

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 HOUSE BILL 2619

By: Harris

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to discovery; amending 12 O.S. 2021,  
8 Section 3226, which relates to general provisions  
9 governing discovery; requiring production of  
10 commercial litigation funding agreement upon request;  
11 prohibiting admissibility of certain information as  
12 evidence; requiring certain certification with  
13 production of agreement; providing exception;  
14 defining terms; amending 12 O.S. 2021, Section  
15 3226.1, which relates to abusive discovery; providing  
16 for protective orders to prevent depositions of high-  
17 ranking officers; requiring certain proof;  
18 authorizing court to issue protective order to  
19 prevent deposition; authorizing court to modify or  
20 vacate order; providing for codification; and  
21 providing an effective date.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 2021, Section 3226,  
24 is amended to read as follows:

Section 3226. A. DISCOVERY METHODS; INITIAL  
DISCLOSURES.

1. DISCOVERY METHODS. Parties may obtain discovery regarding  
any matter that is relevant to any party's claim or defense by one  
or more of the following methods: Depositions upon oral examination

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

9 2. INITIAL DISCLOSURES.

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

1 medical records and bills, and, when relevant, a  
2 release or authorization for employment and scholastic  
3 records.

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

- 7 (1) an action for review of an administrative record,
- 8 (2) a petition for habeas corpus or other proceeding  
9 to challenge a criminal conviction or sentence,
- 10 (3) an action brought without counsel by a person in  
11 custody of the United States, a state, or a state  
12 subdivision,
- 13 (4) an action to enforce or quash an administrative  
14 summons or subpoena,
- 15 (5) an action by the United States to recover benefit  
16 payments,
- 17 (6) an action by the United States to collect on a  
18 student loan guaranteed by the United States,
- 19 (7) a proceeding ancillary to proceedings in other  
20 courts, and
- 21 (8) an action to enforce an arbitration award.

22 c. Disclosures required under this paragraph shall be  
23 made at or within sixty (60) days after service unless  
24 a different time is set by stipulation or court order,

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

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

16 1. IN GENERAL.

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

1 the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the  
2 burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs  
3 its likely benefit. Information within this scope of  
4 discovery need not be admissible in evidence to be  
5 discoverable.

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

17 c. A party shall produce upon request pursuant to Section  
18 3234 of this title, any commercial litigation funding  
19 agreement as defined in Section 2 of this act.  
20 Information related to the commercial litigation  
21 funding agreement is not, by reason of disclosure,  
22 admissible as evidence at trial. Production of a  
23 commercial litigation funding agreement shall include  
24 a certification, by sworn affidavit, by the producing

1 party as to whether any funds encumbered by the terms  
2 of the agreement have been or will be sourced from a  
3 foreign state or agency or instrumentality of a  
4 foreign state as defined in 28 U.S.C., Section 1603 or  
5 22 U.S.C., Section 611, as amended. Certification  
6 that discloses that a foreign state or agency or  
7 instrumentality of a foreign state is such a source  
8 shall include the identity of the foreign state,  
9 agency, or instrumentality that is the source of the  
10 funds. Such certification shall be supplemented or  
11 corrected by the producing party within thirty (30)  
12 days in the event the certification becomes incomplete  
13 or inaccurate in a material aspect. A consumer  
14 litigation funding agreement as defined in Section 3-  
15 801 of Title 14A of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be  
16 exempt from the provisions of this subparagraph.

17 2. LIMITATIONS ON FREQUENCY AND EXTENT.

18 a. By order, the court may alter the limits on the length  
19 of depositions under Section 3230 of this title, on  
20 the number of interrogatories under Section 3233 of  
21 this title, on the number of requests to produce under  
22 Section 3234 of this title, or on the number of  
23 requests for admission under Section 3236 of this  
24 title.

1           b. A party is not required to provide discovery of  
2           electronically stored information from sources that  
3           the party identifies as not reasonably accessible  
4           because of undue burden or cost. On motion to compel  
5           discovery or for a protective order, the party from  
6           whom discovery is sought must show that the  
7           information is not reasonably accessible because of  
8           undue burden or cost. If that showing is made, the  
9           court may order discovery from such sources if the  
10          requesting party shows good cause, considering the  
11          limitations of subparagraph c of this paragraph. The  
12          court may specify conditions for the discovery.

