

Presented to the governor May 30, 1991

Signed by the governor June 3, 1991, 4:50 p.m.

CHAPTER 299—S.F.No. 520

An act relating to legal services; requesting the supreme court to study the feasibility of the delivery of legal services by specialized legal assistants; amending Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 481.02, subdivision 3.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 481.02, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **PERMITTED ACTIONS.** The provisions of this section shall not prohibit:

(1) any person from drawing, without charge, any document to which the person, an employer of the person, a firm of which the person is a member, or a corporation whose officer or employee the person is, is a party, except another's will or testamentary disposition or instrument of trust serving purposes similar to those of a will;

(2) a person from drawing a will for another in an emergency if the imminence of death leaves insufficient time to have it drawn and its execution supervised by a licensed attorney-at-law;

(3) any insurance company from causing to be defended, or from offering to cause to be defended through lawyers of its selection, the insureds in policies issued or to be issued by it, in accordance with the terms of the policies;

(4) a licensed attorney-at-law from acting for several common-carrier corporations or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to arrangement between the corporations;

(5) any bona fide labor organization from giving legal advice to its members in matters arising out of their employment;

(6) any person from conferring or cooperating with a licensed attorney-at-law of another in preparing any legal document, if the attorney is not, directly or indirectly, in the employ of the person or of any person, firm, or corporation represented by the person;

(7) any licensed attorney-at-law of Minnesota, who is an officer or employee of a corporation, from drawing, for or without compensation, any document to which the corporation is a party or in which it is interested personally or in a

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representative capacity, except wills or testamentary dispositions or instruments of trust serving purposes similar to those of a will, but any charge made for the legal work connected with preparing and drawing the document shall not exceed the amount paid to and received and retained by the attorney, and the attorney shall not, directly or indirectly, rebate the fee to or divide the fee with the corporation;

(8) any person or corporation from drawing, for or without a fee, farm or house leases, notes, mortgages, chattel mortgages, bills of sale, deeds, assignments, satisfactions, or any other conveyances except testamentary dispositions and instruments of trust;

(9) a licensed attorney-at-law of Minnesota from rendering to a corporation legal services to itself at the expense of one or more of its bona fide principal stockholders by whom the attorney is employed and by whom no compensation is, directly or indirectly, received for the services;

(10) any person or corporation engaged in the business of making collections from engaging or turning over to an attorney-at-law for the purpose of instituting and conducting suit or making proof of claim of a creditor in any case in which the attorney-at-law receives the entire compensation for the work;

(11) any regularly established farm journal or newspaper, devoted to general news, from publishing a department of legal questions and answers to them, made by a licensed attorney-at-law, if no answer is accompanied or at any time preceded or followed by any charge for it, any disclosure of any name of the maker of any answer, any recommendation of or reference to any one to furnish legal advice or services, or by any legal advice or service for the periodical or any one connected with it or suggested by it, directly or indirectly;

(12) any authorized management agent of an owner of rental property used for residential purposes, whether the management agent is a natural person, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, or any other business entity, from commencing, maintaining, conducting, or defending in its own behalf any action in any court in this state to recover or retain possession of the property, except that the provision of this clause does not authorize a person who is not a licensed attorney-at-law to conduct a jury trial or to appear before a district court or the court of appeals or supreme court pursuant to an appeal; ~~and~~

(13) any person from commencing, maintaining, conducting, or defending on behalf of the plaintiff or defendant any action in any court of this state pursuant to the provisions of section 566.175 or sections 566.18 to 566.33 or from commencing, maintaining, conducting, or defending on behalf of the plaintiff or defendant any action in any court of this state for the recovery of rental property used for residential purposes pursuant to the provisions of section 566.02 or 566.03, subdivision 1, except that the provision of this clause does not authorize a person who is not a licensed attorney-at-law to conduct a jury trial or to appear before a district court or the court of appeals or supreme court pursuant to an appeal, and provided that, except for a nonprofit corporation, a person

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who is not a licensed attorney-at-law shall not charge or collect a separate fee for services rendered pursuant to this clause; or

(14) the delivery of legal services by a specialized legal assistant in accordance with a specialty license issued by the supreme court before July 1, 1995.

Sec. 2. SUPREME COURT RULES ON SPECIALIZED LEGAL ASSISTANTS.

The supreme court shall review the feasibility of the delivery of legal services by specialized legal assistants, and shall prepare a report for the legislature by December 1, 1993. In preparing the report, the supreme court should consult with licensed attorneys, legal assistants, representatives of the educational community for legal assistants, and representatives of advocacy groups for the economically disadvantaged. The report should include at least the following:

(1) whether the delivery of legal services through specialized legal assistants is in the best interest of consumers of legal services;

(2) areas and scope of practice of specialized legal assistants;

(3) circumstances under which a specialty license will be required;

(4) qualifications for legal assistants applying for a specialty license;

(5) examination and specialty license requirements and fees;

(6) limits and conditions of practice under a specialty license including malpractice insurance requirements;

(7) continuing legal education requirements;

(8) rules of professional conduct and responsibility;

(9) procedures for filing, investigating, and resolving complaints and disciplinary actions against specialized legal assistants; and

(10) maintenance and classification of records relating to specialized legal assistants.

Presented to the governor May 30, 1991

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