

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

MINNESOTA STATUTES

2004

Embracing laws of a general and
permanent nature and certain other laws in force
or to be in force after the 2004 regular session

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MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME 1

	Page
Revisor's Certificate	iv
Table of Contents	v
Preface	
I The Office of Revisor of Statutes	ix
II History of the Publications of Minnesota Statutory Law	x
III Changes in this Edition	xxv
IV User's Guide	xxvi
V Acknowledgments	xxx
Historical Documents	
Northwest Ordinance of 1787	xxxiii
Organic Act of Minnesota	xxxvii
Act Authorizing a State Government	xliii
Act of Admission into the Union	xliv
Minnesota Revised Statutes Enactment	xlvii
Constitution of the United States	li
Constitution of the State of Minnesota	lxvii
University Charter	lxxxv
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes	lxxxix
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 1 to 44	

VOLUME 2

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 44A to 83

VOLUME 3

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 83A to 118A

VOLUME 4

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 119 to 159

VOLUME 5

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 160 to 217

VOLUME 6

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 218 to 269

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

iv

VOLUME 7

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 270 to 323A

VOLUME 8

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 324 to 364

VOLUME 9

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 365 to 472B

VOLUME 10

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 473 to 583

VOLUME 11

Table of Contents
Table of Chapters of Minnesota Statutes
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapters 585 to 648
Guide to Finding Tables
Table I—Local Special Acts
Table II—Allocation of Acts
Table III—Organization and Structure of State Government
Table IV—Internal Cross-reference Table
Table V—Statutory Authority for Administrative Rules

VOLUMES 12 AND 13

Table of Contents
User's Guide to the Index
Index

VOLUME 14

Preface
Criminal Procedure
Sentencing Guidelines
Civil Procedure
Evidence
Miscellaneous
Record Access
General Rules of Practice
District Court Special Rules
Juvenile Court
Appellate Procedure
Professional Rules

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

VOLUME 1

JURISDICTION, CIVIL DIVISIONS

- Chap.**
1 Sovereignty, jurisdiction, emergency operation, general policies
2 Territorial divisions

LEGISLATURE

- 3 Legislature
3A Legislators' retirement
3C Revisor of Statutes

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

- 4 Governor
4A Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning
5 Secretary of State
5A International student exchange organizations
6 State Auditor
8 Attorney General
9 Executive Council

GOVERNMENT MISCELLANY

- 10 Multiple branches or offices; observances
10A Campaign finance and public disclosure
11A Investment of state and pension assets
12 Emergency management

DATA PRACTICES

- 13 Government data practices
13A Release of information by financial institutions
13B Matching programs; computerized comparison of data
13C Access to consumer reports

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES

- 13D Open Meeting Law

STATE AGENCIES

- 14 Administrative procedure
15 State agencies in general
15A Public officers and employees; compensation and allowances

CAPITOL AREA

- 15B Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

viii

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- 16A Department of Finance
- 16B Department of Administration
- 16C State procurement
- 16D State debt collection
- 16E Office of Technology

AGRICULTURE

- 17 Department of Agriculture
- 17A Livestock market licensing
- 17B Grain inspection
- 18 Pest control
- 18B Pesticide control
- 18C Fertilizer, Soil Amendment, and Plant Amendment Law
- 18D Agricultural chemical liability
- 18E Agricultural Chemical Response and Reimbursement Law
- 18F Genetically engineered organisms
- 18G Plant protection and export certification
- 18H Nursery law
- 18J Inspection and enforcement
- 19 Apiaries
- 21 Seeds
- 25 Commercial feed
- 27 Wholesale produce dealers
- 28 Cold storage
- 28A Licensing food handlers
- 29 Poultry, eggs
- 30 Potatoes, wild rice, fruit
- 31 Food
- 31A Meat and poultry inspection
- 31B Packers and stockyards
- 32 Dairy products
- 34 Nonalcoholic beverages
- 35 Animal health
- 37 State Agricultural Society; State Fair
- 38 County agricultural societies, fairs, extension service
- 40A Agricultural land preservation program
- 41 Family farm security program
- 41A Agricultural resource loan and ethanol development programs
- 41B Rural Finance Authority
- 41C Agricultural development
- 41D Minnesota Agriculture Education Leadership Council

STATE EMPLOYMENT

- 43A Department of Employee Relations

CITY MERIT SYSTEMS

- 44 Municipal civil service

VOLUME 2

COMMERCE

- 45 Department of Commerce; general powers

BANKING

- 46 General banking powers
- 47 Financial corporations
- 48 Banks
- 48A Trust companies
- 49 Liquidation, reorganization, consolidation
- 50 Savings banks
- 51A Savings associations
- 52 Credit unions
- 53 Industrial loan and thrift companies
- 53A Currency exchanges
- 53B Minnesota Money Transmitters Act
- 54 Investment and loan companies
- 55 Safe deposit companies
- 56 Regulated loans
- 58 Mortgage originator and service licensing

