

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 230

By: Jett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to court reporters; amending 20 O.S. 2021, Section 106.4, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 100, O.S.L. 2023 (20 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 106.4), which relates to transcripts; updating statutory language; eliminating charge for certain transcripts; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 106.4, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 100, O.S.L. 2023 (20 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 106.4), is amended to read as follows:

Section 106.4. A. 1. The court reporter shall make a full reporting by means of stenographic hand, steno-mask or machine notes, or a combination thereof, of all proceedings, including the statements of counsel and the court and the evidence, in trials and other judicial proceedings to which the court reporter is assigned by the appointing judge unless excused by the judge who is trying the case with the consent of the parties to the action. Nothing ~~herein contained~~ in this section shall be construed to authorize the certification of persons as certified shorthand reporters who rely

1 exclusively upon the steno-mask for reporting judicial proceedings,
2 except as provided by law. A refusal of the court to permit or to
3 require any statement to be taken down by the court reporter or
4 transcribed after being taken down, upon the same being shown by
5 affidavit or other direct and competent evidence, to the Supreme
6 Court, or other appellate court, shall constitute a denial of due
7 process of law. The court reporter may use an electronic instrument
8 as a supplementary device.

9 2. In any trial, hearing or proceedings, if no court reporter
10 is available to the assigned judge:

11 a. the judge before whom the matter is being heard may
12 order the proceedings electronically recorded and a
13 trial or proceedings may proceed without the necessity
14 of a court reporter being present. Provided that if
15 an official transcript is ordered then it shall be
16 prepared by the official court reporter, or

17 b. with approval of the judge, the parties may stipulate
18 to the use of a freelance reporter and share the cost.
19 If ordered, the transcript shall be prepared by the
20 approved reporter and shall be considered the official
21 transcript for all purposes.

22 B. Upon request of either party in a civil or criminal case,
23 the reporter shall transcribe the proceedings in a trial or other
24 judicial proceeding, or so much thereof as may be requested by the

1 party, certify to the correctness of the transcript, and deliver the
2 same in accordance with the rules of the Supreme Court. ~~The fee for~~
3 A certified copy of an original transcript shall be set by the
4 ~~Supreme Court. Two copies of the original transcript shall be~~
5 furnished by the court to all parties without ~~additional~~ charge.
6 Each page shall be at least twenty-five lines to the page and typed
7 no fewer than nine characters to the typed inch. Each page shall be
8 no more than double spaced and the margin on the left side of the
9 page shall be no more than one and one-half (1 1/2) inches and the
10 margin on the right side of the page shall be no more than one-half
11 (1/2) inch from the edge of the paper. The format for all
12 transcripts shall be prescribed by the Supreme Court. The court
13 reporter fees for making the transcript shall be paid in the first
14 instance by the party requesting the transcript and shall be taxed
15 as costs in the suit.

16 When the judge on his or her own motion orders a transcript of
17 the reporter's notes, the judge may direct the payment of charges
18 and the taxation of the charges as costs in such manner as the court
19 deems appropriate. In a criminal action, if the defendant shall
20 present to the judge an affidavit that the defendant intends in good
21 faith to take an appeal in the case and that a transcript of the
22 reporter's notes is necessary to enable the defendant to prosecute
23 the appeal, and that he or she has not the means to pay for the
24 transcript, the court, upon finding that there is reasonable basis

1 for the averment, shall order the transcript made at the expense of
2 the district court fund. The format preparation, delivery and
3 filing of transcripts to be used in civil and criminal appeals may
4 be regulated by the Supreme Court.

5 C. The court reporter shall file his or her records of the
6 evidence and the proceedings taken in any case with the clerk of the
7 court in which the case was tried.

8 D. To the extent that it does not substantially interfere with
9 the court reporter's other official duties, the judge by whom a
10 reporter is employed or to whom he or she is assigned may assign a
11 reporter to secretarial or clerical duties arising out of official
12 court operations.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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