1	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
2	1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)
3	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
4	SENATE BILL NO. 747 By: Reinhardt
5	
6	
7	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
8	An Act relating to the Oklahoma Discovery Code; amending 12 O.S. 2021, Sections 3226 and 3226.1,
9	which relate to general discovery provisions and abusive discovery; removing certain affidavit
10	requirement for persons receiving certain notice or subpoena; establishing grounds for good cause to
11	issue protective order to prevent deposition of certain officers; requiring certain motion; requiring
12	court to issue certain order; providing exceptions; authorizing limitation of scope of deposition of
13	certain officers; authorizing vacating or modifying order under certain circumstances; and providing an
14	effective date.
15	
16	
17	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
18	SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 2021, Section 3226, is
19	amended to read as follows:
20	Section 3226. A. DISCOVERY METHODS; INITIAL DISCLOSURES.
21	1. DISCOVERY METHODS. Parties may obtain discovery regarding
22	any matter that is relevant to any party's claim or defense by one
23	or more of the following methods: Depositions upon oral examination
24	or written questions; written interrogatories; production of

documents or things or permission to enter upon land or other
property, for inspection and other purposes; physical and mental
examinations; requests for admission; authorizations for release of
records; and otherwise by court order upon showing of good cause.
Except as provided in this section or unless the court orders
otherwise under this section, the frequency of use of these methods
is not limited.

8

2. INITIAL DISCLOSURES.

9 a. Except in categories of proceedings specified in subparagraph b of this paragraph, or to the extent 10 otherwise stipulated or directed by order, a party, 11 without awaiting a discovery request, shall provide to 12 other parties a computation of any category of damages 13 claimed by the disclosing party, making available for 14 inspection and copying the documents or other 15 evidentiary material, not privileged or protected from 16 disclosure, on which such computation is based, 17 including materials bearing on the nature and extent 18 of injuries suffered. Subject to subsection B of this 19 section, in any action in which physical or mental 20 injury is claimed, the party making the claim shall 21 provide to the other parties a release or 22 authorization allowing the parties to obtain relevant 23 medical records and bills, and, when relevant, a 24

release or authorization for employment and scholastic
 records.

b. The following categories of proceedings are exempt from initial disclosure under subparagraph a of this paragraph:

- (1) an action for review of an administrative record,
- (2) a petition for habeas corpus or other proceeding to challenge a criminal conviction or sentence,
- 9 (3) an action brought without counsel by a person in
 10 custody of the United States, a state, or a state
 11 subdivision,
 - (4) an action to enforce or quash an administrative summons or subpoena,
- 14 (5) an action by the United States to recover benefit15 payments,
 - (6) an action by the United States to collect on a student loan guaranteed by the United States,
 - (7) a proceeding ancillary to proceedings in other courts, and
- (8) an action to enforce an arbitration award.
 c. Disclosures required under this paragraph shall be
 made at or within sixty (60) days after service unless
 a different time is set by stipulation or court order,
 or unless a party objects that initial disclosures are

3

4

5

6

7

8

12

13

16

17

18

19

1 not appropriate in the circumstances of the action and 2 states the objection in a motion filed with the court. In ruling on the objection, the court shall determine 3 what disclosures, if any, are to be made and set the 4 5 time for disclosure. A party shall make its initial disclosures based on the information then readily 6 available to it and is not excused from making its 7 disclosures because it has not fully completed its 8 9 investigation of the case or because it challenges the sufficiency of another party's disclosures or because 10 another party has not made its disclosures. 11

B. DISCOVERY SCOPE AND LIMITS. Unless otherwise limited by order of the court in accordance with the Oklahoma Discovery Code, the scope of discovery is as follows:

15 1. IN GENERAL.

Parties may obtain discovery regarding any matter, not 16 а. privileged, which is relevant to any party's claim or 17 defense, reasonably calculated to lead to the 18 discovery of admissible evidence and proportional to 19 the needs of the case, considering the importance of 20 the issues at stake in the action, the amount in 21 controversy, the parties' relative access to relevant 22 information, the parties' resources, the importance of 23 the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the 24

burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit. Information within this scope of discovery need not be admissible in evidence to be discoverable.

