1938 Supplement

To

Mason's Minnesota Statutes 1927

(1927 to 1938)

(Superseding Mason's 1931, 1934, and 1936 Supplements)

Containing the text of the acts of the 1929, 1931, 1933, 1935, and 1937 General Sessions, and the 1933-34, 1935-36, 1936, and 1937 Special Sessions of the Legislature, both new and amendatory, and notes showing repeals, together with annotations from the various courts. state and federal, and the opinions of the Attorney General, construing the constitution, statutes, charters and court rules of Minnesota together with digest of all common law decisions.



Edited by

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Obligation imposed upon a divorced husband by a South Dakota decree to pay alimony to the divorced wife will be considered here as remaining one for ali-mony and not an ordinary debt. Ostrander v. O., 190M 547, 252NW449. See Dun. Dig. 2811, 5207. Showing warranted reduction made in alimony. Erick-son v. E., 194M634, 261NW397. See Dun. Dig. 2805. Denial of a prior application to reduce alimony is not a bar to a subsequent application, if a change of finan-cial ability is shown to have occurred after denial of the first. Id. Fact that applicant for reduction of alimony is in ar-rears in his payments, so that judgments have been ren-dered therefor, does not preclude court from acting on application. Id. A motion by defendant to modify decree was properly

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 Pending motion for reduction of alimony in a divorce action did not bar or abate suit to recover money past due under contract. Id. See Dun, Dig, 2807.
 After affirmance of divorce decree fixing alimony court could not order continuance of sayment of monthly temporary alimony, in absence of showing of any charge in circumstances. Bickle v. B., 196M392, 265NW276. See Dun, Dig, 2805.
 Court properly struck from original judgment provision for support and maintenance of children after reaching majority. Sivertsen v. S., 198M207, 269NW413. See Dun. Dig, 2806.
 Plaintiff's financial situation held so changed as to justify substantial modification of original judgment. Id. See Dun. Dig, 2805.
 It is within discretion of trial court, upon a proper showing, to relieve a defendant in a divorce action from default in making of payments for alimony and support money, even though there has been a delay in making application therefor, and where defendant paid and plaintiff accepted without complaint \$25 per month instead of \$40 per month, court did not abuse its discretion in canceling a substantial part of deficiency, particularly upon a showing that defendant's financial ability to pay was materially changed. Kumlin v. K., 273NW253. See Dun. Dig. 2805.
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Husband should not be adjudged guilty of contempt in failing to pay money to divorced wife where such failure resulted from refusal of divorced wife to join in mortgage. Feltmann v. F., 189M584, 250NW457. See Dun. Dig. 2811.

A local statute authorizing resort to sequestration and contempt proceedings to compel payment of alimony in-cludes an action brought to compel payment of unpaid installments under a foreign judgment for alimony; local action on that judgment being itself a case where "alimony" is decreed. Ostrander v. O., 190M547, 252NW 449. See Dun, Dig. 2811, 5207. A defendant in a divorce action against whom an award for alimony and for support of minor children has been decreed cannot, when he has voluntarily placed himself in a position where he is unable to conform to court's order, purge himself of contempt for failure to comply with order by establishing his inability to pay installments provided for in decree. Ryerson v. R., 194 M350, 260NW530. See Dun. Dig. 1703(40). Neither corpus nor income of spendthrift trust could be reached to satisfy claims for alimony or support money for children. Erickson v. E., 197M71, 266NW161. See Dun. Dig. 2809a. Evidence heid to justify denial of motion that plaintiff be adjudged in contempt for failure to pay alimony. Zeches v. Z., 198M488, 272NW380. See Dun, Dig. 1703. Upon ex parte application for a declaratory judgment for unpaid alimony and for execution, trial court may, in its discretion, require notice of application to be given to other party to proceedings, even though statutes do not require giving of notice in such cases. Kumlin v. K., 273NW253. See Dun, Dig. 2811. Enforcement of payment of alimony by commitment. 18MINTED DIVORCES

