 12:325	—Motion to strike if opinion based on improper matter
§ 12:326	—Testimony may be admissible in part
§ 12:327	Use of hypothetical questions
§ 12:328	—Form
§ 12:329	—Optional
§ 12:330	—Assumptions on which hypothetical question is based
§ 12:331	—Sufficiency of facts to enable expert to form opinion
§ 12:332	Cross-examination
§ 12:333	—Cross-examination on certain matters outside the scope of direct
§ 12:334	—Questions relating to compensation may be asked for impeachment purposes

- § 12:335 —Reference to authorities on subject
- § 12:336 Effect of expert testimony
- § 12:337 —Exception

## **VI. USING DISCOVERED EVIDENCE**

- § 12:338 Use of pretrial discovery
- § 12:339 —Depositions
- § 12:340 —Interrogatories
- § 12:341 — —Use against party who gave answers
- § 12:342 — —Use for self-serving purposes
- § 12:343 —Requests for admissions
- § 12:344 — —Withdrawal or amendment
- § 12:345 — —Answers admissible only against answering party
- § 12:346 Discovered material subject to the Texas Rules of Evidence
  - § 12:347 —Evidentiary objection may be raised
  - § 12:348 — —Exception; certain objections waived
  - § 12:349 —Judicial discretion to exclude
- § 12:350 Procedure for using pre-trial discovery
  - § 12:351 —Delivery to parties
  - § 12:352 — —Depositions
  - § 12:353 — —Interrogatories
  - § 12:354 — —Requests for admission
  - § 12:355 —Preparing for use as evidence
  - § 12:356 —Introducing depositions
    - § 12:357 — —Preliminary jury instruction
    - § 12:358 — —Transcript read into evidence
    - § 12:359 —Stating objections
      - § 12:360 — —Determination on objections
      - § 12:361 — —Opposing party’s right to read in other parts
        - § 12:362 — —Purpose
        - § 12:363 — —Timing
        - § 12:364 —No other method of introduction
        - § 12:365 —For impeachment purposes
        - § 12:366 — —Contents of transcript disclosed
  - § 12:367 —Introducing interrogatories and requests for admissions
    - § 12:368 — —Preliminary jury instruction
    - § 12:369 — —Read into evidence

## **VII. USING REAL OR DEMONSTRATIVE EVIDENCE**

- § 12:370 Using exhibits, generally

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 12:371 —When admissible
- § 12:372 —List of exhibits for opposing counsel and court
- § 12:373 —Stipulations to eliminate foundational concerns
- § 12:374 —Marking exhibits
- § 12:375 — —Pre-marking exhibits may be required
- § 12:376 — —During trial
- § 12:377 — —Method of marking
- § 12:378 — —Voluminous exhibits
- § 12:379 — —Related exhibits
- § 12:380 —Necessity that they be introduced into testimony
- § 12:381 — —Showing to opposing counsel
- § 12:382 — —Reading excerpts into the record
- § 12:383 — —Showing to the jury
- § 12:384 — —Maintenance of exhibits during trial
- § 12:385 —When to offer
- § 12:386 —How to introduce
- § 12:387 — —Foundation
- § 12:388 —Preservation of testimony concerning exhibits
- § 12:389 Examining witnesses about writing
- § 12:390 —Showing writing to witness
- § 12:391 —Questioning about part of a document—Right to elicit balance
- § 12:392 —Writings used to refresh recollection
- § 12:393 — —Witness need not have prepared the writing
- § 12:394 — —Procedure—Should not be read to jury
- § 12:395 — —Limitations—Production of writing for inspection and cross-examination upon request
- § 12:396 — — —Cross-examination about the writing
- § 12:397 — —Compare—Recollection not refreshed; recorded recollection
- § 12:398 Demonstrations and demonstrative evidence, generally
- § 12:399 —Advise court in advance
- § 12:400 Using diagrams, models, maps, blackboard sketches, and similar evidence
- § 12:401 —Foundation
- § 12:402 — —Testimony in support
- § 12:403 Using photographs, videotapes, and the like
- § 12:404 —Particular photographs or videos
- § 12:405 — —Of injuries
- § 12:406 — —Vehicles involved in a collision
- § 12:407 — —Scene of accident
- § 12:408 — —Day in the life surveillance video
- § 12:409 —Discretion of trial judge
- § 12:410 — —Gruesome nature of injuries