- 5 b. A party shall produce upon request pursuant to Section 3234 of this title, any insurance agreement under 6 which any person carrying on an insurance business may 7 be liable to satisfy part or all of a judgment which 8 9 may be entered in the action or to indemnify or 10 reimburse for payments made to satisfy the judgment. Information concerning the insurance agreement is not 11 by reason of disclosure admissible in evidence at 12 trial. For purposes of this section, an application 13 for insurance shall not be treated as a part of an 14 insurance agreement. 15
 - 2. LIMITATIONS ON FREQUENCY AND EXTENT.

17a.By order, the court may alter the limits on the length18of depositions under Section 3230 of this title, on19the number of interrogatories under Section 3233 of20this title, on the number of requests to produce under21Section 3234 of this title, or on the number of22requests for admission under Section 3236 of this23title.

24

16

1

2

3

4

1 b. A party is not required to provide discovery of electronically stored information from sources that 2 the party identifies as not reasonably accessible 3 because of undue burden or cost. On motion to compel 4 5 discovery or for a protective order, the party from whom discovery is sought must show that the 6 information is not reasonably accessible because of 7 undue burden or cost. If that showing is made, the 8 9 court may order discovery from such sources if the requesting party shows good cause, considering the 10 limitations of subparagraph c of this paragraph. 11 The court may specify conditions for the discovery. 12 13 с. On motion or on its own, the court shall limit the frequency or extent of discovery otherwise allowed if 14 it determines that: 15 (1) the discovery sought is unreasonably cumulative 16 17 or duplicative, or can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less 18 burdensome, or less expensive, 19

(2) the party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity to obtain the information by discovery in the action, or

24

20

21

22

23

1	(3) the proposed discovery is outside the scope
2	permitted by subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of
3	this subsection.
4	d. If an officer, director or managing agent of a
5	corporation or a government official is served with
6	notice of a deposition or subpoena regarding a matter
7	about which he or she has no knowledge, he or she may
8	submit at a reasonable time prior to the date of the
9	deposition an affidavit to the noticing party so
10	stating and identifying a person within the
11	corporation or government entity who has knowledge of
12	the subject matter involved in the pending action.
13	Notwithstanding such affidavit, the noticing party may
14	proceed with the deposition, subject to the noticed
15	witness's right to seek a protective order.
16	3. TRIAL PREPARATION: MATERIALS.
17	a. Unless as provided by paragraph 4 of this subsection,
18	a party may not discover documents and tangible things
19	that are prepared in anticipation of litigation or for
20	trial by or for another party or its representative,
21	including the other party's attorney, consultant,
22	surety, indemnitor, insurer or agent. Subject to
23	paragraph 4 of this subsection, such materials may be
24	discovered if:

- (1) they are otherwise discoverable under paragraph 1 of this subsection, and
 - (2) the party shows that it has substantial need for the materials to prepare its case and cannot, without undue hardship, obtain their substantial equivalent by other means.
- b. If the court orders discovery of such materials, the
 court shall protect against disclosure of the mental
 impressions, conclusions, opinions or legal theories
 of a party's attorney or other representative
 concerning the litigation.
- A party or other person may, upon request and without 12 с. the required showing, obtain the person's own previous 13 statement about the action or its subject matter. Ιf 14 the request is refused, the person may move for a 15 court order, and the provisions of paragraph 4 of 16 subsection A of Section 3237 of this title apply to 17 the award of expenses. A previous statement is 18 either: 19
- 20 (1) a written statement that the person has signed or
 21 otherwise adopted or approved, or
- (2) a contemporaneous stenographic, mechanical,
 electrical, or other recording, or a
 transcription thereof, which recites