INSURANCE

- 59A Insurance premium finance companies
- 60A General insurance powers
- 60B Insurers rehabilitation and liquidation
- 60C Insurance guaranty association
- 60D Insurance holding company systems
- 60E Risk retention groups
- 60F Joint self-insurance plans
- 60G Administrative supervision
- 60H Managing general agents
- 60J Business transacted with producer controlled insurer
- 60K Insurance producers
- 60L Investments of insurers
- 61A Life insurance
- 61B Life and health guaranty association
- 62A Accident and health insurance
- 62B Credit insurance
- 62C Nonprofit health service plan corporations
- 62D Health maintenance organizations
- 62E Comprehensive health insurance
- 62F Medical practice insurance
- 62H Certain employer health coverage arrangements
- 62I Joint underwriting association
- 62J Health care cost containment
- 62L Small employer insurance reform
- 62M Utilization review of health care
- 62N Minnesota Community Integrated Service Network Act
- 62Q Requirements for health plan companies

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

x

- 62R Health care cooperatives
- 62S Qualified long-term care insurance policies
- 62T Community purchasing arrangements
- 64B Fraternal benefit societies
- 65A Fire and related insurance
- 65B Automobile insurance
- 66A Mutual companies
- 67A Township mutual companies
- 68A Title insurance companies
- 69 Fire and police department aid; relief associations
- 70A Insurance rate regulation
- 71A Reciprocals or interinsurance contract exchange
- 72A Regulation of trade practices
- 72B Insurance adjusters
- 72C Readability of insurance policies
- 79 Workers' compensation insurance
- 79A Workers' compensation self-insurance

SECURITIES, COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS

- 80A Regulation of securities
- 80B Corporate takeovers
- 80C Franchises
- 80D Continuing care facilities
- 80E Motor vehicle sale and distribution
- 80F Motor vehicle fuel franchises
- 81A Uniform Athlete Agents Act
- 82 Real estate brokers and salespersons
- 82A Membership camping practices
- 82B Real estate appraisers
- 83 Subdivided lands

VOLUME 3

NATURAL RESOURCES

- 83A State geographic features
- 84 Department of Natural Resources

CONSERVATION

- 84A Lands dedicated for conservation
- 84B Voyageurs National Park
- 84C Conservation easements
- 84D Invasive species

RECREATION

- 85 Division of Parks and Recreation
- 85A Minnesota Zoo
- 85B Lake Superior Center Authority
- 86A Outdoor recreation system
- 86B Water safety, watercraft, and watercraft titling

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

xi

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

FORESTRY

- 88 Division of Forestry
- 89 State forests; tree planting; forest roads
- 89A Sustainable forest resources
- 90 Timber lands

LANDS AND MINERALS

- 92 State lands; sales, investment of proceeds
- 93 Mineral lands
- 94 Lands, state forests

GAME AND FISH

- 97A Game and fish
- 97B Hunting
- 97C Fishing

WATER

- 103A Water policy and information
- 103B Water planning and project implementation
- 103C Soil and water conservation districts
- 103D Watershed districts
- 103E Drainage
- 103F Protection of water resources
- 103G Waters of the state
- 103H Groundwater protection
- 103I Wells, borings, and underground uses
- 110A Rural water user districts

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- 114C Environmental regulatory innovations
- 115 Water pollution control; sanitary districts
- 115A Waste management
- 115B Environmental response and liability
- 115C Petroleum tank release cleanup
- 115D Toxic pollution prevention
- 115E Oil and hazardous substance discharge preparedness
- 116 Pollution Control Agency
- 116A Public water and sewer systems
- 116B Environmental rights
- 116C Environmental Quality Board
- 116D Environmental policy
- 116F Recycling of solid waste
- 116G Critical areas
- 116I Pipelines

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- 116J Department of Employment and Economic Development
- 116L Workforce development
- 116M Urban Initiative Board
- 116O Minnesota Technology, Inc.

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

xii

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUNDS

- 116P Environment and natural resources trust fund
- 116Q Great Lakes protection fund

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 116R Aircraft facilities; state financing
- 116S Minnesota Business Finance, Inc.
- 116T Northern Technology Initiative, Inc.
- 116U Explore Minnesota Tourism

EMINENT DOMAIN; LOCAL DEPOSITORIES AND INVESTMENTS

- 117 Eminent domain
- 118A Deposit and investment of local public funds

VOLUME 4

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- 119A Department of Education; programs
- 119B Child care programs

EDUCATION CODE: PREKINDERGARTEN - GRADE 12

- 120A Education Code; compulsory attendance
- 120B Curriculum and assessment
- 121A Student rights, responsibilities, and behavior
- 122A Teachers and other educators
- 123A School districts; forms for organizing
- 123B School district powers and duties
- 124D Education programs
- 125A Special education; early childhood intervention system; academies for the deaf and blind; funding
- 125B Education and technology
- 126C Education funding
- 127A State administration of education
- 128 Cook County school district
- 128B Pine Point School
- 128C High School League
- 128D Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis
- 129 Chippewa forest land exchanges; border agreements