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during nve years separation and \$25 per month alimony, the wife having an income of \$57.50. 171M213, 213NW 919. Where the evidence of misconduct of husband does not justify either an absolute or a limited divorce, the court is not authorized to terminate the husband's in-choate interest in the wife's real estate even though the misconduct may legally justify her in living apart from him. 174M159, 218NW559. Amotations under §8614. 177M178, 225NW104. Court may require father to pay support of child to wife even though she has no legal cause to live apart from him. 174M159, 218NW559. Irrespective of this section a court of equity may cre-ate a lien against real estate of a husband in favor of a wife for her separate maintenance while justifiably liv-ing apart from him, though the decree is not enforcea-ble against the husband personally. 178M531, 227NW895. A husband sued for a limited divorce held not estopped by the decision against him in a subsequent suit for ab-solute divorce from his wife. 178M1, 226NW412. In suit by guardian of insane ward against husband of ward, court held not to have abused its discretion in denying motion for allowance pending suit. Rutledge v. H., 186M369, 243NW385. See Dun. Dig. 4273. A husband sued for a limited divorce held not es-topped by the decision against him in a subsequent suit for absolute divorce from his wife. 178M1, 226NW412. Decree of separation from bed and board is subject to termination by consent of parties and aid of court. Bakula v. B., 186M488, 243NW703. See Dun. Dig. 2798. Separation from bed and board is not a bar to an action for absolute divorce. Bakula v. B., 186M488, 243 NW703. See Dun. Dig. 2798(76).

CHAPTER 72

Married Women

8616. Separate legal existence.

Status of marriage has not been modified by the Mar-ried Woman's Act, and only property rights and con-tracts are affected thereby. State v. Arnold, 182M313, 235NW373. See Dun. Dig. 4258.

Though wife cannot maintain an action against her husband for a tort committed by him against the person of the wife, action by administrator of a child is not an action by wife against husband, and administrator may

voluent recover for death of child, though wife of defendant is sole beneficiary. Albrecht v. P., 192M557, 257NW377. See Dun. Dig. 2608, 4288. Neither wife nor minor child may recover damages for personal injuries to husband and father, remedy be-ing solely in husband and father. Eschenbach v. B., 195 M378, 263NW154. See Dun. Dig. 4288b, 7305b. A married woman cannot maintain an action against her husband for damages claimed to have been caused to her by the negligence of her husband prior to their mar-

Patenaude v. P., 195M523, 263NW546. See Dun. riage.

Dig. 4288. Fact that, prior to their marrage, plaintiff commenced and action against defendant for same cause which ac-tion she thereafter dismissed, does not create any es-toppel or entitle her to any relief in suit brought after

toppel or entitle her to any relief in suit prougnt after marriage. Id. Immunity of husband from suit in tort on part of his wife does not inure to benefit of owner of automobile driven by husband. Miller v. J., 196M438, 265NW324. See Dun, Dig. 4258(77). Where a husband is driving his automobile with his wife as passenger, his negligence cannot be imputed to wife on basis of joint venture unless it is shown that wife jointly controlled, or had right to join in controlling, driving of automobile at time of collision. Olson v. K., 159M493, 272NW381. See Dun, Dig. 4262. An inference that husband is acting as agent or serv-ant of his wife in driving her in his automobile to a doctor for medical attention does not arise from fact of marital relation alone, nor from fact that husband acts at wife's request. Id.

8617. Property rights.

8017. Property rights. Wife by letting husband use and manage her proper-ty apparently as his own, may estop herself from as-serting ownership as against a mortgagee of the hus-band. 171M276, 214NW45. Recital in instrument concerning conveyance of land signed by defendant and husband of deceased were not conclusive as to the deceased when she was the real party in interest. Kehrer v. S., 182M596, 235NW386. See Dun. Dig. 4259(84). Fact that wife, who was either joint tenant or tenant in common, did not join in writing authorizing tenant to cut and sell wood was immaterial where she substan-tially participated in contract. Morrow v. P., 186M516, 243NW785. See Dun. Dig. 4256. Neither husband nor wife have separate actions for damages to property owned only by one of them. Esch-enbach v. B., 195M378, 263NW154. See Dun. Dig. 4288a. When a husband acquires possession of the separate property of the wife, whether with or without her con-sent, he must be deemed to hold it in trust for her bene-fit in the absence of evidence that she intended to make a gift of it to him. Reifsteck's Estate, 197M315, 267NW 259. See Dun. Dig. 4259. That widow as administratrix listed property in inven-tory as belonging to estate does not estop her from making claim that it was held in trust for her. Id.