1

2

3

4

5

6

1	sı	abstantially verbatim the person's oral
2	st	tatement.
3	4. TRIAL PREPARA	ATION: EXPERTS.
4	a. Discove	ery of facts known and opinions held by experts,
5	otherwi	se discoverable under the provisions of
6	paragra	aph 1 of this subsection and acquired or
7	develop	ed in anticipation of litigation or for trial,
8	may be	obtained only as follows:
9	(1) a	party may, through interrogatories, require any
10	ot	ther party to identify each person whom that
11	ot	ther party expects to call as an expert witness
12	at	trial and give the address at which that
13	ex	opert witness may be located,
14	(2) af	ter disclosure of the names and addresses of
15	tł	ne expert witnesses, the other party expects to
16	Ca	all as witnesses, the party, who has requested
17	di	sclosure, may depose any such expert witnesses
18	SI	bject to scope of this section. Prior to
19	ta	aking the deposition the party must give notice
20	as	s required in subsections A and C of Section
21	32	230 of this title, and
22	(3) ir	addition to taking the depositions of expert
23	w	tnesses the party may, through interrogatories,
24	re	equire the party who expects to call the expert

1 witnesses to state the subject matter on which 2 each expert witness is expected to testify; the 3 substance of the facts and opinions to which the expert is expected to testify and a summary of 4 5 the grounds for each opinion; the qualifications of each expert witness, including a list of all 6 publications authored by the expert witness 7 within the preceding ten (10) years; the 8 9 compensation to be paid to the expert witness for the testimony and preparation for the testimony; 10 and a listing of any other cases in which the 11 expert witness has testified as an expert at 12 13 trial or by deposition within the preceding four (4) years. An interrogatory seeking the 14 information specified above shall be treated as a 15 single interrogatory for purposes of the 16 17 limitation on the number of interrogatories in Section 3233 of this title. 18 b. The protection provided by paragraph 3 of this

b. The protection provided by paragraph 3 of this
subsection extends to communications between the
party's attorney and any expert witness retained or
specially employed to provide expert testimony in the
case or whose duties as the party's employee regularly

24

- involve giving expert testimony, except to the extent that the communications:
- relate to compensation for the expert's study or testimony,
 - (2) identify facts or data that the party's attorney provided and that the expert considered in forming the opinions to be expressed, or
 - (3) identify assumptions that the party's attorney provided and that the expert relied upon in forming the opinions to be expressed.
- A party may not, by interrogatories or deposition, 11 с. discover facts known or opinions held by an expert who 12 13 has been retained or specially employed by another party in anticipation of litigation or to prepare for 14 trial and who is not expected to be called as a 15 witness at trial, except as provided in Section 3235 16 of this title or upon a showing of exceptional 17 circumstances under which it is impracticable for the 18 party to obtain facts or opinions on the same subject 19 by other means. 20
- 21 d. Unless manifest injustice would result:
- (1) the court shall require that the party seeking
 discovery pay the expert a reasonable fee for
 time spent in responding to discovery under

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

1 division (2) of subparagraph a of this paragraph and subparagraph c of this paragraph, and 2 the court shall require that the party seeking 3 (2) discovery with respect to discovery obtained 4 5 under subparagraph c of this paragraph, pay the other party a fair portion of the fees and 6 expenses reasonably incurred by the latter party 7 in obtaining facts and opinions from the expert. 8 CLAIMS OF PRIVILEGE OR PROTECTION OF TRIAL PREPARATION 9 5. MATERIALS. 10 When a party withholds information otherwise 11 a. 12 discoverable under the Oklahoma Discovery Code by claiming that it is privileged or subject to 13 protection as trial preparation material, the party 14 shall make the claim expressly and shall describe the 15 nature of the documents, communications, or things not 16 produced or disclosed in a manner that, without 17 revealing information itself privileged or protected, 18 will enable other parties to assess the applicability 19 of the privilege or protection. 20 b. If information produced in discovery is subject to a 21 claim of privilege or of protection as trial 22 preparation material, the party making the claim may 23 notify any party that received the information of the 24