ARTS

- 129C Perpich Center for Arts Education
- 129D Arts assistance

LIBRARIES

- 134 Public libraries; multicounty, multitype libraries
- 134A County law libraries

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

- 135A Public postsecondary education
- 136A Higher Education Services Office; facilities authority
- 136D Intermediate school districts
- 136F Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- 136G Minnesota college savings plan
- 137 University of Minnesota

STATE HISTORY

- 138 Historical societies; sites; archives; archaeology; folklife
- 138A Labor Interpretive Center

PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS

- 141 Private career schools

HEALTH

- 144 Department of Health
- 144A Nursing homes and home care
- 144D Housing with services establishment
- 144E Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board
- 144F Emergency medical services special taxing districts
- 145 Public health provisions
- 145A Local public health boards
- 145B Living will
- 145C Health care directives
- 146 Healing arts, registration
- 146A Complementary and alternative health care practices
- 147 Board of Medical Practice
- 147A Physician assistants, registration
- 147B Acupuncture practitioners
- 147C Respiratory care practitioners
- 147D Traditional midwives
- 148 Public health occupations
- 148A Action for sexual exploitation; psychotherapists
- 148B Social work, marriage and family therapy, mental health
- 148C Alcohol and drug counselors, licensing
- 149A Mortuary science; disposition of dead bodies
- 150A Dentistry
- 151 Pharmacy
- 152 Drugs, controlled substances
- 153 Podiatry
- 153A Hearing instrument dispensing
- 154 Barbers
- 155A Cosmetology
- 156 Veterinarians
- 157 Food, beverage, and lodging establishments
- 158 University of Minnesota hospitals

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

xiv

VOLUME 5

TRANSPORTATION

- 160 Roads, general provisions
- 161 Trunk highways
- 162 State-aid road systems
- 163 County highways
- 164 Town roads
- 165 Bridges
- 167 Trunk highway bonds
- 168 Vehicle registration, taxation, sale
- 168A Vehicle titles
- 168B Abandoned motor vehicles
- 168C Bicycle registration
- 168D Motor carrier fuel tax
- 169 Traffic regulations
- 169A Driving while impaired
- 170 Traffic accident provisions
- 171 Drivers' licenses and training schools
- 173 Signs and billboards along highways
- 174 Department of Transportation

LABOR, INDUSTRY

- 175 Department of Labor and Industry
- 175A Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals
- 176 Workers' compensation
- 177 Labor standards and wages
- 178 Apprentice training
- 179 Labor relations
- 179A Public employment labor relations
- 180 Mine inspectors
- 181 Employment
- 181A Child labor
- 182 Occupational safety and health
- 182A Industrial hygiene and safety profession
- 183 Boilers
- 184 Employment agencies
- 184B Regulation of amusement rides
- 185 Labor disputes; injunctions, restraining orders

MILITARY AFFAIRS

- 190 Military forces
- 191 Unorganized militia
- 192 National Guard
- 192A Uniform Code of Military Justice
- 193 Armories

VETERANS

- 196 Department of Veterans Affairs
- 197 Veterans; rewards, privileges
- 198 Veterans homes

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

xv

ELECTIONS

- 200 General provisions; definitions
- 201 Registration and eligibility of voters
- 202A Caucuses and conventions
- 203B Absentee voting
- 204B Elections; general provisions
- 204C Election day activities
- 204D Particular elections
- 205 Municipal elections
- 205A School district elections
- 206 Voting systems
- 208 Presidential electors
- 209 Election contests
- 211A Campaign financial reports
- 211B Fair campaign practices
- 211C Recall of elected state officials

EXAMINING AND LICENSING BOARDS

- 214 Examining and licensing boards

UTILITIES

- 216 Public Utilities Commission proceedings
- 216A Public utilities regulators
- 216B Public utilities
- 216C Energy planning and conservation
- 216D Excavation notice system

VOLUME 6

CARRIERS

- 218 Common carriers, rail transportation
- 219 Railroad safety and employment
- 221 Motor carriers
- 222 Railroad commerce and property

FARM PRODUCTS, COMMERCIAL PRACTICES

- 223 Grain buyers
- 227 Crimes involving warehouse receipts
- 228 Crimes involving bills of lading
- 230 Public warehouses, elevators, coal sheds; sites
- 231 Warehouses
- 232 Grain Storage Act
- 233 Public terminal warehouses
- 234 Storage of grain on farms
- 235 Grain, general provisions
- 236 Grain banks

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

xvi

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- 237 Telephone, telegraph, telecommunications
- 238 Cable communications

