

PERSONS BEFORE WHOM DEPOSITIONS MAY BE TAKEN

(-) Within the State. Depositions within the state may be taken before the following officers:

- (1) *Court Commissioners.* [Reserved. See RCW 2.24.040(9) and (10).]
- (2) *Superior Courts.* [Reserved. See RCW 2.28.010(7).]
- (3) *Judicial Officers.* [Reserved. See RCW 2.28.060.]
- (4) *Judges of Supreme and Superior Courts.* [Reserved. See RCW 2.28.080(3).]
- (5) *Inferior Judicial Officers.* [Reserved. See RCW 2.28.090.]
- (6) *Notaries Public.* [Reserved. See RCW 5.28.010 and 42.44.010.]
- (7) *Special Commissions.* [Reserved. See RCW 11.20.030.]

(a) Within the United States. Within the United States or within a territory or insular possession subject to the dominion of the United States, depositions shall be taken before (i) an officer authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States or of the place where the examination is held, (ii) a certified court reporter, or (iii) a person appointed by the court in which the action is pending. A person so appointed has power to administer oaths and take testimony. The term "officer" as used in rules 30, 31, and 32 includes a person appointed by the court or designated by the parties under rule 29.

(b) In Foreign Countries. In a foreign country, depositions may be taken

(1) on notice before a person authorized to administer oaths in the place in which the examination is held, either by the law thereof or by the law of the United States, or

(2) before a person commissioned by the court, and the person so commissioned shall have the power by virtue of the person's commission to administer any necessary oath and take testimony, or

(3) pursuant to a letter rogatory or a letter of request, or

(4) pursuant to the means and terms of any applicable treaty or convention. A commission, a letter rogatory, or a letter of request shall be issued on application and notice, and on terms that are just and appropriate. It is not requisite to the issuance of a commission, a letter rogatory, or a letter of request that the taking of the deposition in any other manner is impracticable or inconvenient; and a commission, a letter rogatory, and a letter of request may all be issued in proper cases. A notice or commission may designate the person before whom the deposition is to be taken either by name or by descriptive title. A letter rogatory may be addressed "To the Appropriate Authority in (here name the country)." A letter of request or any other device permitted by any applicable treaty or convention shall be styled in the form prescribed by that treaty or convention. Evidence obtained in response to a letter rogatory or a letter of request need not be excluded merely for the reason that it is not a verbatim transcript or that the testimony was not taken under oath or for any similar departure from the requirements for depositions taken within the United States under these rules.

(c) Disqualification for Interest. No deposition shall be taken before a person who is a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or is a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or is financially interested in the action.

(d) Equal Terms Required. Any arrangement concerning court reporting services or fees in a case shall be offered to all parties on equal terms. This rule applies to any arrangement or agreement between the person before whom a deposition is taken or a court reporting firm, consortium or other organization providing a court reporter, and any party or any person arranging or paying for court reporting services in the case, including any attorney, law firm, person or entity with a financial interest in the outcome of the litigation, or person or entity paying for court reporting services in the case.

(e) Final Certification of the Transcript. The court reporter reporting a deposition shall not certify the deposition transcript until after he or she has reviewed the final version of the formatted transcript. A court reporting firm, consortium, or other organization transmitting a court reporter's certified transcript shall not alter the format, layout, or content of the transcript after it has been certified.

[Adopted effective July 1, 1967; Amended effective July 1, 1972; September 1, 1985; September 1, 1993; September 1, 2001; September 1, 2005; April 28, 2015; September 1, 2016; November 22, 2016.]