

Chapter 30

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ACTIONS FOR INJURY OR DEATH**30.010 Action for injury or death of child.**

A father, or in case of his death or desertion of his family, the mother, may maintain an action for the injury or death of a child, and a guardian for the injury or death of his ward.

30.020 Action by personal representative for wrongful death. When the death of a person is caused by the wrongful act or omission of another, the personal representatives of the decedent, for the benefit of the surviving spouse and dependents and in case there is no surviving spouse or dependents, then for the benefit of the estate of the decedent, may maintain an action against the wrongdoer, if the decedent might have maintained an action, had he lived, against the wrongdoer for an injury done by the same act or omission. Such action shall be commenced within two years after the death, and damages therein shall not exceed \$20,000, which may include a recovery for all reasonable expenses paid or incurred for funeral, burial, doctor, hospital or nursing services for the deceased. [Amended by 1953 c.600 §3]

30.030 Distribution of damages. Upon settlement of a claim, or recovery of judgment in an action, for damages for wrongful death, by the personal representative of a decedent, for the benefit of the surviving spouse or dependents, or both, the amount of damages so accepted or recovered shall be distributed as follows:

- (1) One-half to the surviving spouse and one-half to the dependents.
- (2) If there is no surviving spouse, all to the dependents.
- (3) If there is no dependent, all to the surviving spouse.

30.040 Apportionment among dependents upon settlement. If settlement, with or without action, is effected and there is more than one dependent, the amount to be distributed to the dependents shall be apportioned among them in accordance with their respective expectancies of dependency as determined by the probate court of appointment by order entered in the matter of the estate.

30.050 Apportionment among dependents after judgment. If the action described in ORS 30.030 is brought, and a judgment for the plaintiff is given, and there is more than one dependent, the amount to be distributed to the dependents shall be apportioned among them in accordance with their respective

expectancies of dependency as determined by the trial court by order entered in such action.

30.060 Appeal from order of apportionment. In the case of an order of apportionment made under either ORS 30.040 or 30.050, any dependent may appeal therefrom, or from any part thereof, to the Supreme Court, within the time, in the manner and with like effect as though such order was a judgment of the circuit court.

30.070 Settlement; discharge of claim. The personal representative of the decedent, with the approval of the court of appointment, shall have full power to compromise and settle any claim of the class described in ORS 30.030, whether the claim is reduced to judgment or not, and to execute such releases and other instruments as may be necessary to satisfy and discharge the claim. The party paying any such claim or judgment, whether in full or in part, or in an amount agreed upon in compromise, shall not be required to see that the amount paid is applied or apportioned as provided in ORS 30.030 to 30.060, but shall be fully discharged from all liability on payment to the personal representative.

30.080 Death of wrongdoer. Causes of action arising out of injury to or death of a person, caused by the wrongful act or negligence of another, shall not abate upon the death of the wrongdoer, and the injured person or the personal representatives of one meeting death, as above stated, shall have a cause of action against the personal representatives of the wrongdoer; however, the injured person shall not recover judgment except upon some competent satisfactory evidence other than the testimony of the injured person, and the damages recoverable under this section shall not exceed \$20,000, which may include a recovery for all reasonable expenses paid or incurred for funeral, burial, doctor, hospital or nursing services for the deceased. [Amended by 1953 c.600 §3]

30.090 Appointment of administrator of estate of wrongdoer. If no probate of the estate of the wrongdoer has been instituted within 60 days from the death of the wrongdoer, the court, upon motion of the injured person, or of the personal representatives of one meeting death, as stated in ORS 30.080, shall appoint an administrator of the estate of the wrongdoer.

30.100 Substitution of personal representative as party defendant. In the event of the

death of a wrongdoer, as designated in ORS 30.080, while an action is pending, the court, upon motion of the plaintiff, shall cause to be substituted as defendant the personal representative of the wrongdoer, and the action shall continue against such personal representative.

ACTIONS BY GUEST PASSENGERS

30.110 Motor vehicle guest passengers. No person transported by the owner or operator of a motor vehicle as his guest without payment for such transportation shall have a cause of action for damages against the owner or operator for injury, death or loss, in case of accident, unless the accident was intentional on the part of the owner or operator or caused by his gross negligence or intoxication or his reckless disregard of the rights of others.

30.120 Aircraft guest passengers. No person transported by the owner or operator of aircraft as his guest without payment for such transportation shall have a cause of action for damages against the owner or operator for injury, death or loss, in case of accident, unless the accident was intentional on the part of the owner or operator or caused by his gross negligence or intoxication or his reckless disregard of the rights of others.