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Making claim that it was here in trust for her. To Complaint filed by widow against estate of which she was administratrix to recover property held in trust for her by deceased stated a cause of action as against claim that administratrix and claimant were same person and therefore she could not bring an action against her-

Effect of marriage on contract existing between hus-band and wife at time of marriage. 16MinnLawRev108.

8618. Contracts—Torts—Etc. Contract whereby plaintiff was employed at a stipu-lated compensation per month as a farm hand was not abrogated by marriage of plaintiff to his employer, but remained a binding obligation upon her, and he could recover for work performed after the marriage. Arch-er v. M., 183M306, 236NW455. See Dun. Dig. 4258. A farm may be owned and operated by wife, her hus-band functioning only as her agent. Durgin v. S., 192M 526, 257NW338. See Dun. Dig. 145, 4262. In proceeding to recover for services rendered de-

526, 257NW338. See Dun. Dig. 145, 4262. In proceeding to recover for services rendered de-ceased by claimant, his daughter-in-law, pursuant to an alleged contract to pay her at his death, court erred in refusing to instruct jury that services of wife with re-spect to family household belong to husband; that he may waive his right to compensation therefor from an-other party'and consent that wife receive same, provided there is no question of set-off or counterclaim against husband, but where such appears it must be shown that one to be charged with payment of compensation ac-quiesced in payment to wife. Empenger v. E., 194M219, 259NW795. See Dun. Dig. 4261. Where plaintiff's husband had lived apart from her

2391W 1395. See Dun. Dig. 4261. Where plaintiff's husband had lived apart from her for five years, during which time she had received no support from him, and she alone requested service of nurse, doctor, and hospital for which she alleged special damages, she is liable therefor and may recover from wrongdoer who necessitated her incurring the liability. Paulos v. K., 195M603, 263NW913. See Dun. Dig. 4258. Marital relation along did not constitute with event of

Marital relation alone did not constitute wife agent of husband to surrender lease and make a new one for him. Hildebrandt v. N., 199M124, 272NW257. See Dun. Dig. 4262a.

8620. Liability of husband and wife. A county which furnishes necessary support to a wom-b, deserted by her husband, may recover of the hus-and. 175M39, 220NW156. <u>ค</u>ท band.

Verdict against parent for services of daughter, held not excessive, and evidence as to previous earnings of daughter, held admissible on issue of value. 180M100, 230NW478.

Wife was not liable for negligence of her husband in driving a car registered in her name. Cewe v. S., 182 M126, 233NW805. See Dun. Dig. 5834b.

Wife who signed contract of sale of lot merely to bar her inchoate right of dower was not liable in action by purchaser to recover money paid because of fraud of seller, McDermott v. R., 188M501, 247NW683. See Dun.

Seller. McDermott v. R., 188M501, 247NW683. See Dun. Dig. 4270. Service of an attorney for wife in divorce case amica-bly withdrawn was not a necessity for which husband was liable. Melin v. R., 189M638, 249NW194. See Dun. Dig. 4276.

Dig. 4276. Husband is obligated to support wife and maintain family home whether wife has independent income or not. Hill, 33 U. S. Board of Tax Appeals 891. Admission to tuberculosis sanaforium is not governed by rules applicable to settlement for poor relief purposes. Op. Atty. Gen. (556a-1), Dec. 29, 1936.

8621. Contracts between husband and wife. Archer v. M., 183M306, 236NW455; note under §8618.

Archer v. M., 183M306, 236NW455; note under §8618. ½. Agency. In action by woman for fraud in sale of stock of financial corporation, evidence held to show that plain-tiff's husband acted as her agent. Watson v. G., 183M 233, 236NW213. See Dun. Dig. 8612. Evidence held to sustain verdict that deceased farm-er, through his wife, agreed to pay daughter and son for work if they remained on farm. Holland v. M., 189 M172, 248NW750. See Dun. Dig. 3593g. Farmer's wife had authority to employ persons doing housework as agent of her husband. Id. See Dun. Dig. 4286.