Req. No. 1770

1 claim and the basis for it. After being notified, a party shall promptly return, sequester, or destroy the 2 specified information and any copies the party has; 3 shall not use or disclose the information until the 4 5 claim is resolved; shall take reasonable steps to retrieve the information if the party has disclosed it 6 before being notified; and may promptly present the 7 information to the court under seal for a 8 9 determination of the claim. The producing party shall preserve the information until the claim is resolved. 10 This mechanism is procedural only and does not alter 11 12 the standards governing whether the information is privileged or subject to protection as trial 13 preparation material or whether such privilege or 14 protection has been waived. 15

тJ

16

C. PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

Upon motion by a party or by the person from whom discovery 17 1. is sought, accompanied by a certification that the movant has in 18 good faith conferred or attempted to confer, either in person or by 19 telephone, with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the 20 dispute without court action, and for good cause shown, the court in 21 which the action is pending or on matters relating to a deposition, 22 the district court in the county where the deposition is to be taken 23 may enter any order which justice requires to protect a party or 24

Req. No. 1770

1 person from annoyance, harassment, embarrassment, oppression or 2 undue delay, burden or expense, including one or more of the 3 following:

that the discovery not be had, 4 a. 5 b. that the discovery may be had only on specified terms and conditions, including a designation of the time, 6 place or the allocation of expenses, 7 that the discovery may be had only by a method of 8 с. 9 discovery other than that selected by the party 10 seeking discovery, that certain matters not be inquired into, or that the 11 d. scope of the disclosure or discovery be limited to 12 certain matters, 13 that discovery be conducted with no one present except 14 e. persons designated by the court, 15 that a deposition after being sealed be opened only by f. 16 order of the court, 17 that a trade secret or other confidential research, 18 q. development or commercial information not be disclosed 19 or be disclosed only in a designated way, and 20 h. that the parties simultaneously file specified 21 documents or information enclosed in sealed envelopes 22 to be opened as directed by the court. 23 24

1 2. If the motion for a protective order is denied in whole or 2 in part, the court may, on such terms and conditions as are just, order that any party or person provide or permit discovery. 3 The provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection A of Section 3237 of this 4 5 title apply to the award of expenses incurred in relation to the motion. Any protective order of the court which has the effect of 6 removing any material obtained by discovery from the public record 7 shall contain the following: 8

- 9 a. a statement that the court has determined it is
 10 necessary in the interests of justice to remove the
 11 material from the public record,
- b. specific identification of the material which is to be
 removed or withdrawn from the public record, or which
 is to be filed but not placed in the public record,
 and
- a requirement that any party obtaining a protective 16 с. order place the protected material in a sealed manila 17 envelope clearly marked with the caption and case 18 number and is clearly marked with the word 19 "CONFIDENTIAL", and stating the date the order was 20 entered and the name of the judge entering the order. 21 This requirement may also be satisfied by requiring 22 the party to file the documents pursuant to the 23 procedure for electronically filing sealed or 24

1 2 confidential documents approved for electronic filing in the courts of this state.

3 3. No protective order entered after the filing and
4 microfilming of documents of any kind shall be construed to require
5 the microfilm record of such filing to be amended in any fashion.

4. The party or counsel which has received the protective order
shall be responsible for promptly presenting the order to
appropriate court clerk personnel for appropriate action.

9 5. All documents produced or testimony given under a protective
10 order shall be retained in the office of counsel until required by
11 the court to be filed in the case.

6. Counsel for the respective parties shall be responsible for
informing witnesses, as necessary, of the contents of the protective
order.

