

AMENDMENTS

TO ORCP 40

promulgated by

COUNCIL ON COURT PROCEDURES

1980 to 2024

RULE 40

DEPOSITIONS UPON WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A. Serving questions; notice. After commencement of the action, any party may take the testimony of any person, including a party, by deposition upon written questions. The attendance of witnesses may be compelled by the use of subpoena as provided in Rule 55. The deposition of a person confined in prison may be taken only as provided in Rule 39 B.

A party desiring to take a deposition upon written questions shall serve them upon every other party with a notice stating (1) the name and address of the person who is to answer them, if known, and if the name is not known, a general description sufficient to identify such person or the particular class or group to which the person belongs, and (2) the name or descriptive title and address of the officer before whom the deposition is to be taken. A deposition upon written questions may be taken of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or governmental agency in accordance with the provisions of Rule 39 C.(6).

Within 30 days after the notice and written questions are served, a party may serve cross questions upon all other parties. Within 10 days after being served with cross questions, a party may serve redirect questions upon all other parties. Within 10 days after being served with redirect questions, a party may

serve recross questions upon all other parties. The court may for cause shown enlarge or shorten the time.

B. Officer to take responses and prepare record. A copy of the notice and copies of all questions served shall be delivered by the party taking the deposition to the officer designated in the notice, who shall proceed promptly, in the manner provided by Rule 39 D., F., and G., to take the testimony of the witness in response to the questions and to prepare, certify, and file or mail the deposition, attaching thereto the copy of the notice and the questions received by the officer.

COMMENT

The commission procedure for taking a deposition on written questions provided in existing ORS 45.325 and 45.340 is unnecessarily cumbersome. The language used is based upon Federal Rule 31. Note, the deposition on written questions is not the same procedure as interrogatories. The deponent responds orally to the questions, giving only information directly within the knowledge of the deponent. The procedure may be used with any witness, not just a party.

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WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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A. Serving questions; notice. Upon stipulation of the parties or leave of court for good cause shown, and [After] after commencement of the action, any party may take the testimony of any person, including a party, by deposition upon written questions. The attendance of witnesses may be compelled by the use of subpoena as provided in Rule 55. The deposition of a person confined in prison may be taken only as provided in Rule 39 B.

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COMMENT

The amendment would require stipulation or leave of court before taking a deposition on written questions.