- § 12:411 Using X-rays
- § 12:412 Using records of weather conditions
- § 12:413 Using the results of experiments and tests
- § 12:414 —Admissibility, generally
- § 12:415 —In-court demonstrations
- § 12:416 — —Advisability
- § 12:417 — —Foundation
- § 12:418 — —Discretion of the trial court
- § 12:419 —Computer simulation of accident
- § 12:420 —Particular situations and experiments
- § 12:421 — —Product liability
- § 12:422 — — —Mechanical defect in vehicle
- § 12:423 — —Visibility and ability to hear
- § 12:424 Viewing accident scene
- § 12:425 —Usefulness in personal injury action
- § 12:426 —Request
- § 12:427 —Discretion of court

## VIII. CHECKLISTS

- § 12:428 Checklist; Examining before-and-after witness
- § 12:429 Checklist; Examining accident reconstruction expert
- § 12:430 Checklist; Examining treating physician
- § 12:431 Checklist; Examining spouse of injured party
- § 12:432 Checklist; Examining representative of  
manufacturer in products liability case
- § 12:433 Checklist; Examining owner of dog in dog-bite case
- § 12:434 Checklist; Examining server of alcoholic beverages  
in Dram Shop Action
- § 12:435 Checklist; Examining employer in negligent hiring  
case
- § 12:436 Checklist; Examining defendant host—Liability for  
intoxicated guest
- § 12:437 Checklist; Examination of defendant—Assault and  
battery case
- § 12:438 Checklist; Examining plaintiff—Assault and battery  
case
- § 12:439 Checklist; Examining defendant in premises liability  
case arising from fire
- § 12:440 Checklist; Cross-examining opposing expert
- § 12:441 Checklist; Laying foundation for introducing  
photographs
- § 12:442 Checklist; Objections to form of question
- § 12:443 Checklist; Objections to form of answer
- § 12:444 Checklist; Objections to testimonial evidence
- § 12:445 Checklist; Objections to exhibits

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**IX. FORMS**

- § 12:446 Affidavit; Foundation for business records
- § 12:447 Motion to exclude expert testimony
- § 12:448 Stipulation of fact
- § 12:449 Stipulation of testimony

# Table of Contents

## CHAPTER 13. SUBMITTING THE CASE

### I. ROLE OF COURT AND JURY

- § 13:1 Determination of issues of law by court and fact by jury
- § 13:2 —Questions of law
- § 13:3 —What is an issue of law or fact in a personal injury case
- § 13:4 Determination of sufficiency of evidence by court

### II. MOTIONS AT CLOSE OF CASE

- § 13:5 Applicable motions
- § 13:6 —Nonsuit
- § 13:7 — —Procedure
- § 13:8 — —When made
- § 13:9 — —Limitations
- § 13:10 — —Sanctions and costs
- § 13:11 — —Reinstatement
- § 13:12 —Directed verdict in jury case
- § 13:13 — —When made
- § 13:14 — —Effect
- § 13:15 — — —Determination
- § 13:16 — — —Effect of issue of credibility
- § 13:17 — — —Inferences
- § 13:18 — —Need to renew at close of all evidence
- § 13:19 — —Prerequisite for motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict not prerequisite
- § 13:20 — —When verdict can be directed in favor of party having burden of proof
- § 13:21 — —Form
- § 13:22 — — —Written motion
- § 13:23 — — —Specific grounds must be stated
- § 13:24 — — —Specific grounds in a personal injury case
- § 13:25 — —Limitations
- § 13:26 — — —Power of court
- § 13:27 — — —Waiver by party
- § 13:28 — — —Judgment n.o.v
- § 13:29 — —Verdict for plaintiff
- § 13:30 — —Verdict for defendant
- § 13:31 —Motion for judgment in nonjury case

- § 13:32 — —When motion made
- § 13:33 — —Compare motion for nonsuit
- § 13:34 — —Determination on motion
- § 13:35 — —Effect of decision
- § 13:36 — — —Motion “partially” granted
- § 13:37 — — —Motion denied
- § 13:38 —Mistrial
- § 13:39 — —Mandatory mistrials
- § 13:40 — — —Juror as witness over party objection
- § 13:41 — — —Jury discharged without rendering verdict
- § 13:42 — — —Judge unable to complete nonjury trial
- § 13:43 — —Discretionary mistrials
- § 13:44 — — —Attorney misconduct
- § 13:45 — — —Judicial misconduct
- § 13:46 — — —Juror misconduct
- § 13:47 — — —Misconduct by court clerk
- § 13:48 — —Motion and argument procedure
- § 13:49 — — —Timely objection prerequisite; waiver of discretionary grounds
- § 13:50 — — —Specificity of grounds
- § 13:51 — — —Outside jury presence
- § 13:52 — —Determination on motion
- § 13:53 — —Preference for avoiding mistrial
- § 13:54 — —Reserved ruling as option
- § 13:55 — —Denial “without prejudice” as option
- § 13:56 — —Effect if motion granted
- § 13:57 — —Compare new trial motions
- § 13:58 — —Determination not appealable