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

- 239 Weights, measures

SPORTS

- 240 Pari-mutuel horse racing
- 240A Amateur Sports Commission

CORRECTIONS

- 241 Department of Corrections
- 242 Corrections; youth
- 243 Corrections; adults
- 244 Criminal sentences, conditions, duration, appeals

PUBLIC WELFARE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 245 Department of Human Services
- 245A Human services licensing
- 245B Standards governing services to mentally retarded
- 245C Human services background studies
- 246 Public institutions
- 246B Minnesota sex offender program
- 248 Blind; education, rehabilitation
- 250 Gillette Children's Hospital Board
- 251 Care of tuberculous persons
- 252 Services for person with mental retardation
- 252A Mental retardation protection
- 253 Hospitals for persons with mental illness
- 253B Civil commitment
- 253C Residential treatment programs: reporting requirements
- 254 Commitment of certain drug users
- 254A Treatment for alcohol and drug abuse
- 254B Chemical dependency treatment
- 256 Human services
- 256B Medical assistance for needy persons
- 256C Handicapped persons
- 256D General assistance
- 256E Community social services
- 256F Minnesota Family Preservation Act
- 256G Unitary residence and financial responsibility
- 256I Group residential housing
- 256J Minnesota family investment program
- 256K Work first program pilot projects
- 256L MinnesotaCare
- 256M Community Service Act
- 257 Children; custody, legitimacy
- 257B Standby custodian; designation; guardian

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

xvii

- 257C De facto custodian and interested third party
- 259 Change of name, adoption
- 260 Juveniles
- 260A Truancy
- 260B Delinquency
- 260C Child protection
- 261 County relief of poor, general provisions

ECONOMIC SECURITY

- 268 Unemployment insurance
- 268A Vocational rehabilitation

VOLUME 7

TAXATION, SUPERVISION, DATA PRACTICES

- 270 Department of Revenue
- 270A Revenue Recapture Act
- 270B Tax data, classification and disclosure
- 271 Tax court

PROPERTY TAXES

- 272 Taxation, general provisions
- 273 Taxes; listing, assessment
- 274 Assessments; review, correction, equalization
- 275 Taxes; levy, extension
- 276 Collection, accounting, distribution
- 276A Tax relief area revenue distribution
- 277 Delinquent personal property taxes
- 278 Real or personal property tax; objection, defense
- 279 Delinquent real estate taxes
- 280 Real estate tax judgment sales
- 281 Real estate tax sales, redemption
- 282 Tax-forfeited land sales
- 283 Refund to purchasers
- 284 Actions involving tax titles
- 287 Mortgage registry tax; deed tax

VARIOUS STATE TAXES, ADMINISTRATION

- 289A Tax administration and compliance
- 290 Income and franchise taxes
- 290A Property tax refund
- 290B Senior citizens' property tax deferral
- 290C Sustainable forest resource management incentive program
- 291 Estate tax
- 293 Educational institutions; exempt property, income

GROSS EARNINGS TAXES

- 295 Companies subject to gross earnings taxes

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

xviii

EXCISE AND SALES TAXES

- 296A Tax on petroleum and other fuels
- 297A General sales and use taxes
- 297B Sales tax on motor vehicles
- 297D Marijuana and controlled substance taxation
- 297E Gambling taxes
- 297F Cigarettes and tobacco taxes
- 297G Liquor taxation
- 297H Solid waste management taxes
- 297I Insurance taxes
- 298 Minerals taxes

PUBLIC SAFETY

- 299A Department of Public Safety
- 299C Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- 299D State Patrol
- 299E Capitol complex security
- 299F Fire marshal
- 299G Protection of buildings and occupants
- 299J Pipeline safety
- 299K Hazardous chemical emergency; planning and response
- 299L Gambling enforcement
- 299M Fire protection industry licensing

CORPORATIONS

- 300 General provisions
- 301 Development corporations
- 302 Stock transfers
- 302A Business corporations
- 303 Foreign corporations
- 306 Public cemeteries
- 307 Private cemeteries
- 308A Cooperatives
- 308B Cooperative Associations Act
- 309 Social and charitable organizations
- 315 Religious associations
- 316 Corporations; actions respecting
- 317A Nonprofit corporations
- 318 Declaration of trust
- 319B Professional firms

PARTNERSHIPS

- 321 Uniform Limited Partnership Act 2001
- 322 1919 Uniform Limited Partnership Act
- 322A 1976 Uniform Limited Partnership Act
- 322B Limited liability companies
- 323A Uniform Partnership Act of 1994