13          c. On motion or on its own, the court shall limit the  
14          frequency or extent of discovery otherwise allowed if  
15          it determines that:

16           (1) the discovery sought is unreasonably cumulative  
17           or duplicative, or can be obtained from some  
18           other source that is more convenient, less  
19           burdensome, or less expensive,

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

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 (1) they are otherwise discoverable under paragraph 1
- 2 of this subsection, and
- 3 (2) the party shows that it has substantial need for
- 4 the materials to prepare its case and cannot,
- 5 without undue hardship, obtain their substantial
- 6 equivalent by other means.

7 b. If the court orders discovery of such materials, the  
8 court shall protect against disclosure of the mental  
9 impressions, conclusions, opinions or legal theories  
10 of a party's attorney or other representative  
11 concerning the litigation.

12 c. A party or other person may, upon request and without  
13 the required showing, obtain the person's own previous  
14 statement about the action or its subject matter. If  
15 the request is refused, the person may move for a  
16 court order, and the provisions of paragraph 4 of  
17 subsection A of Section 3237 of this title apply to  
18 the award of expenses. A previous statement is  
19 either:

- 20 (1) a written statement that the person has signed or
- 21 otherwise adopted or approved, or
- 22 (2) a contemporaneous stenographic, mechanical,
- 23 electrical, or other recording, or a
- 24 transcription thereof, which recites

1 substantially verbatim the person's oral  
2 statement.

3 4. TRIAL PREPARATION: EXPERTS.

4 a. Discovery of facts known and opinions held by experts,  
5 otherwise discoverable under the provisions of  
6 paragraph 1 of this subsection and acquired or  
7 developed in anticipation of litigation or for trial,  
8 may be obtained only as follows:

9 (1) a party may, through interrogatories, require any  
10 other party to identify each person whom that  
11 other party expects to call as an expert witness  
12 at trial and give the address at which that  
13 expert witness may be located,

14 (2) after disclosure of the names and addresses of  
15 the expert witnesses, the other party expects to  
16 call as witnesses, the party, who has requested  
17 disclosure, may depose any such expert witnesses  
18 subject to scope of this section. Prior to  
19 taking the deposition the party must give notice  
20 as required in subsections A and C of Section  
21 3230 of this title, and

22 (3) in addition to taking the depositions of expert  
23 witnesses the party may, through interrogatories,  
24 require 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  
4 expert is expected to testify and a summary of  
5 the grounds for each opinion; the qualifications  
6 of each expert witness, including a list of all  
7 publications authored by the expert witness  
8 within the preceding ten (10) years; the  
9 compensation to be paid to the expert witness for  
10 the testimony and preparation for the testimony;  
11 and a listing of any other cases in which the  
12 expert witness has testified as an expert at  
13 trial or by deposition within the preceding four  
14 (4) years. An interrogatory seeking the  
15 information specified above shall be treated as a  
16 single interrogatory for purposes of the  
17 limitation on the number of interrogatories in  
18 Section 3233 of this title.

- 19 b. The protection provided by paragraph 3 of this  
20 subsection extends to communications between the  
21 party's attorney and any expert witness retained or  
22 specially employed to provide expert testimony in the  
23 case or whose duties as the party's employee regularly  
24

1 involve giving expert testimony, except to the extent  
2 that the communications:

3 (1) relate to compensation for the expert's study or  
4 testimony,

5 (2) identify facts or data that the party's attorney  
6 provided and that the expert considered in  
7 forming the opinions to be expressed, or

8 (3) identify assumptions that the party's attorney  
9 provided and that the expert relied upon in  
10 forming the opinions to be expressed.

11 c. A party may not, by interrogatories or deposition,  
12 discover facts known or opinions held by an expert who  
13 has been retained or specially employed by another  
14 party in anticipation of litigation or to prepare for  
15 trial and who is not expected to be called as a  
16 witness at trial, except as provided in Section 3235  
17 of this title or upon a showing of exceptional  
18 circumstances under which it is impracticable for the  
19 party to obtain facts or opinions on the same subject  
20 by other means.