4286.

housework as agent of her husband. Id. See Dun. Dig. 4286. **1. Contracts relating to realty.** Transaction whereby husband and wife executed a trust deed and put it in escrow to be delivered upon condition that wife be granted an absolute divorce did not violate the law. First Minneapolis Trust Co. v. L. 185M121, 240NW459. See Dun. Dig. 4282(2). Real estate may be conveyed from one spouse to the other through the medium of a third party. Williams v. W., 192M438, 257NW1. See Dun. Dig. 4282. An equitable mortgage cannot be created by law to secure advances made by wife to husband on faith of latter's parol promise to give security on his real estate. Id. See Dun. Dig. 4282, 6153. One spouse may transfer his real estate and all his personal property to the other through a third person, if rights of creditors are not prejudiced. Durgin v. S., 192M526, 257NW338. See Dun. Dig. 4258, 4282. A transfer of a farm and all owner's personal prop-erty from husband to wife, having been found not fraudulent, considered absolute rather than mere secur-ity for indebtedness from husband to wife. Id. See Dun. Dig. 6154. ity for indebtedness from husband to wife. Id. Dun. Dlg. 6154. A separation agreement between husband and

wife A separation agreement between husband and wife which in terms obligated each to join with other in ex-ecution of future conveyances or incumbrances of real property belonging to either, was illegal. Simmer v. S., 195M1, 261NW481. See Dun. Dig. 4282. Conveyance by one spouse to other spouse through medium of a third party is valid, but an executory agree-ment between spouses to make such a conveyance would be invalid. Id.

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2. Other contracts.
Evidence held to show conveyance by husband and wife to daughter rendered husband insolvent, and conveyance fraudulent as to creditors. 171M284, 213NW911.
Where the promises of the husband under an antenuptial contract, to make payments to his wife have matured and the money has become due, the causes of action so perfected are not defeated by the wife's subsequent desertion of the husband. 172M91, 214NW791.
If there was a contract between husband and wife whereby latter was bound to make agreed testamentary disposition of property left her by her husband, his will held of such nature that, coupled with other evidence of testator's intention, it was properly held that agreement between husband and wife had been abrogated, and that disposition made of his property by husband's will was intended to be absolute. Hanefeld v. F., 191M547, 254NW821. See Dun. Dig. 10207.
3. Notice as to creditors—Burden of proof.
Transfers between husband and wife, whether made directly or indirectly, are prima facie fraudulent as to existing creditors: burden resting upon wife to show by clear and satisfactory evidence that a valuable consideration was paid by her or by some one in her behalf. State Bank of New London v. S., 197M425, 267NW366. See Dun. Dig. 3907.

8622. Barring interest of spouse.

Where the evidence of misconduct of husband does not justify either an absolute or a limited divorce, the court is not authorized to terminate the husband's in-choate interest in the wife's real estate even though the misconduct may legally justify her in living apart from him. 174M159, 218NW559.

8622-1. Power and curtesy abolished in certain lands.

Act abolishing dower and curtesy and statutory in-terests in lieu thereof in all lands conveyed by guard-ians of incompetent married persons prior to Jan. 1, 1929. Laws 1931, c. 29.

8623. Antenuptial contracts.

Antenuptial agreements are valid. Op. Atty. Gen. (300), Nov. 23, 1934.

