

CHAPTER 5—Proceedings in Civil Cases

NOTE: Rules specifically relating to contempt proceedings are located in UTCR chapter 19.

5.010 CONFERRING ON MOTIONS UNDER ORCP 21, 23, 36–46, AND 55

- (1) The court will deny any motion made pursuant to ORCP 21 and 23, except a motion to dismiss: (a) for failure to state a claim; or, (b) for lack of jurisdiction, unless the moving party, before filing the motion, makes a good faith effort to confer with the other party(ies) concerning the issues in dispute.
- (2) The court will deny any motion made pursuant to ORCP 36 through 46, unless the moving party, before filing the motion, makes a good faith effort to confer with the other parties concerning the issues in dispute.
- (3) The court will deny any motion made to quash or to modify filed by a party pursuant to ORCP 55, unless the moving party, before filing the motion, makes a good faith effort to confer with the other parties concerning the issues in dispute.
- (4) The moving party must file a certificate of compliance with the rule at the same time the motion is filed. The certificate will be sufficient if it states either that the parties conferred or contains facts showing good cause for not conferring.
- (5) Upon certification that a motion is unopposed, it may be submitted *ex parte*.

5.020 AUTHORITIES IN MOTIONS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Every motion document must include a memorandum of law or a statement of authority explaining how any relevant authorities support the contentions of the moving party.
- (2) If a pleading is moved against in more than two particulars under ORCP 21 D or E, there must be attached to the motion a copy of the pages of the pleading moved against with the parts of the pleading to be stricken shown in parentheses and the parts to be made more definite and certain underlined.

5.030 OPPOSING PARTY'S RESPONSE; TIME FOR FILING RESPONSE AND REPLY

In matters other than motions for summary judgment:

- (1) An opposing party may file a written memorandum of authorities in response to the matters raised in any motion not later than 14 days from the date of service or the date of filing of the motion, whichever is later.
- (2) A reply memorandum, if any, must be filed within seven days of the service or filing of the responding memorandum, whichever is later.

5.040 MOTIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PRESIDING JUDGE OR DESIGNEE

The presiding judge or designee shall hear and determine all motions.

5.050 ORAL ARGUMENT ON MOTIONS IN CIVIL CASES; APPEARANCE AT NONEVIDENTIARY HEARINGS AND MOTIONS BY REMOTE MEANS

- (1) Oral argument may be requested by the moving party in the caption of the motion or by a responding party in the caption of a response. The first paragraph of the motion or response must include an estimate of the time required for argument and a statement whether official court reporting services are requested. The court must allow oral argument unless the court receives documents which resolve the pending motion before the time set for hearing.
- (2) A party may request that a nonevidentiary hearing or a motion not requiring testimony be heard by remote means.
 - (a) A request for a nonevidentiary hearing or oral argument by remote means must be set out in the caption of the pleading, motion, response, or other initiating document.
 - (b) If appearance or argument by remote means is requested, the first paragraph of the pleading, motion, response, or other initiating document must include the names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of all parties served with the request. The request must be granted.
 - (c) If the mode of hearing is by conference call, the first party requesting conference call must initiate the conference call at its expense unless the court directs otherwise.
- (3) When recording is requested, a remote proceeding must be recorded by the court if suitable equipment is available; otherwise, it will be provided at the expense of the party requesting recording.
- (4) Subsection (2) does not apply if an applicable Chief Justice Order (CJO) or Presiding Judge Order (PJO) issued pursuant to such a CJO has the effect of

suspending the requirement that a party affirmatively request a hearing by remote means.

5.060 STIPULATED AND *EX PARTE* MATTERS

- (1) A judicial district may adopt a local rule regarding specific stipulated or *ex parte* matters for which the documents must be presented conventionally as defined in UTCR 21.010 and may not be electronically filed. SLR 2.501 is reserved for judicial districts to adopt a local rule for that purpose.
- (2) Any stipulated or *ex parte* matter that may be presented conventionally may be delivered by mail or messenger to the trial court administrator for distribution to a judge for signature. An *ex parte* default, a stipulated order, or a stipulated judgment that may be presented conventionally also may be personally presented to a judge by the attorney or the attorney's agent. Other types of *ex parte* matters personally presented to a judge must be presented by the attorney.
- (3) A motion for an *ex parte* order must contain the term "*ex parte*" in the caption and must be accompanied by a proposed order.
- (4) *Ex parte* matters that are presented conventionally shall be presented anytime during court hours, except as modified by Supplementary Local Rule (SLR) promulgated pursuant to UTCR 1.050. Until such local rules are adopted, stipulated and *ex parte* matters may be personally presented anytime during court hours.