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

xix

VOLUME 8

TRADE REGULATIONS, CONSUMER PROTECTION

- 324 Art; fine prints
- 325A Invention services
- 325B Beer brewers and wholesalers
- 325C Uniform Trade Secrets Act
- 325D Restraint of trade
- 325E Regulation of trade practices
- 325F Consumer protection; products and sales
- 325G Consumer protection; solicitation of sales
- 325H Regulation of tanning facilities
- 325I Disclosure of videotape rental, sale
- 325J Pawnbroker regulation
- 325K Electronic Authentication Act
- 325L Uniform Electronic Transactions Act
- 325M Internet privacy
- 325N Mortgage foreclosures
- 326 Employments licensed by state
- 326A Accountants
- 327 Hotels, motels, resorts, and manufactured homes
- 327A Housing; statutory warranties
- 327B Manufactured home sales
- 327C Manufactured home park lot rentals
- 329 Peddlers, transient merchants
- 330 Auctioneers
- 331A Qualified newspapers
- 332 Collection, credit services, debt prorating
- 333 Assumed names, insignia, and marks
- 334 Money, rates of interest
- 336 Uniform Commercial Code
- 336A Farm product liens and financing statements
- 337 Building and construction contracts
- 338 Employment contracts

POLICE REGULATIONS

- 340A Liquor
- 343 Prevention of cruelty to animals
- 344 Partition fences
- 345 Unclaimed property
- 346 Stray animals; companion animals
- 347 Dogs and cats
- 348 Bounties, rewards

GAMING

- 349 Lawful gambling and gambling devices
- 349A State Lottery

VACANCY IN PUBLIC OFFICE

- 351 Resignations, vacancies, removals

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

xx

RETIREMENT

- 352 Minnesota State Retirement System
- 352B State troopers, retirement
- 352C Elective state officers retirement
- 352D State unclassified employees retirement program
- 352F University hospital employee retirement
- 353 Public Employees Retirement Association
- 353A Local relief association consolidation
- 353B Local relief association benefit plans
- 353D Public employees defined contribution plan
- 353E Local government correctional service retirement plan
- 353F Privatized public hospital, PERA pension benefits
- 354 Teachers Retirement Act
- 354A Teachers retirement, certain cities
- 354B Individual retirement account plan
- 354C Higher education supplemental retirement plan
- 354D Retirement plans, Arts Board and Humanities Commission
- 355 Social Security coverage
- 356 Retirement systems, generally
- 356A Public pension fiduciary responsibility
- 356B Public pension administration

PUBLIC SERVICES AND PRIVILEGES

- 357 Fees
- 358 Seals, oaths, acknowledgments
- 359 Notaries public

AERONAUTICS

- 360 Airports and aeronautics

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- 362A Rural Development Finance Authority

HUMAN RIGHTS

- 363A Minnesota Human Rights Act

CRIMINALS; REHABILITATION

- 364 Criminal offenders, rehabilitation

VOLUME 9

TOWNS

- 365 Town general law
- 365A Subordinate service districts
- 366 Town board; Board of Audit
- 367 Town officers
- 368 Towns; special provisions

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

xxi

COUNTIES, COUNTY OFFICERS, REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

- 370 Counties; change of boundaries
- 371 Consolidation of counties
- 372 Changing county seats
- 373 Counties; powers, duties, privileges
- 374 Courthouse and city hall
- 375 County boards
- 375A Optional forms of county government
- 375B County subordinate service districts
- 376 County hospitals and nursing homes
- 379 Organization, formation, and partition of towns
- 381 Surveys, section corners, township landmarks
- 382 County officers
- 383A Ramsey County
- 383B Hennepin County
- 383C St. Louis County
- 383D Dakota County
- 384 County auditor
- 385 County treasurer
- 386 County recorder; abstracter
- 387 Sheriff
- 388 County attorney
- 389 County surveyor
- 390 Coroner; medical examiner
- 393 Local social services agency
- 394 Planning, development, zoning
- 395 Agricultural assistance, development
- 398 Park districts
- 398A Regional railroad authorities
- 400 Solid waste management
- 401 Community corrections
- 402 Human services
- 403 911 emergency and public safety communications

CITIES, ORGANIZATION

- 410 Classification; charters
- 412 Statutory cities
- 413 Change of city name
- 414 Municipal boundary adjustments

CITIES, GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- 415 Various city powers
- 416 Public buildings

MUNICIPAL PERSONNEL, RETIREMENT

- 419 Police civil service commissions
- 420 Firefighters' civil service commissions
- 422A Retirement allowances, Minneapolis
- 423 Retirement; police officer, firefighter
- 423A Police and salaried Firefighters' Relief Association

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

xxii

- 423B Minneapolis police pensions
- 423C Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association
- 424A Volunteer firefighters' retirement
- 424B Volunteer firefighters, dissolutions, and consolidations

MUNICIPAL FINANCE, TAXATION, SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

- 426 Finance, taxation
- 427 Depositories, city and statutory city funds
- 428A Special service districts; housing improvement areas
- 429 Local improvements, special assessments
- 430 Land for streets and parks; Elwell Law
- 435 Public improvements, other proceedings

