

## CHAPTER 544

### PLEADINGS

<p>544.043 Defamation by television and radio; defense.</p> <p>544.15 Subscription and verification.</p> <p>544.21 Incorporation, pleading and proof.</p>	<p>544.22 Partnerships; proof as to members.</p> <p>544.36 Ad damnum; limitation.</p> <p>544.41 Product liability; limit on liability of non-manufacturers.</p>
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NOTE: For rules of civil procedure, district court, see Appendix 8.

**544.01** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.02** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.03** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.04** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

#### **544.043 DEFAMATION BY TELEVISION AND RADIO; DEFENSE.**

The owner, licensee or operator of a visual or sound radio broadcasting station or network of stations, or any agent or employee of any such owner, licensee, or operator, is not liable for damages for any defamatory statement published or uttered in or as a part of a visual or sound radio broadcast, by any one other than such owner, licensee, or operator, or agent or employee thereof, if such owner, licensee, operator, or such agent or employee, shows that he has exercised due care to prevent the publication or utterance of the statement in that broadcast. Provided, however, the exercise of due care shall be construed to include a bona fide compliance with any federal law or the regulation of any federal regulatory agency.

The provisions of this section shall not affect any action or proceeding now pending or which shall be commenced within six months after the passage thereof, in any of the courts of the state.

**History:** 1951 c 532 s 1; 1953 c 680 s 1,2; 1957 c 739 s 1

**544.05** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.06** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.07** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.08** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.09** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.10** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.11** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.12** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.13** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.14** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

#### **544.15 SUBSCRIPTION AND VERIFICATION.**

Every pleading may be verified in the manner following:

(1) By the affidavit of the party, or of one or more of the parties pleading together, that the affiant knows the contents of the pleading, that the averments thereof are true of his own knowledge, save as to such as are therein stated on information and belief, and that as to those he believes them to be true;

(2) If the party be a corporation, the affidavit may be made by any officer thereof having knowledge of the facts sworn to; if the state, or any officer thereof acting in its behalf, by the attorney general;

(3) If no party or officer acquainted with the facts and capable of making such affidavit be within the county where the attorney resides, the pleading may

be verified by the attorney or agent of the party, stating the fact of such absence and that the pleading is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

**History:** *RL s 4142; 1974 c 394 s 8 (9265)*

**544.16** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.17** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.18** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.19** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.20** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.21 INCORPORATION, PLEADING AND PROOF.**

In actions by or against a corporation, domestic or foreign, it shall be a sufficient averment of its incorporation to allege, in substance, that the party is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the designated state, country, or place. Unless the adverse party shall specifically aver that the plaintiff or defendant is not a corporation, no proof thereof shall be required at the trial.

**History:** *RL s 4148 (9271)*

**544.22 PARTNERSHIPS; PROOF AS TO MEMBERS.**

When two or more persons sue or defend as copartners they may give in evidence any contract admissible under the pleadings. Unless the partnership is specifically denied by the adverse party, no proof shall be required that they are the same persons who composed such copartnership when the contract was made or at any subsequent time.

**History:** *RL s 4149 (9272)*

**544.23** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.24** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.25** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.26** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.27** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.28** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.29** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.30** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.31** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.32** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.33** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.34** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.35** [ Repealed, 1974 c 394 s 12 ]

**544.36 AD DAMNUM; LIMITATION.**

In a pleading in a civil action which sets forth an unliquidated claim for relief, whether an original claim, cross-claim, or third-party claim, if a recovery of money is demanded in an amount less than \$50,000, the amount shall be stated. If a recovery of money in an amount greater than \$50,000 is demanded, the pleading shall state merely that recovery of reasonable damages in an amount greater than \$50,000 is sought.

This section may be superseded by an amendment to the rules of civil procedure adopted after July 31, 1978.

**History:** *1978 c 738 s 3*

**544.41 PRODUCT LIABILITY; LIMIT ON LIABILITY OF NON-MANUFACTURERS.**

Subdivision 1. In any product liability action based in whole or in part on strict liability in tort commenced or maintained against a defendant other than the manufacturer, that party shall upon answering or otherwise pleading file an affidavit certifying the correct identity of the manufacturer of the product allegedly causing injury, death or damage. The commencement of a product liability action based in whole or part on strict liability in tort against a certifying defendant shall toll the applicable statute of limitation relative to the defendant for purposes of asserting a strict liability in tort cause of action.

Subd. 2. Once the plaintiff has filed a complaint against a manufacturer and the manufacturer has or is required to have answered or otherwise pleaded, the court shall order the dismissal of a strict liability in tort claim against the certifying defendant, provided the certifying defendant is not within the categories set forth in subdivision 3. Due diligence shall be exercised by the certifying defendant in providing the plaintiff with the correct identity of the manufacturer and due diligence shall be exercised by the plaintiff in filing a law suit and obtaining jurisdiction over the manufacturer.

The plaintiff may at any time subsequent to dismissal move to vacate the order of dismissal and reinstate the certifying defendant, provided plaintiff can show one of the following:

(a) That the applicable statute of limitation bars the assertion of a strict liability in tort cause of action against the manufacturer of the product allegedly causing the injury, death or damage;

(b) That the identity of the manufacturer given to the plaintiff by the certifying defendant was incorrect. Once the correct identity of the manufacturer has been given by the certifying defendant the court shall again dismiss the certifying defendant;

(c) That the manufacturer no longer exists, cannot be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state, or, despite due diligence, the manufacturer is not amenable to service of process;

(d) That the manufacturer is unable to satisfy any judgment as determined by the court; or

(e) That the court determines that the manufacturer would be unable to satisfy a reasonable settlement or other agreement with plaintiff.

Subd. 3. A court shall not enter a dismissal order relative to any certifying defendant even though full compliance with subdivision 1 has been made where the plaintiff can show one of the following:

(a) That the defendant has exercised some significant control over the design or manufacture of the product, or has provided instructions or warnings to the manufacturer relative to the alleged defect in the product which caused the injury, death or damage;

(b) That the defendant had actual knowledge of the defect in the product which caused the injury, death or damage; or

(c) That the defendant created the defect in the product which caused the injury, death or damage.

Subd. 4. Nothing contained in subdivisions 1 to 3 shall be construed to create a cause of action in strict liability in tort or based on other legal theory, or to affect the right of any person to seek and obtain indemnity or contribution.

**History:** 1980 c 614 s 156