21 d. Unless manifest injustice would result:

22 (1) the court shall require that the party seeking  
23 discovery pay the expert a reasonable fee for  
24 time spent in responding to discovery under

1                   division (2) of subparagraph a of this paragraph  
2                   and subparagraph c of this paragraph, and  
3           (2) the court shall require that the party seeking  
4           discovery with respect to discovery obtained  
5           under subparagraph c of this paragraph, pay the  
6           other party a fair portion of the fees and  
7           expenses reasonably incurred by the latter party  
8           in obtaining facts and opinions from the expert.

9           5. CLAIMS OF PRIVILEGE OR PROTECTION OF TRIAL PREPARATION  
10 MATERIALS.

- 11           a. When a party withholds information otherwise  
12           discoverable under the Oklahoma Discovery Code by  
13           claiming that it is privileged or subject to  
14           protection as trial preparation material, the party  
15           shall make the claim expressly and shall describe the  
16           nature of the documents, communications, or things not  
17           produced or disclosed in a manner that, without  
18           revealing information itself privileged or protected,  
19           will enable other parties to assess the applicability  
20           of the privilege or protection.
- 21           b. If information produced in discovery is subject to a  
22           claim of privilege or of protection as trial  
23           preparation material, the party making the claim may  
24           notify any party that received the information of the

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

16 C. PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

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

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

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

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,  
3 order that any party or person provide or permit discovery. The  
4 provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection A of Section 3237 of this  
5 title apply to the award of expenses incurred in relation to the  
6 motion. Any protective order of the court which has the effect of  
7 removing any material obtained by discovery from the public record  
8 shall contain the following:

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



1 confidential documents approved for electronic filing  
2 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.

6 4. The party or counsel which has received the protective order  
7 shall be responsible for promptly presenting the order to  
8 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.

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

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

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

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

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

- 13 a. the identity and location of persons having knowledge  
14 of discoverable matters, and
- 15 b. the identity of each person expected to be called as  
16 an expert witness at trial, the subject matter on  
17 which the person is expected to testify, and the  
18 substance of the testimony of the person;

19 2. A party is under a duty seasonably to amend a prior response  
20 to an interrogatory, request for production, or request for  
21 admission if the party obtains information upon the basis of which:

- 22 a. (1) the party knows that the response was incorrect  
23 in some material respect when made, or

24

1 (2) the party knows that the response, which was  
2 correct when made, is no longer true in some  
3 material respect, and

4 b. the additional or corrective information has not  
5 otherwise been made known to the other parties during  
6 the discovery process or in writing; and

7 3. A duty to supplement responses may be imposed by order of  
8 the court, agreement of the parties, or at any time prior to trial  
9 through new requests for supplementation of prior responses.

10 F. DISCOVERY CONFERENCE. At any time after commencement of an  
11 action, the court may direct the attorneys for the parties to appear  
12 for a conference on the subject of discovery. The court shall do so  
13 upon motion by the attorney for any party if the motion includes:

14 1. A statement of the issues as they then appear;

15 2. A proposed plan and schedule of discovery;

16 3. Any limitations proposed to be placed on discovery;

17 4. Any other proposed orders with respect to discovery; and

18 5. A statement showing that the attorney making the motion has  
19 made a reasonable effort to reach agreement with opposing attorneys  
20 on the matters set forth in the motion.

21 Each party and his attorney are under a duty to participate in  
22 good faith in the framing of a discovery plan if a plan is proposed  
23 by the attorney for any party. Notice of the motion shall be served  
24 on all parties. Objections or additions to matters set forth in the

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

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

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.

16       G.   SIGNING OF DISCOVERY REQUESTS, RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS.

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

1 1. To the best of the party's knowledge, information and belief  
2 formed after a reasonable inquiry consistent with the Oklahoma  
3 Discovery Code and warranted by existing law or a good\_faith  
4 argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing  
5 law;

6 2. Interposed in good faith and not primarily to cause delay or  
7 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. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3226.2 of Title 12, unless there  
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. As used in the Oklahoma Discovery Code:  
24

1        1. "Commercial litigation funder" means any person or entity,  
2 other than an attorney permitted to charge a contingent fee  
3 representing a party, that enters into a contract establishing a  
4 right to receive compensation that is contingent on and sourced from  
5 any proceeds of the civil action by settlement, judgment, or  
6 otherwise. Commercial litigation funder shall not include a  
7 consumer litigation funder as defined in Section 3-801 of Title 14A  
8 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