7. When a case is filed in which a party intends to seek a 15 protective order removing material from the public record, the 16 plaintiff(s) and defendant(s) shall be initially designated on the 17 petition under pseudonym such as "John or Jane Doe", or "Roe", and 18 the petition shall clearly indicate that the party designations are 19 fictitious. The party seeking confidentiality or other order 20 removing the case, in whole or in part, from the public record, 21 shall immediately present application to the court, seeking 22 instructions for the conduct of the case, including confidentiality 23 of the records. 24

Req. No. 1770

D. SEQUENCE AND TIMING OF DISCOVERY. Unless the parties stipulate or the court orders otherwise for the convenience of parties and witnesses and in the interests of justice, methods of discovery may be used in any sequence. The fact that a party is conducting discovery, whether by deposition or otherwise, shall not operate to delay discovery by any other party.

E. SUPPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSES. A party who has responded to
a request for discovery with a response that was complete when it
was made is under no duty to supplement the response to include
information thereafter acquired, except as follows:

A party is under a duty seasonably to supplement the
 response with respect to any question directly addressed to:

13 a. the identity and location of persons having knowledge14 of discoverable matters, and

b. the identity of each person expected to be called as
an expert witness at trial, the subject matter on
which the person is expected to testify, and the
substance of the testimony of the person;

A party is under a duty seasonably to amend a prior response
 to an interrogatory, request for production, or request for
 admission if the party obtains information upon the basis of which:
 a. (1) the party knows that the response was incorrect
 in some material respect when made, or

24

1 (2) the party knows that the response, which was correct when made, is no longer true in some 2 material respect, and 3 the additional or corrective information has not 4 b. 5 otherwise been made known to the other parties during the discovery process or in writing; and 6 A duty to supplement responses may be imposed by order of 7 3. the court, agreement of the parties, or at any time prior to trial 8 9 through new requests for supplementation of prior responses. DISCOVERY CONFERENCE. At any time after commencement of an 10 F. action, the court may direct the attorneys for the parties to appear 11 for a conference on the subject of discovery. The court shall do so 12 upon motion by the attorney for any party if the motion includes: 13 A statement of the issues as they then appear; 1. 14 2. A proposed plan and schedule of discovery; 15 Any limitations proposed to be placed on discovery; 16 3. 4. Any other proposed orders with respect to discovery; and 17 A statement showing that the attorney making the motion has 18 5. made a reasonable effort to reach agreement with opposing attorneys 19 on the matters set forth in the motion. 20 Each party and his attorney are under a duty to participate in 21 good faith in the framing of a discovery plan if a plan is proposed 22

24 on all parties. Objections or additions to matters set forth in the

by the attorney for any party. Notice of the motion shall be served

Req. No. 1770

23

1 motion shall be served not later than ten (10) days after service of 2 the motion.

Following the discovery conference, the court shall enter an 3 order tentatively identifying the issues for discovery purposes, 4 5 establishing a plan and schedule for discovery, setting limitations on discovery, if any; and determining such other matters, including 6 the allocation of expenses, as are necessary for the proper 7 management of discovery in the action. In preparing the plan for 8 9 discovery the court shall protect the parties from excessive or abusive use of discovery. An order shall be altered or amended 10 whenever justice so requires. 11

12 Subject to the right of a party who properly moves for a 13 discovery conference to prompt convening of the conference, the 14 court may combine the discovery conference with a pretrial 15 conference.

G. SIGNING OF DISCOVERY REQUESTS, RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS. 16 Every request for discovery, response or objection thereto made by a 17 party represented by an attorney shall be signed by at least one of 18 the party's attorneys of record in the party's individual name whose 19 address shall be stated. A party who is not represented by an 20 attorney shall sign the request, response or objection and state the 21 party's address. The signature of the attorney or party constitutes 22 a certification that the party has read the request, response or 23 objection, and that it is: 24

Req. No. 1770

To the best of the party's knowledge, information and belief
 formed after a reasonable inquiry consistent with the Oklahoma
 Discovery Code and warranted by existing law or a good faith
 argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing
 law;

6 2. Interposed in good faith and not primarily to cause delay or7 for any other improper purpose; and

8 3. Not unreasonable or unduly burdensome or expensive, given 9 the nature and complexity of the case, the discovery already had in 10 the case, the amount in controversy, and other values at stake in 11 the litigation. If a request, response or objection is not signed, 12 it shall be deemed ineffective.