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY

- 436 Law enforcement
- 437 Police regulations
- 438 Fire prevention

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC WORKS

- 440 Acquisition of property for streets
- 441 Bridges
- 443 Rubbish removal
- 444 Waterworks; storm, sanitary sewer systems.
- 446 Public works, other provisions
- 446A Public facilities authority

MUNICIPAL WELFARE, RECREATION

- 447 Hospitals, welfare activities
- 448 Parks, parkways and playgrounds
- 449 Entertainment tax
- 450 Art or recreational facility

LOCAL PUBLIC UTILITIES, ENTERPRISES

- 451 Utility franchises, permits, rights
- 452 Municipal ownership of utilities
- 453 Municipal electric power
- 453A Municipal gas distribution
- 455 Electric light and power plants
- 456 Water from first class or charter cities
- 457A Port development assistance
- 458 Water transportation facilities
- 458A Local transit commissions
- 458D Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
- 459 Municipal activities

LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICE POWERS

- 461 Cigarette sales, licensing
- 462 Housing, redevelopment, planning, zoning
- 462A Housing Finance Agency

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

xxiii

- 462C Municipal housing programs
- 463 Buildings; easements, regulations, hazards

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 465 Rights, powers and duties; municipalities
- 466 Tort liability, political subdivisions

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 466A Community resources program
- 469 Economic development

MUNICIPALITIES

- 471 Municipal rights, powers, duties
- 471A Water or wastewater treatment; privatization

VOLUME 10

METROPOLITAN AREA

- 473 Metropolitan government
- 473F Metropolitan revenue distribution
- 473H Metropolitan agricultural preserves
- 473I Baseball park

PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS, BORROWING

- 474A Bond allocations
- 475 Debt of defined municipalities
- 475A Municipal debt service aid
- 477A Local government aid

JUDICIARY

- 480 Supreme Court
- 480A Court of Appeals
- 480B Judicial merit selection
- 481 Attorneys-at-law
- 484 District courts
- 485 District court administrators
- 486 Court reporters
- 487 County courts
- 488A Municipal courts; Hennepin and Ramsey Counties
- 489 Court commissioners
- 490 Judges retirement, judicial standards
- 491A Conciliation court
- 494 Community dispute resolution program

PROPERTY INTERESTS AND LIENS

- 500 Estates in real property
- 501A Statutory rule against perpetuities
- 501B Trusts
- 502 Powers of appointment

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

xxiv

- 504B Landlord and tenant
- 505 Plats; coordinates; surveys
- 507 Recording and filing conveyances
- 508 Registration, Torrens
- 508A Registration without court proceedings
- 510 Homestead exemptions
- 513 Frauds
- 514 Liens; labor, material
- 515 Condominiums
- 515A Uniform Condominium Act
- 515B Minnesota Common Interest Ownership Act

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

- 517 Marriage
- 518 Marriage dissolution
- 518B Domestic abuse
- 518C Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
- 518D Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
- 519 Married persons; rights, privileges

FIDUCIARIES; POWERS OF ATTORNEY

- 520 Uniform Fiduciaries Act
- 523 Powers of attorney

ESTATES OF DECEDENTS; GUARDIANSHIPS

- 524 Uniform Probate Code
- 525 Probate proceedings
- 527 Uniform Transfers to Minors Act
- 529 Uniform Custodial Trust Act

JUDICIAL PROCEDURE, DISTRICT COURT

- 540 Parties to actions
- 541 Limitation of time, commencing actions
- 542 Venue of actions
- 543 Summons, jurisdiction; certain cases
- 544 Pleadings
- 546 Trials
- 548 Judgments
- 549 Costs, disbursements
- 550 Executions, redemption, exemptions
- 551 Attorney's summary executions
- 552 Support judgment debts summary execution

DECLARATORY, CORRECTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

- 553 Abolition of various civil actions
- 554 Free speech; participation in government
- 555 Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act
- 556 Usurpation, prevention; charters, letters patent; vacation
- 557 Actions relating to real property

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

xxv

- 558 Partition of real estate
- 559 Adverse claims to real estate
- 560 Mineral land; suits by part owners to mine
- 561 Nuisance, trespass, waste; damages
- 562 Public agencies, civil actions, surety bonds required
- 563 Proceedings in forma pauperis

REMEDIES FOR POSSESSION OF PROPERTY

- 565 Claim and delivery

COMPENSATORY AND COLLECTION REMEDIES

- 570 Attachment
- 571 Garnishment
- 572 Arbitration and award
- 572A Planning dispute resolution; mediation; arbitration
- 573 Personal representatives, heirs; actions
- 574 Bonds, fines, forfeitures
- 575 Proceedings supplementary to execution
- 576 Receivers, property of absentees
- 577 Assignments for benefit of creditors
- 579 Boats, vessels; actions against
- 580 Mortgages; foreclosure by advertisement
- 581 Mortgages; foreclosure by action
- 582 Mortgages; foreclosure, general provisions
- 583 Mortgage and contract for deed moratoriums