30.130 Public carriers and prospective aircraft purchasers. ORS 30.120 shall not relieve a public carrier by aircraft, or any owner or operator of aircraft while the same is being demonstrated to a prospective purchaser, of responsibility for any injuries sustained by a passenger.

30.140 to 30.200 [Reserved for expansion]

ACTIONS ON OFFICIAL BONDS

30.210 To whom official bonds are security. The official undertaking or other security of a public officer to the state, or to any county, city or other public corporation of like character therein, is a security to the state, county, city or public corporation, as the case may be, and also, to all persons severally for the official delinquencies against which it is intended to provide.

30.220 Parties. When a public officer by official misconduct or neglect of duty forfeits his official undertaking or other security, or renders his sureties liable thereon, any person injured by the misconduct or neglect, or who is by law entitled to the benefit of the security, may maintain an action thereon in his own name, against the officer and his sureties,

to recover the amount to which he may by reason thereof be entitled.

30.230 Leave to begin action. Before an action can be commenced by a plaintiff other than the state, or the public corporation named in the undertaking or security, leave shall be obtained of the court or judge thereof where the action is triable. Such leave shall be granted upon the production of a certified copy of the undertaking or security, and an affidavit of the plaintiff or some person on his behalf showing the delinquency; but if the matters set forth in the affidavit are such that, if true, the party applying would clearly not be entitled to recover in the action, the leave shall not be granted. If it does not appear from the complaint that leave has been granted, the defendant on motion shall be entitled to judgment of nonsuit; if it does, the defendant may controvert the allegation, and if the issue be found in his favor, judgment shall be given accordingly.

30.240 Subsequent delinquencies on same bond. A judgment in favor of a party for one delinquency shall not preclude the same or another party from maintaining another action on the same undertaking or security for another delinquency.

30.250 Amount of judgment. In an action upon an official undertaking or security, if judgments have already been recovered on the same undertaking or security against the surety therein, other than by confession, and if such recovery is established on the trial, judgment shall not be given against the surety for an amount exceeding the difference between the amount of the penalty and the amount that already has been recovered against the surety.

30.260 to 30.300 [Reserved for expansion]

ACTIONS AND SUITS BY AND AGAINST GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND OFFICIALS

30.310 Actions and suits by governmental units. A suit or action may be maintained by the State of Oregon or any county, incorporated city, school district or other public corporation of like character in this state, in its corporate name, upon a cause of suit or action accruing to it in its corporate character, and not otherwise, in the following cases:

(1) Upon a contract made with the public corporation.

(2) Upon a liability prescribed by law in favor of the public corporation.

(3) To recover a penalty or forfeiture given to the public corporation.

(4) To recover damages for injury to the corporate rights or property of the public corporation.

30.320 Actions and suits against governmental units, including actions and suits upon State Highway Commission contracts. A suit or action may be maintained against any county and against the State of Oregon by and through and in the name of the State Highway Commission upon a contract made by the county in its corporate character, or made by such commission, after February 28, 1929, and within the scope of its authority, and not otherwise, and an action or suit may be maintained against any other public corporation mentioned in ORS 30.310 in its corporate character, and within the scope of its authority, or for an injury to the rights of the plaintiff arising from some act or omission of such other public corporation.

30.330 Contracts of State Highway Commission providing for arbitration. The provisions of ORS 30.310 and 30.320 shall not apply to contracts made by the State Highway Commission that provide for arbitration under the provisions of ORS 33.210 to 33.340.

30.340 Title of proceedings by or against county; control of proceedings by county court. All actions, suits or proceedings by or against a county shall be in the name of the county, but the county is represented by the county court, which has the power to control the proceeding as if it were plaintiff or defendant, as the case may be.

30.350 Verification of pleadings. In the actions and suits described in ORS 30.310 to 30.330, the pleadings of the public corporation shall be verified by any of the officers representing it in its corporate capacity, in the same manner as if such officer was a party, or by the agent or attorney thereof, as in ordinary actions or suits.

30.360 State as defendant in actions involving liens on realty. In any suit, action or proceeding brought in any circuit court of this state, affecting the title to real property on which the state has, or claims to have, a lien, other than a suit, action or proceeding to foreclose tax liens or special improvement liens, the state may be made a party defendant, and its rights or interests adjudicated. However, when property has been or is acquired in the name of the state upon which there are valid, unpaid special improvement liens at the time of said acquisition, the state may be

made a party defendant in a suit to foreclose the lien. In no event shall any money judgment be rendered or recovery made against the state in any suit, action or proceeding brought under the provisions of this section.