13 If a certification is made in violation of the provisions of 14 this subsection, the court, upon motion or upon its own initiative, 15 shall impose upon the person who made the certification, the party 16 on whose behalf the request, response or objection is made, or both, 17 an appropriate sanction, which may include an order to pay to the 18 amount of the reasonable expenses occasioned thereby, including a 19 reasonable attorney fee.

20 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 2021, Section 3226.1, is 21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 3226.1. A. ABUSIVE DISCOVERY. In addition to the 23 protective orders that a court may issue pursuant to paragraph 1 of 24 subsection C of Section 3226 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a

Req. No. 1770

1 protective order may be issued by the court authorizing or denying 2 discovery in the court in which the action is pending. A protective order may also be authorized on matters relating to a deposition. 3 The order may be issued upon a motion by a party or the person from 4 5 whom discovery is sought. The motion shall be accompanied by a certification that the movant has in good faith conferred or 6 attempted to confer, either in person or by telephone, with other 7 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court 8 9 action. Upon receipt by the court of the motion and certification, 10 the court may enter the protective order authorizing or denying the discovery upon a finding that justice requires a party or person be 11 12 protected from annoyance, harassment, embarrassment, oppression or undue delay, burden, or expense. 13

B. <u>DEPOSITION OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICER. Good cause for a</u>
protective order exists under subsection A of this section to
prevent the deposition of an officer of an organization if the party
or the person seeking the protective order demonstrates that the
person sought to be deposed:

19 <u>1. Is a current or former high-ranking officer of a government</u> 20 <u>entity or any other public or private organization that is large and</u> 21 complex;

22 <u>2. Has unique and extensive scheduling demands or</u>

23 responsibilities; and

24

<u>3. Lacks unique personal knowledge of the issues being</u>
 litigated.

3	The party or person seeking the protective order shall file a
4	motion, accompanied by an affidavit or declaration of the officer,
5	establishing such requirements and identifying a person within the
6	organization who has knowledge of the subject matter involved in the
7	pending action.
8	If the party or person meets the burden, the court shall issue
9	an order preventing the deposition unless the party seeking the
10	deposition demonstrates that it has exhausted other reasonable means
11	of discovery, that such discovery is inadequate, and that the
12	officer has unique and personal knowledge of discoverable
13	information.
14	To the extent that the party or the person seeking a protective
15	order shows that an officer lacks unique personal knowledge of some,
16	but fewer than all, matters relevant to the subject matter involved
17	in the pending action, the court may limit the scope of the
18	deposition accordingly rather than prohibiting altogether the
19	deposition of the officer. The court may vacate or modify the order
20	if, after additional discovery, the party seeking the deposition can
21	meet its burden under this section.
22	<u>C.</u> AWARD OF EXPENSES OF MOTION. If the motion is granted, the
23	court may, after opportunity for hearing, require the party or

24 person whose conduct necessitated the motion or the party or

Req. No. 1770

1 attorney advising such conduct or both of them to pay to the moving 2 party the reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining the order, 3 including attorney fees, unless the court finds that the opposition 4 to the motion was substantially justified or that other 5 circumstances make an award of expenses unjust.

6 If the motion is denied, the court may, after opportunity for 7 hearing, require the moving party or the attorney advising the 8 motion or both of them to pay to the party or deponent who opposed 9 the motion the reasonable expenses incurred in opposing the motion, 10 including attorney fees, unless the court finds that the making of 11 the motion was substantially justified or that other circumstances 12 make an award of expenses unjust.

13 If the motion is granted in part and denied in part, the court 14 may apportion the reasonable expenses incurred in relation to the 15 motion among the parties and persons in a just manner.

16 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.
17
18 60-1-1770 TEK 2/21/2025 3:36:33 PM
19
20
21
22

- 23
- 24