5.070 MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND PLEADING

- (1) Except as provided in section (2) of this rule, whenever a motion for leave to amend a pleading, including a motion to amend to assert a claim for punitive damages, is submitted to the court, it must include, as an exhibit attached to the motion, the entire text of the proposed amended pleading. The text of the proposed amended pleading must be displayed in one of the following ways:
 - (a) Any material to be added to the pleading must be underlined and in bold with braces at each end, and any material to be deleted from the pleading must be italicized with brackets at each end; or
 - (b) The proposed changes may be shown using a word processing software's redlining feature.
- (2) If the motion to amend is for a pleading that was composed using preprinted forms that have been completed by filling in the blanks, the moving party may comply with this rule by making a copy of the filed pleading and formatting the text of the pleading in the following manner:

- (a) Any material to be added to the pleading must be interlineated and underlined with braces at each end; and
- (b) Any material to be deleted from the pleading must have brackets at each end.

5.080 DECLARATION FOR ATTORNEY FEES, COSTS, AND DISBURSEMENTS

In civil cases, the declaration for attorney fees, costs, and disbursements must be filed in substantially the form provided at www.courts.oregon.gov/forms.

5.090 NOTICE TO COURT IN WATER RIGHTS CASES; NOTICE TO COURT IN CASES SUBJECT TO ORS 31.250 AND 31.272, REGARDING COMMENCING AN ACTION AGAINST A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR A HEALTH CARE FACILITY

- (1) Notice to Court in Water Rights Cases. If at any time during a case a party asserts a disputed water right, the party must give notice to the court that the case involves water rights. If not stated in the caption of the original complaint that begins the court case, the notice shall be in the following form:
 - (a) Be filed as a separate document.
 - (b) Include the caption of the case and the case number.
 - (c) Include a statement that the case involves water rights.
 - (d) Be signed by the attorney or party.
- (2) Notice to Court in Cases Subject to ORS 31.250 and 31.272, Regarding Actions Against a Health Care Provider or a Health Care Facility. A party must place the following in the title of a pleading in the case if the pleading contains a claim which creates a duty upon the court to provide notice to the parties under ORS 31.250 and 31.272 (including any claim, counterclaim, cross claim, or third-party claim): “ADVERSE HEALTH CARE INCIDENT SUBJECT TO COURT NOTICE”. This language must not be in the title of a pleading for any other purpose. A party’s signature on pleadings constitutes the party’s certificate under ORCP 17 that the pleading contains a claim which requires notice by the court under ORS 31.250 and 31.272 if the language is present and does not contain any such claim if the language is omitted.

5.100 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED ORDERS OR JUDGMENTS

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this rule, any proposed judgment or proposed order submitted to the court for signature must be:

- (a) Served on each attorney not less than three days prior to submission to the court, or
 - (b) Accompanied by a stipulation by each attorney that no objection exists as to the judgment or order, or
 - (c) Served on a self-represented party not less than seven days prior to submission to the court and be accompanied by notice of the time period to object.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this rule, any proposed judgment or order submitted to the court must include, following the space for judicial signature, a dated and signed certificate that describes:
- (a) The manner and date of compliance with any applicable service requirement under this rule; and
 - (b) The reason that the submission is ready for judicial signature or otherwise states that any objection is ready for resolution, identifying the reason in substantially the following form:
 - “This proposed order or judgment is ready for judicial signature because:
 - “1. Each party affected by this order or judgment has stipulated to the order or judgment, as shown by each party’s signature on the document being submitted.
 - “2. Each party affected by this order or judgment has approved the order or judgment, as shown by each party’s signature on the document being submitted or by written confirmation of approval sent to me.
 - “3. I have served a copy of this order or judgment on each party entitled to service, on date ____, and:
 - “a. No objection has been served on me.
 - “b. I received objections that I could not resolve with a party despite reasonable efforts to do so. I have filed a copy of the objections I received and indicated which objections remain unresolved.
 - “c. After conferring about objections, [role and name of objecting party] agreed to independently file any remaining objection.
 - “4. Service is not required pursuant to subsection (3) of this rule, or by statute, rule, or otherwise.
 - “5. Each other party previously filed a waiver of appearance.
 - “6. This is a proposed judgment that includes an award of punitive damages and notice has been served on the Director of the Crime Victims’ Assistance Section as required by subsection (5) of this rule.
 - “7. Other: _____.”