### III. FINAL ARGUMENT

- § 13:59 Right to present
- § 13:60 — —“Absolute right” in jury trial
- § 13:61 — —“Discretionary right” in nonjury trial
- § 13:62 — —Parties may waive argument
- § 13:63 Sequence
- § 13:64 — —Discretion of court
- § 13:65 — —Multiparty cases
- § 13:66 — —Waiver of usual sequence
- § 13:67 — —Addressing the jury
- § 13:68 Scope of argument
- § 13:69 Content
- § 13:70 — —Arguing the law
- § 13:71 — —Objections to incorrect statements
- § 13:72 — —Arguing the evidence

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 13:73 — — Limited to matter in record
- § 13:74 — — Compare—Matters of common knowledge
- § 13:75 — — — Commenting on lack of evidence
- § 13:76 — Arguing damages; pain and suffering and life expectancy
- § 13:77 — — Propriety of per diem arguments and the like
- § 13:78 — — “Reasonableness” arguments
- § 13:79 — — Tax aspects of award
- § 13:80 — — Argument where no specific evidence of damages
- § 13:81 Techniques
- § 13:82 — Use of exhibits and illustrative charts
- § 13:83 Plaintiff’s closing argument limited to rebuttal
- § 13:84 Matters that should or should not be mentioned in a personal injury case
  - § 13:85 — Facts not in evidence
  - § 13:86 — “Golden rule” arguments
  - § 13:87 — Wealth of defendant
  - § 13:88 — Race, religion, and national origin
  - § 13:89 — Insurance
  - § 13:90 — Settlement
  - § 13:91 — Missing expert witness
  - § 13:92 — Disparaging remarks regarding opposing counsel
  - § 13:93 Objecting to opponent’s improper argument
  - § 13:94 — Incurable argument
  - § 13:95 — Duty of judge to rectify
  - § 13:96 — Waiver of objection
  - § 13:97 Harmless or reversible error
  - § 13:98 Burden of complainant

## IV. INSTRUCTING THE JURY

- § 13:99 Instruction conference
- § 13:100 Submitting requests for jury instructions
- § 13:101 — Time
- § 13:102 — Form and content
- § 13:103 — — Content
- § 13:104 — — — Controlling questions
- § 13:105 — — — Inferential rebuttal questions
- § 13:106 — — — Framing special issues
- § 13:107 — — — Burden of proof
- § 13:108 — — — Instructions and definitions, generally
- § 13:109 — — Definition of terms
- § 13:110 — — “If” clauses
- § 13:111 — — Product liability cases
- § 13:112 — — Statutory instructions

- § 13:113 —Instructions and the evidence
- § 13:114 — —Supporting evidence
- § 13:115 — —Disjunctive submission
- § 13:116 — —Conjunctive and/or submission
- § 13:117 — —Comment on evidence
- § 13:118 —Acceptance, modification, or refusal of tendered instruction by court
- § 13:119 —Spoliation instructions
- § 13:120 —Acceptance, modification, or refusal of tendered instruction by court—Appeal
- § 13:121 — — —Substance covered by other instructions; duplicative issues
- § 13:122 — —When refusal is prejudicial error
- § 13:123 — —When error is waived
- § 13:124 Charge to the jury
- § 13:125 —Requisites of the charge
- § 13:126 —Particular instructions in a personal injury case
- § 13:127 — —Burden of proof
- § 13:128 — —Contributory negligence and similar defenses
- § 13:129 — —Proximate cause
- § 13:130 — —Foreseeability
- § 13:131 — —Inferences; res ipsa loquitur
- § 13:132 — —Damages
- § 13:133 —Objections to instructions given by judge
- § 13:134 — —Grounds for objection
- § 13:135 — —Form and sufficiency
- § 13:136 — — —Request requirement
- § 13:137 — —Particular objections; erroneous statement of law
- § 13:138 — —Particular objections; erroneous allocation of burden of proof
- § 13:139 — —Particular objections; conflicting instructions
- § 13:140 — —Particular objections; whether a fact was proved
- § 13:141 — —Sufficiency of curative instruction
- § 13:142 — — —Improper comments by judge
- § 13:143 — —Rulings on objections
- § 13:144 — —Preserving objection for appeal
- § 13:145 Preemptory instructions
- § 13:146 —Appeal
- § 13:147 Additional or supplemental instructions in response to jury questions while deliberating