30.370 Service of summons on Attorney General. In any suit, action or proceeding commenced under the provisions of ORS 30.360 to which the state is made a party, service of summons upon the state shall be made upon the Attorney General.

30.380 Action by assignee of claim for money illegally charged or exacted. No assignee of any claim against any county, city or municipal corporation of this state or any county, city or municipal officer in this state, for money claimed to have been illegally charged or exacted by such county, city or municipal corporation or such officer, except money collected as taxes or license, or money due on contract, shall have the right to institute or maintain any action or suit for the recovery thereof in any court in this state.

30.390 Satisfaction of judgment against public corporation. If judgment is given for the recovery of money or damages against a public corporation mentioned in ORS 30.310, no execution shall issue thereon for the collection of such money or damages, but the judgment shall be satisfied as follows:

(1) The party in whose favor the judgment is given may, at any time thereafter, when an execution might issue on a like judgment against a private person, present a certified transcript of the docket thereof, to the officer of the public corporation who is authorized to draw orders on the treasurer thereof.

(2) On the presentation of the transcript, the officer shall draw an order on the treasurer for the amount of the judgment, in favor of the party for whom the judgment was given. Thereafter, the order shall be presented for payment, and paid, with like effect and in like manner as other orders upon the treasurer of the public corporation.

(3) The certified transcript provided for in subsection (1) of this section shall not be furnished by the clerk, unless at the time an execution might issue on the judgment if the same was against a private person, nor until satisfaction of the judgment in respect to such money or damages is acknowledged as in ordinary cases. The clerk shall include in the transcript a memorandum of such acknowledgment of satisfaction and the entry thereof. Unless the transcript contains such

a memorandum, no order upon the treasurer shall issue thereon.

30.400 Actions by and against public officers in official capacity. An action may be maintained by or against any public officer in this state in his official character, when, as to such cause of action, the officer does not represent any of the public corporations mentioned in ORS 30.310, for any of the causes specified in such section and ORS 30.320. If judgment is given against the officer in such action, it may be enforced against him personally, and the amount thereof shall be allowed to him in his official accounts.

RECOVERY OF FINES AND FORFEITURES

30.410 In whose name action brought. Fines and forfeitures may be recovered by an action at law in the name of the officer or person to whom they are by law given, or in the name of the officer or person who by law is authorized to prosecute for them.

30.420 Venue of action for forfeiture. Whenever, by law, any property is forfeited to the state, or to any officer for its use, the action for the recovery of such property may be commenced in any county where the defendant may be found, or where such property may be.

30.430 Amount of recovery. When an action is commenced for a penalty, which by law is not to exceed a certain amount, the action may be commenced for that amount, and if judgment is given for the plaintiff, it may be for such amount or less, in the discretion of the court, in proportion to the offense.

30.440 Judgment by collusion not a bar. A recovery of a judgment for a penalty or forfeiture by collusion between the plaintiff and defendant, with intent to save the defendant, wholly or partially, from the consequences contemplated by law, in case where the penalty or forfeiture is given wholly or partly to the person who prosecutes, shall not bar the recovery of the same by another person.

30.450 Disposition of fines and forfeitures. Fines and forfeitures not specially granted or otherwise appropriated by law, when recovered, shall be paid into the treasury of the proper county.

30.460 to 30.500 [Reserved for expansion]

ACTIONS FOR USURPATION OF OFFICE OR FRANCHISE; TO ANNUL CORPORATE EXISTENCE; TO ANNUL LETTERS PATENT

30.510 Action for usurpation of office or franchise. An action at law may be maintained in the name of the state, upon the information of the district attorney, or upon the relation of a private party against the person offending, in the following cases:

(1) When any person usurps, intrudes into, or unlawfully holds or exercises any public office, civil or military, or any franchise within this state, or any office in a corporation either public or private, created or formed by or under the authority of this state; or,

(2) When any public officer, civil or military, does or suffers an act which, by the provisions of law, makes a forfeiture of his office; or,

(3) When any association or number of persons acts within this state, as a corporation, without being duly incorporated.

30.520 Joinder of defendants. Several persons may be joined as defendants in an action for the causes specified in subsection (1) of ORS 30.510, and in such action their respective rights to such office or franchise may be determined.

30.530 Determining right of person claiming an office or franchise. Whenever an action is brought against a person for any of the causes specified in subsection (1) of ORS 30.510, the district attorney, in addition to the statement of the cause of action, may separately set forth in the complaint the name of the person rightfully entitled to the office or franchise, with a statement of the facts constituting his right thereto. In such case, judgment may be given upon the right of the defendant, and also upon the right of the person so alleged to be entitled, or only upon the right of the defendant, as justice may require.