- (3) The requirements of subsection (1) of this rule do not apply to:

- (a) A proposed order or judgment presented in open court with the parties present;
 - (b) A proposed order or judgment for which service is not required by statute, rule, or otherwise;
 - (c) A proposed order or judgment in a proceeding in which all other parties previously filed waivers of appearance;
 - (d) A proposed judgment subject to UTCR 10.090;
 - (e) An uncontested probate or protective proceeding, or a petition for appointment of a temporary fiduciary under ORS 125.605(2);
 - (f) Matters certified to the court under ORS 25.515, ORS 25.550, ORS 25.552, and ORS 25.531, unless the proposed order or judgment is ready for judicial signature without hearing; and
 - (g) A proposed order allowing attorney resignation under UTCR 3.140.
- (4) The requirements of subsection (2) of this rule do not apply to a proposed order or judgment presented and signed in open court with the parties present.
- (5) Any proposed judgment containing an award of punitive damages shall be served on the Director of the Crime Victims' Assistance Section, Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301, not less than three days prior to submission to the court.
- (6) The certificate required under subsection (2) may be combined with any certificate of service required by another statute or rule.

REPORTER'S NOTE (08/01/2021): This rule does not apply in the following types of cases: criminal; proposed orders setting aside a record of arrest under ORS 137.225; contempt cases seeking punitive sanctions; juvenile under ORS chapter 419A, 419B, or 419C; or violations, parking violations, or small claims (see UTCR 1.010(3)). Nothing in this rule prohibits a court from adopting an SLR that applies this rule to matters under SLR chapters other than chapter 5.

Pursuant to UTCR 1.130, computation of UTCR time requirements is subject to ORCP 10.

5.110 CLASS ACTIONS

Rules relating to class actions may be found at Oregon Rule of Civil Procedure (ORCP) 32 and Oregon Rule of Appellate Procedure (ORAP) 12.15.

5.120 NOTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE SECTION, OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES

- (1) The notices required by ORS 31.735(3), concerning verdicts and judgments that include punitive damages, shall substantially be in the form provided at www.courts.oregon.gov/forms.
- (2) The prevailing party shall promptly file with the court a copy of each notice and the proof of service.

5.130 INTERSTATE DEPOSITION INSTRUMENTS—OBTAINING AN OREGON COMMISSION

- (1) A party shall request a commission pursuant to ORCP 38 to permit a deposition to be taken in a foreign jurisdiction for an action pending in an Oregon circuit court by presenting a motion, and declaration at *ex parte*. If the motion is allowed, the court shall issue the commission.
- (2) Unless otherwise requested by the party in its motion and ordered by the court, the commission shall be effective for 28 days from the date of issue.
- (3) The commission may also serve to authorize the issuance of Subpoenas *Duces Tecum* in a foreign jurisdiction.

5.140 OREGON DISCOVERY IN FOREIGN PROCEEDINGS

- (1) To obtain discovery in the state of Oregon for a proceeding pending in another state pursuant to Oregon Rule of Civil Procedure (ORCP) 38 C, a party must submit to the court all of the following:
 - (a) The foreign subpoena.
 - (b) An original and two copies of a fully completed subpoena that
 - (i) Complies with the requirements of the ORCP, including ORCP 55; and
 - (ii) Contains the names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of all attorneys of record and self-represented parties in the foreign proceeding.
 - (c) A petition and request for issuance of a subpoena pursuant to ORCP 38 C, substantially in the form provided at www.courts.oregon.gov/forms, stating that