## V. SUBMISSION OF CASE TO JURY AND DELIBERATIONS

- § 13:148 Presiding juror

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 13:149	Jury kept together
§ 13:150	Judge to caution jury
§ 13:151	Papers taken to jury room
§ 13:152	Communication with court
§ 13:153	Further instructions
§ 13:154	Disagreement as to evidence
§ 13:155	Stipulation or agreement that majority verdict is permissible
§ 13:156	Stipulation that majority verdict is permissible— Construing the stipulation
§ 13:157	—Stipulated facts and verdict
§ 13:158	General and special verdicts
§ 13:159	—General verdict
§ 13:160	—Special verdict, generally
§ 13:161	— —Special verdict conclusive as to parties
§ 13:162	—Unanimity not required
§ 13:163	— —Exemplary damages
§ 13:164	— —Juror death or disablement
§ 13:165	— —Signatures required
§ 13:166	—Submission to jury
§ 13:167	—Special verdict
§ 13:168	— —Right to issue submission
§ 13:169	— —Answers must be clear
§ 13:170	— —Construction
§ 13:171	— —Reference to pleadings
§ 13:172	— —Negative finding on defensive issue
§ 13:173	Framing issues submitted for special verdicts
§ 13:174	—Omission as waiver of jury trial on issue
§ 13:175	—Objections
§ 13:176	— —Purposes
§ 13:177	—Ambiguous findings
§ 13:178	—Effect of inconsistency between findings
§ 13:179	— —Setting aside verdict
§ 13:180	Requests for special findings
§ 13:181	Receiving the verdict
§ 13:182	—Form of verdict
§ 13:183	—Return of verdict
§ 13:184	—Presence of counsel
§ 13:185	—Right to poll the jury
§ 13:186	—Defective verdict

## **VI. ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, OR MODIFICATION OF VERDICT**

§ 13:187	Requirement that court accept verdict on record
----------	---

- § 13:188 —Limited discretion
- § 13:189 Compromise or quotient verdict
- § 13:190 Motion for judgment notwithstanding verdict
- § 13:191 —Joinder with motion for new trial if judgment  
n.o.v. is reversed
- § 13:192 Request for remittitur or reduction of verdict
- § 13:193 —By a party
- § 13:194 —Due to clerical error
- § 13:195 —By the court after appeal perfected
- § 13:196 — —At the suggestion of the Court of Appeals
- § 13:197 — —Voluntary remittitur in Court of Appeals in the  
event of reversal
- § 13:198 — — —No remittitur at Supreme Court level
- § 13:199 — — —Refusal to remit must not be mentioned in  
later trial
- § 13:200 — — —Correction of judgment due to clerical  
error—Judgment nunc pro tunc

## **VII. FINDINGS IN NONJURY CASE**

- § 13:201 Necessity
- § 13:202 Submission of proposed findings by prevailing party
- § 13:203 —Content and form of request
- § 13:204 —Request for additional findings and conclusions
- § 13:205 —Power of court to accept or reject request
- § 13:206 —Sufficiency
- § 13:207 —Effect

## **VIII. CHECKLIST**

- § 13:208 Checklist; contents of final argument

## **IX. FORMS**

- § 13:209 Motion for remittitur
- § 13:210 Response to motion for remittitur

# **CHAPTER 14. JUDGMENT**

## **I. ENTRY OF JUDGMENT**

- § 14:1 Entry of judgment—Process of documenting judgment
- § 14:2 —Signing judgment versus entry or rendition of  
judgment
- § 14:3 —Judgment on the verdict or findings of fact
- § 14:4 —Death of a party prior to judgment being entered
- § 14:5 —Date the judgment is rendered