30.540 Rights of person adjudged entitled to office or franchise. If judgment is given upon the right of and in favor of the person alleged in the complaint to be entitled to the office or franchise, he shall be entitled to the possession and enjoyment of the franchise, or to take upon himself the execution of the office, after qualifying himself therefor as required by law, and to demand and receive the

possession of all the books, papers and property belonging thereto.

30.550 Action for damages; arrest of defendant. If judgment is given upon the right of and in favor of the person alleged in the complaint to be entitled to the office or franchise, he may afterwards maintain an action to recover the damages which he has sustained by reason of the premises. In such action the defendant may be arrested and held to bail in the same manner and with like effect as in other actions where the defendant is subject to arrest.

30.560 Judgment against usurper; imposition of fine. When a defendant, whether a natural person or a corporation, against whom an action has been commenced for any of the causes specified in subsection (1) of ORS 30.510, is determined to be guilty of usurping, or intruding into, or unlawfully holding or exercising any office or franchise, judgment shall be given that such defendant be excluded therefrom. The court may also impose a fine upon the defendant not exceeding \$2,000.

30.570 Action to annul corporate existence on direction of Governor. An action may be maintained in the name of the state, whenever the Governor shall so direct, against a corporation either public or private, for the purpose of avoiding the Act of incorporation, or an Act renewing or modifying its corporate existence, on the ground that such Act was procured upon some fraudulent suggestion or concealment of a material fact by the persons incorporated, or some of them, or with their knowledge and consent; or for annulling the existence of a corporation formed under any general law of this state, on the ground that such incorporation, or any renewal or modification thereof, was procured in like manner.

30.580 Action to annul corporate existence on leave of court. An action may be maintained in the name of the state against a corporation, other than a public one, on leave granted by the court or judge thereof where the action is triable, for the purpose of avoiding the charter or annulling the existence of such corporation, whenever it shall:

(1) Offend against any of the provisions of an Act creating, renewing, or modifying such corporation, or the provisions of any general law under which it became incorporated;

(2) Violate the provisions of any law, by which such corporation forfeits its charter, by abuse of its powers;

(3) Whenever it has forfeited its privileges or franchises, by failure to exercise its powers;

(4) Whenever it has done or omitted any act, which amounts to a surrender of its corporate rights, privileges and franchises; or,

(5) Whenever it exercises a franchise or privilege not conferred upon it by law.

30.590 Judgment against corporation. If it is determined that a corporation, against which an action has been commenced pursuant to ORS 30.570 or 30.580, has forfeited its corporate rights, privileges and franchises, judgment shall be given that the corporation be excluded therefrom, and that the corporation be dissolved.

30.600 Action to annul letters patent. An action may be maintained in the name of the state for the purpose of vacating or annulling letters patent, issued by the state, against the person to whom the letters were issued, or those claiming under him, as to the subject-matter thereof, in the following cases:

(1) When the letters patent were issued by means of some fraudulent suggestion or concealment of a material fact by the person to whom the letters were issued, or with his knowledge and consent;

(2) When the letters patent were issued through mistake or in ignorance of a material fact; or,

(3) When the patentee, or those claiming under him, have done or omitted an act, in violation of the terms and conditions on which the letters patent were issued, or have by any other means forfeited the interest acquired under the letters.

30.610 Prosecutor; verification of pleadings; affidavit for leave of court; relator as co-plaintiff. The actions provided for in ORS 30.510 to 30.640 shall be commenced and prosecuted by the district attorney of the district where the same are triable. When the action is upon the relation of a private party, as allowed in ORS 30.510, the pleadings on behalf of the state shall be verified by the relator as if he were the plaintiff, or otherwise as provided in ORS 16.070; in all other cases the pleadings shall be verified by the district attorney in like manner or otherwise as provided in ORS 16.070. When an action can only be commenced by leave, as provided in ORS 30.580, the leave shall be granted when it appears by affidavit that the acts or omissions specified in that section have been done or suffered by the corporation. When an

action is commenced on the information of a private person, as allowed in ORS 30.510, having an interest in the question, such person, for all the purposes of the action, and as to the effect of any judgment that may be given therein, shall be deemed a co-plaintiff with the state.

30.620 Duty of district attorney. When directed by the Governor, as prescribed in ORS 30.570, it shall be the duty of the district attorney to commence the action therein provided for accordingly. In all other actions provided for in ORS 30.510 to 30.640 it shall be the duty of the proper district attorney to commence such action, upon leave given where leave is required, in every case of public interest, whenever he has reason to believe that a cause of action exists and can be proven, and also for like reasons in every case of private interest only in which satisfactory security is given to the state to indemnify it against the costs and expenses that may be incurred thereby.