Obligation imposed upon a divorced husband by a South Dakota decree to pay alimony to the divorced wife will be considered here as remaining one for ali-mony and not an ordinary debt. Ostrander v. O., 190M 547, 252NW449. See Dun. Dig. 2811, 5207. Showing warranted reduction made in alimony. Erick-son v. E., 194M634, 261NW397. See Dun. Dig. 2805. Denial of a prior application to reduce alimony is not a bar to a subsequent application, if a change of finan-clal ability is shown to have occurred after denial of the first. Id. Fact that applicant for reduction of alimony is in ar-rears in his payments, so that judgments have been ren-dered therefor, does not preclude court from acting on application. Id. A motion by defendant to modify decree was properly

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Fact that wife, who was either joint tenant or tenant in common, did not join in writing authorizing tenant to cut and sell wood was immaterial where she substantially participated in contract. Morrow v. P., 186M516, 243NW785. See Dun. Dig. 4256.
Neither husband nor wife have separate actions for damages to property owned only by one of them. Eschenbach v. B., 195M378, 263NW154. See Dun. Dig. 4288a.
When a husband acquires possession of the separate property of the wife, whether with or without her consent, he must be deemed to hold it in trust for her benefit in the absence of evidence that she intended to make a gift of it to him. Reifsteck's Estate, 197M315, 267NW 259.
That widow as administratrix listed property in inventory as belonging to estate does not estop her from making claim that it was held in trust for her. Id. Complaint filed by widow against estate of which she was administratrix to recover property held in trust for her by deceased stated a cause of action as against for her by deceased stated a cause of action as against herself in the administratrix and claimant were same person and therefore she could not bring an action against herself. Id.

Self. Id. Effect of marriage on contract existing between hus-band and wife at time of marriage. 16MinnLawRev108.

8618. Contracts-Torts--Etc.

8618. Contracts—ITorts—Etc. Contract whereby plaintiff was employed at a stipu-lated compensation per month as a farm hand was not abrogated by marriage of plaintiff to his employer, but remained a binding obligation upon her, and he could recover for work performed after the marriage. Arch-er v. M., 183M306, 236NW455. See Dun. Dig. 4258. A farm may be owned and operated by wife, her hus-band functioning only as her agent. Durgin v. S., 192M 526, 257NW338. See Dun. Dig. 145, 4262. In proceeding to recover for services rendered de-

526, 257NW338. See Dun. Dig. 145, 4262. In proceeding to recover for services rendered de-ceased by claimant, his daughter-in-law, pursuant to an alleged contract to pay her at his death, court erred in refusing to instruct jury that services of wife with re-spect to family household belong to husband; that he may waive his right to compensation therefor from an-other party'and consent that wife receive same, provided there is no question of set-off or counterclaim against husband, but where such appears it must be shown that one to be charged with payment of compensation ac-quiesced in payment to wife. Empenger v. E., 194M219, 259NW795. See Dun. Dig. 4261. Where plaintiff's husband had lived apart from her

259NW795. See Dun. Dig. 4261. Where plaintiff's husband had lived apart from her for five years, during which time she had received no support from him, and she alone requested service of nurse, doctor, and hospital for which she alleged special damages, she is liable therefor and may recover from wrongdoer who necessitated her incurring the liability. Paulos v. K., 195M603, 263NW913. See Dun. Dig. 4258. Marital relation alone did not constitute wife agent of husband to surrender lease and make a new one for him. Hildebrandt v. N., 199M124, 272NW257. See Dun. Dig. 4262a.

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8620. Liability of husband and wife. A county which furnishes necessary support to a wom-n, deserted by her husband, may recover of the hus-and. 175M39, 220NW156. an band.

Verdict against parent for services of daughter, held not excessive, and evidence as to previous earnings of daughter, held admissible on issue of value. 180M100, 230NW478.

Wife was not liable for negligence of her husband in driving a car registered in her name. Cewe v. S., 182 M126, 233NW805. See Dun. Dig. 5834b.

Wife who signed contract of sale of lot merely to bar her inchoate right of dower was not liable in action by purchaser to recover money paid because of fraud of seller. McDermott v. R., 188M501, 247NW683. See Dun.

purchaser to recover money paid because of fraud or seller. McDermott v. R., 188M501, 247NW683. See Dun. Dig. 4270. Service of an attorney for wife in divorce case amica-bly withdrawn was not a necessity for which husband was liable. Melin v. R., 189M638, 249NW194. See Dun. Dig. 4276. Husband is obligated to support wife and maintain family home whether wife has independent income or not. Hill, 33 U. S. Board of Tax Appeals 891. Admission to tuberculosis sanaforium is not governed by rules applicable to settlement for poor relief purposes. Op. Atty. Gen. (556a-1), Dec. 29, 1936.