- (i) The foreign subpoena was issued by a court of record of a state as “state” is defined in ORCP 38 C(1)(b);
 - (ii) The fully completed subpoena complies with the requirements of the ORCP, including ORCP 55; and
 - (iii) The fully completed subpoena contains the names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of all attorneys of record and self-represented parties in the foreign proceeding.
- (2) To obtain discovery in the state of Oregon for a proceeding pending in a foreign jurisdiction not subject to ORCP 38 C, a party must file a writ, mandate, commission, letter rogatory, or order executed by the appropriate authority in the foreign jurisdiction with a circuit court of this state. The party in the foreign proceeding or an active attorney licensee in good standing of the Oregon State Bar must present in person at *ex parte* the original document or a certified copy from the foreign jurisdiction, a petition, and an order to register the document in substantially the form provided at www.courts.oregon.gov/forms. If approved by the court, the matter will be assigned a circuit court case number and appropriate process may be issued by the Oregon attorney.
- (3) In the event that a foreign jurisdiction not subject to ORCP 38 C has no procedure to issue a writ, mandate, commission, letter rogatory, or order to authorize a deposition to be taken in Oregon, at *ex parte* the party must present a petition to compel the witnesses to appear and testify. The petition must be supported by an affidavit or declaration that contains all of the following:
- (a) The name of the foreign jurisdiction in which the proceeding is pending.
 - (b) The name of the court in which the proceeding is pending.
 - (c) The caption or other relevant title of the proceeding.
 - (d) The case number assigned by the foreign jurisdiction to the proceeding.
 - (e) The date of filing of the proceeding in the foreign jurisdiction.
 - (f) A statement that the foreign jurisdiction has no process to issue a writ, mandate, commission, letter rogatory, or order to compel a witness to appear and give testimony if the witness is located outside its jurisdictional boundary.
 - (g) A statement that the affiant or declarant seeks authorization from the court to proceed upon notice or agreement to take the testimony of witnesses in this state.
 - (h) The identity of witnesses in this state to be compelled upon notice or agreement to appear and testify.

- (4) In addition to the requirements in subsection (1), (2), and (3) of this rule, a party seeking a subpoena under subsection (1)(c) of this rule that is related to gender-affirming treatment or reproductive health care services that are permitted under the laws of this state must submit a declaration pursuant to Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 228, section 48 (House Bill 2002), that the subpoena relates to either:
- (a) An out-of-state action founded in tort, contract, or statute, for which a similar claim would exist under the laws of this state, brought by a patient or the patient's authorized legal representative, for damages suffered by the patient; or
 - (b) An out-of-state action founded in contract, and for which a similar claim would exist under the laws of this state, brought or sought to be enforced by a party with a contractual relationship with the person that is the subject of the subpoena.

5.150 STREAMLINED CIVIL JURY CASES

- (1) A civil case eligible for jury trial may be designated as a streamlined case. The availability of the designation may vary by judicial district and is dependent on the availability of staff, judges, and courtrooms. A party seeking the designation must confer with the court to determine whether the designation is available. If it is available, a party seeking the designation must do all of the following:
- (a) Obtain the agreement of all other parties to designate the case as a streamlined civil jury case.
 - (b) Submit a joint motion and an order to the presiding judge in substantially the forms provided at www.courts.oregon.gov.
- (2) The decision to accept or reject a case for designation as a streamlined case is within the sole discretion of the presiding judge or designee. The judge will consider the request on an expedited basis, when possible, and enter an order granting or denying the motion. If the judge grants the motion and designates the case as a streamlined case, the judge will:
- (a) Exempt or remove the case from mandatory arbitration, pursuant to ORS 36.405(2)(a) and (b), and from all court rules requiring mediation, arbitration, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution.
 - (b) Set a trial date certain no later than 180 days from the date of the order.
- (3) (a) Within 30 days of the date of the Order Designating a Streamlined Civil Jury Case, each party must provide to all other parties:

- (i) The names and, if known, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons, other than expert witnesses, likely to have knowledge that the party may use to support its claims or defenses, unless the use would be solely for impeachment;
 - (ii) A copy of all unprivileged ORCP 43 A(1) documents and tangible things that the party has in its possession, custody or control and may use to support its claims or defenses, unless the use would be solely for impeachment; and
 - (iii) A copy of all insurance agreements and policies discoverable pursuant to ORCP 36 B(2).
- (b) The parties may, and are encouraged to, file stipulations regarding the scope, nature, and timing of discovery.
 - (c) The parties must complete discovery no later than 14 days before trial.
 - (d) The parties may request and the court may utilize streamlined procedures for resolving any discovery dispute.
- (4) No later than three days before trial, the parties must file stipulations regarding the admission of exhibits, the manner for submitting expert testimony, the use of deposition excerpts (if any), and the conduct of the trial.
 - (5) After an order designating the case as a streamlined case, a party shall not file a pretrial motion without prior leave of the court.
 - (6) A party's failure to request or respond to discovery is not a basis for that party to seek postponement of the streamlined case trial date.