30.630 Filing copy of judgment roll with Corporation Commissioner. If judgment is given against a corporation, the effect of which is that the corporation ceases to exist, or whereby any letters patent are determined to be vacated or annulled, it shall be the duty of the district attorney to cause a copy of the judgment roll to be filed with the Corporation Commissioner.

30.640 Enforcement of judgment. A judgment given in any action provided for in ORS 30.510 to 30.640, in respect to costs and disbursements, may be enforced by execution as a judgment which requires the payment of money, and in all other respects obedience thereto may be enforced by attachment of the body of the defendant, or if the defendant is a corporation, the body of any or all of the officers or members of the corporation refusing or neglecting obedience thereto.

30.650 and 30.660 [Reserved for expansion]

ACTIONS FOR UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

30.670 Right of all persons to equal facilities in places of public accommodation, resort or amusement. All persons within the jurisdiction of this state shall be entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement,

without any distinction, discrimination or restriction on account of race, religion, color or national origin. [1953 c.495 §1]

30.675 Place of public accommodation, resort or amusement defined. A place of public accommodation, resort or amusement shall mean any hotel, motel or motor court, any place offering to the public food or drink for consumption on the premises, or any place offering to the public entertainment, recreation or amusement; provided that nothing contained in ORS 30.670 to 30.680 shall be construed to include or apply to any institution, bona fide club or place of accommodation, resort or amusement, which is in its nature distinctly private. [1953 c.495 §2]

30.680 Action for damages by person discriminated against. All persons against whom any distinction, discrimination or restriction on account of race, religion, color or national origin has been made by any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement as defined herein shall have a cause of action to recover damages in the sum of not to exceed \$500 from the operator, manager or employe of such place, and in any such action the operator, manager or employe shall be jointly and severally liable. [1953 c.495 §3]

30.690 and 30.700 [Reserved for expansion]

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS

30.710 Seduction; action brought by parent or guardian. A father, or in case of his death or desertion of his family, the mother, may maintain an action as plaintiff, for the seduction of a daughter, and the guardian for the seduction of a ward, though the daughter or ward is not living with or in the service of the plaintiff at the time of the seduction or afterward, and there is no loss of service.

30.720 Seduction; action brought by woman seduced. An unmarried female over 21 years of age may maintain an action as plaintiff for her own seduction, and recover damages; but the prosecution of an action to judgment by the father, mother or guardian, as prescribed in ORS 30.710, shall be a bar to an action by such unmarried female.

30.730 Liability of person supplying liquor to intoxicated person or habitual drunkard. Any person who shall bargain, sell, exchange

or give to any intoxicated person or habitual drunkard spirituous, vinous, malt or intoxicating liquors shall be liable for all damage resulting in whole or in part therefrom, in an action brought by the wife, husband, parent or child of such intoxicated person or habitual drunkard. The act of any agent or employe shall be deemed the act of his principal or employer for the purposes of this section.

30.740 Right of gambling loser to recover double his losses. All persons losing money or anything of value at or on any game described in ORS 167.505 shall have a cause of action to recover from the dealer or player winning the same, or proprietor for whose benefit such game was played or dealt, or such money or thing of value won, twice the amount of the money or double the value of the thing so lost.

30.750 Liability of abstractors. Any person who, after May 24, 1923, certifies to any abstract of title to any land in Oregon, shall be liable for all damages sustained by any person who, in reliance on the correctness thereof, acts thereon with reference to the title of such land, and is damaged in consequence of any errors, omissions or defects therein, regardless of whether the abstract of title was ordered by the person so damaged. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the maker of any abstract of title to land from limiting in the certificate to the

abstract his liability thereunder to any person named in such certificate, but such limitation of liability must be expressly set forth in the certificate.

30.760 Defamation by radio or television.

(1) The owner, licensee or operator of a radio or television broadcasting station, and the agents or employes of the owner, licensee or operator, shall not be liable for any damages for any defamatory statement published or uttered in a radio or television broadcast, by one other than the owner, licensee or operator, or agent or employe thereof, unless it is alleged and proved by the complaining party that the owner, licensee, operator, agent or employe failed to exercise due care to prevent the publication or utterance of such statement in such broadcast.

(2) In no event shall any owner, licensee or operator of a radio or television broadcasting station, or any agent or employe thereof, be liable for any damages for any defamatory statement published or uttered by one other than such owner, licensee, operator, agent or employe, in or as part of a radio or television broadcast by any candidate for public office, which broadcast cannot be censored by reason of federal statute or regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. [Amended by 1953 c.565 §2]

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