8621. Contracts between husband and wife. Archer v. M., 183M306, 236NW455; note under §8618.

Archer v. M., 183M306, 236NW455; note under geolo. ¹/₂. Agency. In action by woman for fraud in sale of stock of financial corporation, evidence held to show that plain-tiff's husband acted as her agent. Watson v. G., 183M 233, 236NW213. See Dun. Dig. 8612. Evidence held to sustain verdict that deceased farm-er, through his wife, agreed to pay daughter and son for work if they remained on farm. Holland v. M., 189 M172, 248NW750. See Dun. Dig. 3593g. Farmer's wife had authority to employ persons doing housework as agent of her husband. Id. See Dun. Dig. 4286.

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housework as agent of her husband. Id. See Dun. Dig. 4286. **1. Contracts relating to realty.** Transaction whereby husband and wife executed a trust deed and put it in escrow to be delivered upon condition that wife be granted an absolute divorce did not violate the law. First Minneapolis Trust Co. v. L., 185M121, 240NW459. See Dun. Dig. 4282(2). Real estate may be conveyed from one spouse to the other through the medium of a third party. Williams v. W., 192M438, 257NW1. See Dun. Dig. 4282. An equitable mortgage cannot be created by law to secure advances made by wife to husband on faith of latter's parol promise to give security on his real estate. Id. See Dun. Dig. 4282, 6153. One spouse may transfer his real estate and all his personal property to the other through a third person, if rights of creditors are not prejudiced. Durgin v. S., 192M526, 257NW338. See Dun. Dig. 4258, 4282. A transfer of a farm and all owner's personal prop-erty from husband to wife, having been found not fraudulent, considered absolute rather than mere secur-rity for indebtedness from husband to wife. Id. See Dun. Dig. 6154. A separation agreement between husband and wife which in terms obligated each to join with other in ex-

A separation agreement between husband and wife which in terms obligated each to join with other in ex-ecution of future conveyances or incumbrances of real property belonging to either, was illegal. Simmer v. S., 195M1, 261NW481. See Dun. Dig. 4282. Conveyance by one spouse to other spouse through medium of a third party is valid, but an executory agree-ment between spouses to make such a conveyance would be invalid. Id

medium of a third party is valid, but an executory agreement between spouses to make such a conveyance would be invalid. Id.
2. Other contracts.
Evidence held to show conveyance by husband and wife to daughter rendered husband insolvent, and conveyance fraudulent as to creditors. 171M284, 213NW911. Where the promises of the husband under an antenuptial contract, to make payments to his wife have matured and the money has become due, the causes of action so perfected are not defeated by the wife's subsequent desertion of the husband. 172M91, 214NW791. If there was a contract between husband and wife whereby latter was bound to make agreed testamentary disposition of property left her by her husband, is will held of such nature that, coupled with other evidence of testator's intention, it was properly held that agreement between husband and wife had been abrogated, and that disposition made of his property by husband's will was intended to be absolute. Hanefeld v. F., 191M547, 254NW821. See Dun. Dig. 10207.
3. Notice as to creditors—Burden of proof.
Transfers between husband and wife, whether made directly or indirectly, are prima facie fraudulent as to existing creditors: burden resting upon wife to slow by clear and satisfactory evidence that a valuable consideration was paid by her or by some one in her behalf. State Bank of New London v. S., 197M425, 267NW366. See Dun. Dig. 3907.

8622. Barring interest of spouse.

Where the evidence of misconduct of husband does not justify either an absolute or a limited divorce, the court is not authorized to terminate the husband's in-choate interest in the wife's real estate even though the misconduct may legally justify her in living apart from him. 174M159, 218NW559.

8622-1. Power and curtesy abolished in certain lands.

Act abolishing dower and curtesy and statutory in-terests in lieu thereof in all lands conveyed by guard-ians of incompetent married persons prior to Jan. 1, 1929. Laws 1931, c. 29.

8623. Antenuptial contracts.

Antenuptial agreements are valid. Op. Atty. Gen. (300), Nov. 23, 1934.