5.160 SEALED DOCUMENTS

- (1) A party seeking an order to file documents or materials under seal must file a motion with the court that specifies all of the following:
 - (a) The statutory authority for sealing the documents or materials.
 - (b) The reasons for protecting the documents or materials from public inspection.
 - (c) A description of the documents or materials to be sealed.
- (2) At the direction of the judge hearing the motion, the moving party must submit the documents to the court for *in camera* review.

- (3) The court's order on the motion may include directions to the clerk's office to do one of the following:
 - (a) File the documents or materials, unsealed, in the court file.
 - (b) File the documents or materials under seal in the court file.
 - (c) Return the documents, unfiled, to the moving party.
- (4) When documents or materials are filed under seal, the filing party must present the clerk with a copy of the signed court order and submit the documents or materials in a sealed envelope marked "SEALED DOCUMENTS OR MATERIALS" and with a notation that identifies the case caption and the party making the submission. In addition, all documents ordered to be filed under seal must have the words "FILED UNDER SEAL BY COURT ORDER" located directly below the document title.

5.170 LIMITED SCOPE REPRESENTATION

- (1) **Applicability.** This rule applies to limited scope representation in civil cases subject to this chapter when an attorney intends to appear in court on behalf of a party.
- (2) **Notice of Limited Scope Representation.** When an attorney intends to appear in court on behalf of a party, the attorney shall file and serve, as soon as practicable, a Notice of Limited Scope Representation in substantially the form as set out on the Oregon Judicial Department website (www.courts.oregon.gov/forms).
- (3) **Termination of Limited Scope Representation.** When the attorney has completed all services within the scope of the Notice of Limited Scope Representation, the attorney shall file and serve a Notice of Termination of Limited Scope Representation in substantially the form as set out on the Oregon Judicial Department website (www.courts.oregon.gov/forms), in accordance with UTCR 3.140.
- (4) **Service of Documents.** After an attorney files a Notice of Limited Scope Representation in accordance with this section, service of all documents shall be made upon the attorney and the party represented on a limited scope basis. The service requirement terminates as to the attorney when a Notice of Termination of Limited Scope Representation is filed and served, or when an attorney withdraws.

5.180 CONSUMER DEBT COLLECTION

- (1) **Definitions.** As used in this rule, unless otherwise indicated:
 - (a) "Consumer" means a natural person who purchases or acquires property, services, or credit for personal, family, or household purposes.

- (b) “Debt” means an obligation or alleged obligation that arises out of a consumer transaction.

(2) Debt Buyer Collection Actions

- (a) This subsection applies to an action for collection of a debt under ORS 646A.670, when the plaintiff is either:
 - (i) A debt buyer as defined in ORS 646.639(1)(g); or
 - (ii) A debt collector suing on behalf of a debt buyer under ORS 646.639(1)(h).
- (b) The following must be included in the initiating pleading in an action described in subsection (a):
 - (i) The title must contain the words “Debt Buyer Initiated Action to Collect Consumer Debt (Subject to ORS 646A.670(1) and UTCR 5.180(2))”;
 - (ii) The body must include a statement to the following effect: “See the Oregon Judicial Department’s website for information about debt collection cases (courts.oregon.gov)”; and
 - (iii) Plaintiff must complete, attach, and incorporate by reference the Collection by Debt Buyer Disclosure Statement found on the Oregon Judicial Department website (www.courts.oregon.gov), including a statement that the plaintiff has complied with ORS 646A.670(1). Plaintiff may not draft or use their own disclosure statement. Plaintiff may attach additional information, but that information is not a substitute for the required disclosure statement.
- (c) If the initiating pleading does not include the disclosure statement required by subsection (2)(b)(iii) of this rule, the court must give the plaintiff written notice that the case will be dismissed 30 days from the date the notice was sent, unless the plaintiff complies by that time.
- (d) If the plaintiff moves for a default judgment, the motion must include a declaration, under penalty of perjury, that the initial pleading complied with ORS 646A.670(1).

(3) Other Consumer Debt Collection Actions

- (a) This subsection applies to an action to collect a consumer debt when the plaintiff is not a debt buyer or a collector acting on behalf of a debt buyer, as described in subsection (2)(a).

- (b) The following must be included in the initiating pleading in an action described in subsection (a):
 - (i) The title must contain the words “Action to Collect Consumer Debt (Subject to UTCR 5.180(3))”; and
 - (ii) The body must include a statement to the following effect: “See the Oregon Judicial Department website for information about debt collection cases (courts.oregon.gov).”