9        2. "Commercial litigation funding agreement" means an agreement  
10 under which the commercial litigation funder is granted a right to  
11 receive compensation contingent on and sourced from any proceeds of  
12 a civil action by settlement, judgment, or otherwise. A commercial  
13 litigation funding agreement shall not include:

14            a. legal representation services provided on a  
15 contingency fee basis or legal costs advanced by a  
16 legal representative where such services or costs are  
17 provided to or on behalf of a client by an attorney  
18 representing the party in the dispute and in  
19 accordance with the Oklahoma Rules of Professional  
20 Conduct,

21            b. an agreement entered into between an attorney or law  
22 firm and a commercial litigation funder or any other  
23 entity. Sharing of fees by an attorney or law firm  
24 shall be in accordance with the Oklahoma Rules of

1 Professional Conduct including but not limited to  
2 Rules 1.5 and 5.4 of Appendix 3-A of Title 5 of the  
3 Oklahoma Statutes, or

4 c. a consumer litigation funding agreement as defined in  
5 Section 3-801 of Title 14A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

6 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 2021, Section 3226.1, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 3226.1. A. ABUSIVE DISCOVERY. In addition to the  
9 protective orders that a court may issue pursuant to paragraph 1 of  
10 subsection C of Section 3226 of ~~Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~  
11 this title, a protective order may be issued by the court  
12 authorizing or denying discovery in the court in which the action is  
13 pending. A protective order may also be authorized on matters  
14 relating to a deposition. The order may be issued upon a motion by  
15 a party or the person from whom discovery is sought. The motion  
16 shall be accompanied by a certification that the movant has in good  
17 faith conferred or attempted to confer, either in person or by  
18 telephone, with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the  
19 dispute without court action. Upon receipt by the court of the  
20 motion and certification, the court may enter the protective order  
21 authorizing or denying the discovery upon a finding that justice  
22 requires a party or person be protected from annoyance, harassment,  
23 embarrassment, oppression or undue delay, burden, or expense.

1       B. DEPOSITION OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICER. 1. The court shall  
2 find good cause to issue a protective order to prevent the  
3 deposition of an officer of an organization if the party or person  
4 seeking the protective order demonstrates that the officer sought to  
5 be deposed:

6           a. is a current or former high-ranking officer of a  
7           government entity or any other organization, public or  
8           private, that is large and complex,

9           b. has unique and extensive scheduling demands or  
10           responsibilities, and

11           c. lacks unique, personal knowledge of the issues being  
12           litigated.

13       The party or person seeking the protective order shall file a  
14 motion, accompanied by an affidavit or declaration of the officer,  
15 establishing these requirements.

16       2. If the party or person demonstrates the requirements in  
17 paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section, the court shall issue a  
18 protective order to prevent the deposition of that officer unless  
19 the opposing party seeking the deposition demonstrates that:

20           a. it has exhausted all other reasonable means of  
21           discovery,

22           b. such discovery is inadequate, and

23           c. the officer has unique, personal knowledge of  
24           discoverable information.



1       3. To the extent that the party or person seeking the  
2 protective order shows that the officer lacks unique, personal  
3 knowledge of some, but not all, matters relevant to the subject  
4 matter involved in the pending action, the court may limit the scope  
5 of the deposition accordingly.

6       4. The court may vacate or modify the protective order if,  
7 after additional discovery, the party seeking the deposition can  
8 meet its burden under this subsection.

9       C. AWARD OF EXPENSES OF MOTION. If the motion is granted, the  
10 court may, after opportunity for hearing, require the party or  
11 person whose conduct necessitated the motion or the party or  
12 attorney advising such conduct or both of them to pay to the moving  
13 party the reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining the order,  
14 including attorney fees, unless the court finds that the opposition  
15 to the motion was substantially justified or that other  
16 circumstances make an award of expenses unjust.

17       If the motion is denied, the court may, after opportunity for  
18 hearing, require the moving party or the attorney advising the  
19 motion or both of them to pay to the party or deponent who opposed  
20 the motion the reasonable expenses incurred in opposing the motion,  
21 including attorney fees, unless the court finds that the making of  
22 the motion was substantially justified or that other circumstances  
23 make an award of expenses unjust.

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

4        SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

5        60-1-12206        AQH        01/16/25  
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