VOLUME 11

REMEDIES CONTROLLING PERSONAL ACTION

- 586 Mandamus
- 588 Contempts
- 589 Habeas corpus
- 590 Postconviction remedy

JURIES

- 593 Juries, jurors

JUDICIAL PROOF

- 595 Witnesses
- 599 Judicial notice, proof; judicial records, decisions
- 600 Documents as evidence
- 601 Lost instruments
- 602 Competent evidence
- 604 Civil liability
- 604A Civil liability limitations
- 604B Immunity for year 2000 activities

CERTIORARI

- 606 Writ of certiorari

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

TABLE OF CHAPTERS

xxvi

CRIMES, CRIMINALS

- 609 Criminal Code
- 609A Expungement
- 611 Rights of accused
- 611A Crime victims: rights, programs, agencies
- 617 Abortion; obscenity; houses of ill-fame
- 624 Crimes, other provisions

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

- 625 Prevention of crime
- 626 Training; investigation, apprehension; reports
- 626A Privacy of communications
- 627 Jurisdiction
- 628 Accusation
- 629 Extradition, detainers, arrest, bail
- 630 Pretrial procedure
- 631 Trial, judgment, sentence
- 632 Appeals, writs of error
- 634 Special rules, evidence; privileges, witnesses

REHABILITATION

- 636 Juvenile offenders
- 638 Board of Pardons

INCARCERATION

- 641 County jails
- 642 Lockups
- 643 Work farms

STATUTES, CONSTRUCTION

- 645 Interpretation of statutes and rules

Trade Regulations, Consumer Protection

CHAPTER 324

ART; FINE PRINTS

324.01	Definitions.	324.06	Definitions.
324.02	Delivery to and acceptance by art dealer.	324.07	Exceptions.
324.03	Results of consignment; artist-art dealer relationships.	324.08	Acts prohibited; disclosure statements.
324.04	Trust property.	324.09	Informational detail.
324.05	Application.	324.10	Liability.

324.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of sections 324.01 to 324.05, the following terms have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Artist.** "Artist" means the creator of a work of art or, if that person is deceased, the heirs or personal representatives of the creator of a work of art.

Subd. 3. **Art.** "Art" means a painting, sculpture, drawing, work of graphic art, photograph, weaving, or work of craft art.

Subd. 4. **Art dealer.** "Art dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling works of art, other than a person exclusively engaged in the business of selling goods at public auction.

Subd. 5. **Person.** "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other group, however organized.

Subd. 6. **Consignment.** "Consignment" means the delivery of possession of an art work by an artist to an art dealer by which no title to, estate in, or right to possession of, art, superior to that of the artist vests in the art dealer, notwithstanding the art dealer's power or authority to transfer and convey to a third person all of the right, title, and interest of the artist in and to that work of art.

History: 1983 c 165 s 1; 1986 c 444

324.02 DELIVERY TO AND ACCEPTANCE BY ART DEALER.

Notwithstanding any custom, practice, or usage of the trade to the contrary, if an artist delivers or causes to be delivered a work of art of the artist's own creation to an art dealer in this state for the purpose of exhibition or sale, or both, on a commission, fee, or other basis of compensation, the delivery to and acceptance of the work of art by the art dealer constitutes a consignment, unless the delivery to the art dealer is pursuant to an outright sale for which the artist receives or has received full compensation for the work of fine art upon delivery.

History: 1983 c 165 s 2

324.03 RESULTS OF CONSIGNMENT; ARTIST-ART DEALER RELATIONSHIPS.

A consignment of a work of fine art results in all of the following:

(1) the art dealer, after delivery of the work of art, is an agent of the artist for the purpose of sale or exhibition of the consigned work of art within the state of Minnesota;

(2) the work of art is property held in trust by the consignee for the benefit of the consignor and is not subject to claim by a creditor of the consignee;

(3) the consignee is responsible for the loss of, or damage to, the work of art; and

(4) the proceeds from the sale of the work of art must be held in trust by the consignee for the benefit of the consignor. The proceeds must first be applied to pay

any balance due to the consignor, unless the consignor expressly agrees otherwise in writing.

History: 1983 c 165 s 3

324.04 TRUST PROPERTY.

A work of art received as a consignment remains trust property until the consignor has been paid in full, notwithstanding the subsequent purchase of it by the consignee directly or indirectly for the consignee's own account. If the work is thereafter resold to a bona fide purchaser before the consignor has been paid in full, the proceeds of the resale received by the consignee constitute funds held in trust for the benefit of the consignor to the extent necessary to pay any balance still due to the consignor. The trusteeship continues until the fiduciary obligation of the consignee with respect to this transaction is discharged in full.