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 14:6	—Approval and entry of proposed written judgment
§ 14:7	Requirements of a judgment
§ 14:8	—Time for the judgment
§ 14:9	Contents of judgment
§ 14:10	Notice of entry
§ 14:11	—No notice of judgment
§ 14:12	— —Notice, motion, and hearing of no notice
§ 14:13	Disregard of findings
§ 14:14	One final judgment
§ 14:15	—Multiparty cases
§ 14:16	—Counterclaims
§ 14:17	—Res judicata, collateral estoppel, and merger and bar
§ 14:18	—Plenary power of trial court
§ 14:19	—Posttrial motions
§ 14:20	— —Extending appellate deadlines with posttrial motions
§ 14:21	— —Motion for new trial
§ 14:22	— — —Time for filing
§ 14:23	— — —Amending the motion for new trial
§ 14:24	— — —Ruling on the motion for new trial
§ 14:25	— — —Motion for new trial mandatory in certain cases to preserve error on appeal
§ 14:26	— — —Presentation of evidence
§ 14:27	— — — —Default judgment
§ 14:28	— — — —Jury misconduct
§ 14:29	— — — — —Participation of unqualified juror
§ 14:30	— — — — —Newly discovered evidence
§ 14:31	— —Motion to disregard jury findings
§ 14:32	— —Judgment notwithstanding the verdict
§ 14:33	— — —Time for filing
§ 14:34	— —Motion to correct clerical mistakes in judgment record
§ 14:35	— — —Nunc pro tunc order
§ 14:36	— —Motion to modify, correct, or reform judgment
§ 14:37	— — —Must be in writing
§ 14:38	— — —Overruled by operation of law
§ 14:39	— — —Effect of modifying judgment
§ 14:40	—Appeal
§ 14:41	— —Restricted appeal
§ 14:42	— —Time for filing ordinary appeal

## II. COSTS

§ 14:43	What costs may be recovered
---------	-----------------------------

- § 14:44 Right of prevailing party to recover
- § 14:45 —Costs as sanction
- § 14:46 —Counterclaims
- § 14:47 —Assault and battery or slander and defamation
- § 14:48 —On appeal
- § 14:49 —Foreclosure proceedings
- § 14:50 —Forcible entry and detainer actions
- § 14:51 —Trespass to try title
- § 14:52 Res judicata effect
- § 14:53 Effects of settlement
- § 14:54 Items taxed
- § 14:55 —Witness fees
- § 14:56 — —Expert witnesses
- § 14:57 — —Incidental litigation expenses not taxable
- § 14:58 —Depositions
- § 14:59 —Copying charges generally not taxable
- § 14:60 —Court costs
- § 14:61 — —State as the prevailing party
- § 14:62 — —Court reporter fees
- § 14:63 — —Guardian ad litem fees
- § 14:64 —Not included in costs
- § 14:65 Procedure for recovery of costs
- § 14:66 —Bill of costs
- § 14:67 — —Effect
- § 14:68 —Levy
- § 14:69 — —Nonresidents

### **III. ATTORNEY'S FEES FOR PREVAILING PARTIES**

- § 14:70 Attorney's fees for prevailing parties
- § 14:71 —Who is a prevailing party?
- § 14:72 Statutory basis
- § 14:73 —Statutes allowing attorney's fees
- § 14:74 Conditions on granting
- § 14:75 —Costs not to exceed judgment
- § 14:76 —Effect of contingent fee contract
- § 14:77 Must segregate fees where attorney's fees are not recoverable
- § 14:78 Discretion of the court
- § 14:79 Objection to claimed attorney's fees

### **IV. INTEREST ON JUDGMENT**

- § 14:80 Interest on judgment

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 14:81 —Legal rate
- § 14:82 Accrues from the time the action was instituted
- § 14:83 —Runs until satisfaction
- § 14:84 —Effect of partial tender (such as insurer tendering policy limits)

## V. FORMS

- § 14:85 Sample proposed judgment
- § 14:86 Judgment on directed verdict

## CHAPTER 15. POSTTRIAL MOTIONS AND APPEALS

### I. MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL

- § 15:1 Nature of motion
- § 15:2 Statutory authority
- § 15:3 Other posttrial motions compared
- § 15:4 —Motion for judgment n.o.v
- § 15:5 — —No new trial; limited authority of court
- § 15:6 — —Can be coupled with motion for new trial
- § 15:7 —Motion to disregard jury findings
- § 15:8 —No new trial; limited authority of court
- § 15:9 Grounds
- § 15:10 —Excessive or inadequate damages
- § 15:11 —Error of law or show of record
- § 15:12 —Misconduct of a party or the party's attorney
- § 15:13 —Juror misconduct
- § 15:14 — —Prerequisite to appeal; evidence
- § 15:15 — —Grounds for new trial
- § 15:16 — —Time of misconduct
- § 15:17 — —Matters juror cannot testify to
- § 15:18 — —False answers during voir dire
- § 15:19 —Other equitable reason
- § 15:20 — —Newly discovered evidence
- § 15:21 — — —Elements
- § 15:22 — — —Prerequisite to appeal
- § 15:23 — — —Time of discovery
- § 15:24 — — —Due diligence
- § 15:25 — — —Noncumulative or impeaching
- § 15:26 — — —Competent and material
- § 15:27 —Judgment following citation by publication
- § 15:28 — —Judgment in default or in defendant's absence
- § 15:29 — — —New trial prerequisite for direct appeal