History: 1983 c 165 s 4

324.05 APPLICATION.

Sections 324.01 to 324.05 do not apply to a written contract executed prior to August 1, 1983, unless either the parties agree by mutual consent that sections 324.01 to 324.05 apply, or the contract is extended or renewed after August 1, 1983.

The provisions of sections 324.01 to 324.05 prevail over any conflicting or inconsistent provisions of chapter 336 affecting the subject matter of these sections.

History: 1983 c 165 s 5

324.06 DEFINITIONS.

As used in sections 324.06 to 324.10:

(1) "artist" means the person who conceived or created the master image for, or which served as model for, the print;

(2) "catalog" means an advertising medium published by a single individual or firm which solicits consumers to order fine prints through the mail or by telephone. Magazines, circulars, and newspapers are not considered catalogs;

(3) "edition" means the number of fine prints made from the plate or negative during a single run;

(4) "fine print" or "print" means the product created by an artist by a process commonly used in graphic or photographic arts, including, but not limited to, engraving, etching, woodcutting, lithography, serigraphy, or photography;

(5) "impression" means the printed image on suitable material, whether paper or any other substance, made off the plate or negative by printing, stamping, casting, developing, or any other process commonly used in the graphic or photographic arts;

(6) "plate" includes any plate, stone, block, or other material created by the artist, used for the purpose of creating the print from which the impression or impressions were taken;

(7) "negative" includes any negative, photographic plate, slide, or other material created by the artist and used for the purpose of creating the print from which the impression or impressions were taken;

(8) "reproduction" means a copy of an original or a copy of a print made by a commercial mechanical process; and

(9) "signed fine print" means a fine print autographed by the artist, irrespective of whether it was signed or unsigned in the plate or negative.

History: 1984 c 450 s 1

324.07 EXCEPTIONS.

Sections 324.06 to 324.10 do not apply to:

(1) prints which are printed prior to the effective date of sections 324.06 to 324.10;
or

(2) prints which are not offered for sale by means of a catalog and which are not alleged to be numbered or limited editions and signed by the artist; or clearly and conspicuously described as reproductions; and

(3) prints which are sold or offered at a price less than \$250.

History: 1984 c 450 s 2

324.08 ACTS PROHIBITED; DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Advertising disclosures.** No catalog offering fine prints for sale in this state shall be knowingly published or distributed, or both, unless it clearly and conspicuously discloses the relevant informational detail as required by section 324.09 concerning each edition of the prints so offered or states that the relevant information is available on request.

Subd. 2. **Advertising disclaimer.** If the person offering fine prints by means of a catalog disclaims knowledge as to any relevant detail referred to in section 324.09, that person shall so state the information is unknown or not available. Describing the edition as an edition of "reproductions" eliminates the need to furnish further informational details unless the edition was allegedly published in a numbered, or limited edition, and signed by the artist, in which case all of the informational details are required to be furnished.

Subd. 3. **Sales disclosures.** No fine print may be knowingly sold in this state by any person unless a written invoice or receipt for the purchase price or a certificate furnished to the purchaser clearly and conspicuously discloses all of the relevant informational details required under section 324.09; or the seller states or clearly and conspicuously posts that the relevant information is available on request.

Subd. 4. **Sales disclaimer.** If the seller disclaims knowledge as to any relevant detail referred to in section 324.09, the seller shall so state the information is unknown or not available. Describing the print as a "reproduction" eliminates the need to furnish information details unless it was allegedly published in a numbered, or limited edition, and signed by the artist, in which case all of the informational details are required to be furnished.

History: 1984 c 450 s 3; 1986 c 444

324.09 INFORMATIONAL DETAIL.

The following informational detail is required under section 324.08:

- (1) the name of the artist and the year when the fine print was printed;
- (2) the authorized maximum number of artist's, publisher's, printer's, or other proofs, if any, outside of the regular edition and the total size of the edition;
- (3) whether the plate or negative has been destroyed, altered, or defaced, after the latest edition;
- (4) if there were any prior fine prints of the same impression, utilizing a different process, paper, media, or color, the total number of the fine prints and designation of the fine prints;
- (5) if there were any prior or later editions from the same plate or negative.

History: 1984 c 450 s 4

324.10 LIABILITY.

(a) Any person who sells a fine print and who fails to disclose the information required by section 324.09 is liable to the purchaser thereof in an amount equal to the purchase price of the fine print, including any sales tax paid.

(b) In addition to the liability imposed by paragraph (a), a person who sells a fine print and who willfully provides false information required by section 324.09 is liable to the purchaser in the amount of \$1,000 or in an amount equal to three times the purchase price of the fine print, whichever is greater.

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2004

(c) No action can be maintained to enforce any liability under this section unless the person who is injured by the failure to disclose returns the fine print in original condition to the person violating the provisions of paragraph (a) or (b) and the action is brought within one year after discovery of the violation upon which it is based and in no event more than three years after the fine print was sold.

History: 1984 c 450 s 5