- § 15:30 — — —Sanctions and default judgments
- § 15:31 — — —Requirements to set aside a default
- § 15:32 — — —Reason for failure to answer or attend
- § 15:33 — — —Granting of motion will not result in delay or  
prejudice to the defendant
- § 15:34 — — —Granting of motion prejudicial
- § 15:35 — — —Factors considered
- § 15:36 — — —Meritorious defense
- § 15:37 — — —Exception for void judgments
- § 15:38 — — —Unconstitutionality of requirement
- § 15:39 — — —Insufficient evidence or evidence against great  
weight and preponderance of the evidence
- § 15:40 — — —Prerequisite to appeal
- § 15:41 Presentation of motion
- § 15:42 —Form of motion
- § 15:43 — —Generality to be avoided
- § 15:44 — —Verification
- § 15:45 — —Writing and signature
- § 15:46 — —Payment of fee
- § 15:47 —Prerequisite of appeal
- § 15:48 —When motion required
- § 15:49 —Judgment notwithstanding findings; cross-points
- § 15:50 — —Failure to bring forward grounds
- § 15:51 —Limitations
- § 15:52 —Time (within 30 days after judgment)
- § 15:53 — —30 days after judgment
- § 15:54 — —Premature filing
- § 15:55 — —Amended motions
- § 15:56 — —Motion overruled by operation of law
- § 15:57 — —Extension for holidays
- § 15:58 — —No posttrial motion filed
- § 15:59 — —Motion timely filed
- § 15:60 — —Bill of review
- § 15:61 — —Application of Tex. R. Civ. P. 5
- § 15:62 —Motion for new trial following judgment on service  
by publication
- § 15:63 — —Citation of parties adversely interested in a  
judgment by publication
- § 15:64 —Contest
- § 15:65 —Facts determined from motion
- § 15:66 — —Evidentiary hearing
- § 15:67 —Burden of proof
- § 15:68 —Motion granted
- § 15:69 Filing and service of motion; Notice
- § 15:70 —Electronic filing required

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 15:71	Service; Service by mail
§ 15:72	Service; Electronic service
§ 15:73	Service; Service by fax
§ 15:74	Service; Evidence of service
§ 15:75	Service; Notice not received
§ 15:76	Hearing and control of proceedings
§ 15:77	—Reception of evidence
§ 15:78	—Judge who hears motion
§ 15:79	— —Regular judge
§ 15:80	— —District Courts
§ 15:81	— —District judge transferred to district
§ 15:82	— —Special judge elected to sit in court
§ 15:83	— — —Special judge selected because regular judge disqualified
§ 15:84	Decision by court
§ 15:85	—Discretion of court
§ 15:86	—Court’s retention of power
§ 15:87	—Withdrawal of motion
§ 15:88	—Need for findings of fact
§ 15:89	—Conditions upon grant
§ 15:90	—Effect
§ 15:91	— —Partial new trial
§ 15:92	— —Remittitur
§ 15:93	— — —When appropriate
§ 15:94	— — —Proof
§ 15:95	— — —Standard of review
§ 15:96	— — —Remittitur order
§ 15:97	— — —How made
§ 15:98	— — —Appeals
§ 15:99	— —Modification or vacating of ruling on motion for new trial

## II. MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM JUDGMENT

§ 15:100	Nature of motion
§ 15:101	Judged as if it were a motion for directed verdict
§ 15:102	Relationship to motion for new trial
§ 15:103	Grounds
§ 15:104	—Brief cross-points
§ 15:105	Procedure
§ 15:106	—Motion or independent action
§ 15:107	— —Time limits
§ 15:108	— —Motion for new trial may be made concurrently
§ 15:109	— —Form and content
§ 15:110	— —Grant of motion

- § 15:111 — — —For defendant
- § 15:112 — — —For plaintiff
- § 15:113 — —Appeal from order

### III. EQUITABLE BILL OF REVIEW

- § 15:114 Nature of action
- § 15:115 —Direct and collateral attacks
- § 15:116 Service
- § 15:117 Jurisdiction
- § 15:118 Discovery
- § 15:119 Parties
- § 15:120 —Severable interests
- § 15:121 Elements of plaintiff's claim—In general
- § 15:122 —Meritorious claim or defense
- § 15:123 — —Nature of claim or defense
- § 15:124 — — —Statute of limitations
- § 15:125 — —Showing required
- § 15:126 —Fraud or wrongful act of opponent
- § 15:127 — —Extrinsic fraud
- § 15:128 — — —Examples
- § 15:129 — — —Reliance on court officer
- § 15:130 — —Intrinsic fraud
- § 15:131 — — —Examples
- § 15:132 —Mistake or accident
- § 15:133 — —Mistake defined
- § 15:134 — —Accident defined
- § 15:135 — —Fraud distinguished
- § 15:136 —Due diligence
- § 15:137 — —Standard of care
- § 15:138 —Legal remedies
- § 15:139 — —Due diligence
- § 15:140 — —Statute of limitations
- § 15:141 Restricted appeal
- § 15:142 Answer
- § 15:143 —Special exception
- § 15:144 Trial
- § 15:145 —Issues presented
- § 15:146 —Burden of proof
- § 15:147 —Separate trials
- § 15:148 Judgment
- § 15:149 Multiple parties

### IV. OTHER MOTIONS

- § 15:150 Motion to disregard jury finding

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 15:151 Motion to modify, correct, or reform judgment
- § 15:152 —Time deadlines

## V. APPEAL

- § 15:153 Determining whether to appeal a judgment in a personal injury case
- § 15:154 —Effect of standard of review, generally
- § 15:155 — —Findings of fact
- § 15:156 — —Mixed questions of law and fact
- § 15:157 — —Conclusions of law
- § 15:158 —Reviewability of particular issues in a personal injury case
- § 15:159 — —Negligence and standard of care
- § 15:160 — —Proximate cause and foreseeability
- § 15:161 — —Contributory negligence and similar defenses
- § 15:162 — —Qualifications of expert
- § 15:163 — —Damages
- § 15:164 — — —Excessiveness or inadequacy, generally
- § 15:165 — — —Sufficiency of evidence to support award
- § 15:166 — — —Ability of appellate court to modify award (and willingness to do so)
- § 15:167 —Reviewing the record
- § 15:168 — —Have objections been preserved?
- § 15:169 Formal bill of exceptions
- § 15:170 —Procedure
- § 15:171 — —Matters which court will consider of its own accord
- § 15:172 — —Potential costs and delays
- § 15:173 — —Will filing appeal encourage settlement
- § 15:174 Notice of appeal
- § 15:175 —Contents
- § 15:176 —Time
- § 15:177 —Premature filing
- § 15:178 — —Appealed order modified or vacated
- § 15:179 —Service
- § 15:180 Docketing statement
- § 15:181 Determining what issues to raise
- § 15:182 —Points of error
- § 15:183 — —How accomplished
- § 15:184 — —Review limited to preserved errors
- § 15:185 —Settling proposed record
- § 15:186 — —Agency record
- § 15:187 — — —Correcting the agency record
- § 15:188 — —Time for filing record

- § 15:189 Hearing of appeal
- § 15:190 —Oral argument
- § 15:191 — —Notice of argument
- § 15:192 —Decision of the court
- § 15:193 Actions after appeal

## **VI. CHECKLIST**

- § 15:194 Checklist; Drafting motion to disregard jury findings

## **VII. FORMS**

- § 15:195 Motion for new trial
- § 15:196 Affidavit supporting motion for new trial
- § 15:197 —Newly discovered evidence
- § 15:198 Motion for new trial or for judgment  
notwithstanding the verdict
- § 15:199 Affidavit in support of motion for new trial or for  
judgment notwithstanding the verdict
- § 15:200 Formal bill of exceptions
- § 15:201 Motion to disregard jury findings
- § 15:202 Response to motion to disregard jury findings
- § 15:203 Motion to modify judgment
- § 15:204 Another motion to modify judgment

# **CHAPTER 16. COLLECTING THE JUDGMENT**

## **I. ENFORCING THE JUDGMENT**

- § 16:1 Recourse against defendant's liability insurer
- § 16:2 —Successful claimant can sue after judgment
- § 16:3 —Court analysis
- § 16:4 —Insurer must have notice and must not be  
prejudiced
- § 16:5 —Ability of injured party to sue directly once liability  
of insured has been established
- § 16:6 —Federal causes of action
- § 16:7 —Effect of no-action clause
- § 16:8 — —Conclusive effect of judgment against insured on  
insurer
- § 16:9 — — —Compromise settlement
- § 16:10 — — —Default judgment
- § 16:11 —Maintenance of action by insured or its insurer as  
subrogee
- § 16:12 — —Subrogation defenses

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 16:13 — —Personal injury, tort, and other actions
- § 16:14 — —Amount of recovery
- § 16:15 —Insurance company’s defenses
- § 16:16 — —Lack of coverage
- § 16:17 — —Waiver of defenses by refusal to defend
- § 16:18 — —Cancellation of policy
- § 16:19 — —Lack of notice
- § 16:20 — — —Must be pleaded
- § 16:21 — — —Delay in notice and prejudice
- § 16:22 — —Breach of cooperation clause
- § 16:23 — — —No violation of clause
- § 16:24 — — —Waiver
- § 16:25 —Prejudice required
- § 16:26 Recourse when defendant is uninsured or underinsured
- § 16:27 —Recovery under uninsured motorist provision
- § 16:28 —Notice to plaintiff’s insurer binds it
- § 16:29 Supplemental proceedings
- § 16:30 —Premature execution
- § 16:31 —Collection delay damages award
- § 16:32 —Attachment
- § 16:33 —Examination of judgment debtor
- § 16:34 Execution
- § 16:35 —Contents of writ of execution
- § 16:36 Issuance of writ of execution
- § 16:37 —Actions of clerk on writ of execution
- § 16:38 —Time when execution may issue
- § 16:39 Form of writ of execution
- § 16:40 —Execution sales
- § 16:41 —Injunction against execution
- § 16:42 —Dormant judgment
- § 16:43 Turnover orders
- § 16:44 —Procedure to obtain orders
- § 16:45 —Property subject to orders
- § 16:46 —What may be ordered
- § 16:47 —Enforcement of order
- § 16:48 —Property exempt from order

## II. COLLECTION FROM MULTIPLE DEFENDANTS

- § 16:49 Joint and several liability
- § 16:50 —Extinguishment rule
- § 16:51 —Distinguished from respondeat superior
- § 16:52 —Independent tortfeasor and doctor committing subsequent malpractice

- § 16:53 —Independent contractor
- § 16:54 —Practical effect (i.e., still liable for whole even when only partially at fault but other defendants cannot be found or are insolvent)
- § 16:55 Contribution among tortfeasors
- § 16:56 —Liability for pro rata share
- § 16:57 —Effect of settlement by one tortfeasor
- § 16:58 — —Waiver
- § 16:59 — —Reduction of damages
- § 16:60 — — —One-satisfaction rule
- § 16:61 —Action to enforce
- § 16:62 — —Separate action
- § 16:63 — — —Time for commencing
- § 16:64 — — —Binding effect of prior judgment in favor of injured party
- § 16:65 — — —Joinder of additional parties
- § 16:66 — —Contribution claim
- § 16:67 —Evidence

### III. SATISFACTION AND RELEASE OF JUDGMENT

- § 16:68 Generally
- § 16:69 Satisfaction in lump sum or in installments
- § 16:70 —Periodic payments in cases governed by the Medical Liability Act
- § 16:71 — —Future damages
- § 16:72 Form of satisfaction piece or release
- § 16:73 Payment to clerk as satisfaction
- § 16:74 Recording of satisfaction

### IV. PROPERLY APPLYING THE PROCEEDS

- § 16:75 Joint check to attorney and client
- § 16:76 —Proper use of trust account
- § 16:77 — —Recovery of fee and discharge of attorney's lien
- § 16:78 — — —Attorney's lien and contingency contracts
- § 16:79 — — —Attorney's lien on refund
- § 16:80 — —Subrogation interests in award

### V. FORMS

- § 16:81 Certificate; payment of judgment to clerk of court
- § 16:82 Order; to release funds in custody of court—In satisfaction of judgment
- § 16:83 Release of judgment
- § 16:84 Application for writ of execution for satisfaction of judgment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 16:85 Application seeking stay of execution
- § 16:86 Answer; satisfaction by execution
- § 16:87 Order to release funds in court's custody
- § 16:88 Release of judgment

**Table of Laws and Rules**

**Table of Cases**

**Index**