

## TITLE XLIV-A.

### Wisconsin Rules Of Evidence.

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#### CHAPTER 901

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

901.01 Scope  
 901.02 Purpose and construction.  
 901.03 Rulings on evidence.  
 901.04 Preliminary questions

901.06 Limited admissibility  
 901.07 Remainder of or related writings or recorded statements.

**901.01 Scope.** Chapters 901 to 911 govern proceedings in the courts of the state of Wisconsin except as provided in ss. 911.01 and 972.11.

History: Sup Ct order, 59 W (2d) R9

Note: Extensive comments by the Judicial Council Committee and the Federal Advisory Committee are printed with the rules in 59 W (2d). The court did not adopt the comments but ordered them printed with the rules for information purposes.

**901.02 Purpose and construction.** These sections shall be construed to secure fairness in administration, elimination of unjustifiable expense and delay, and promotion of growth and development of the law of evidence to the end that the truth may be ascertained and proceedings justly determined.

History: Sup Ct order, 59 W (2d) R9

**901.03 Rulings on evidence.** (1) EFFECT OF ERRONEOUS RULING. Error may not be predicated upon a ruling which admits or excludes evidence unless a substantial right of the party is affected; and

(a) *Objection.* In case the ruling is one admitting evidence, a timely objection or motion to strike appears of record, stating the specific ground of objection, if the specific ground was not apparent from the context; or

(b) *Offer of proof.* In case the ruling is one excluding evidence, the substance of the evidence was made known to the judge by offer or was apparent from the context within which questions were asked.

(2) RECORD OF OFFER AND RULING. The judge may add any other or further statement which shows the character of the evidence, the form in which it was offered, the objection made, and the ruling thereon. He may direct the making of an offer in question and answer form.

(3) HEARING OF JURY. In jury cases, proceedings shall be conducted, to the extent practicable, so as to prevent inadmissible evidence from being suggested to the jury by any means, such as making statements or offers of proof or asking questions in the hearing of the jury.

(4) PLAIN ERROR. Nothing in this rule precludes taking notice of plain errors affecting substantial rights although they were not brought to the attention of the judge.

History: Sup Ct order, 59 W (2d) R9.

**901.04 Preliminary questions.** (1) QUESTIONS OF ADMISSIBILITY GENERALLY. Preliminary questions concerning the qualification of a person to be a witness, the existence of a privilege, or the admissibility of evidence shall be determined by the judge, subject to sub. (2). In making his determination he is bound by the rules of evidence only with respect to privileges.

(2) RELEVANCY CONDITIONED ON FACT. When the relevancy of evidence depends upon the fulfillment of a condition of fact, the judge shall admit it upon, or subject to, the introduction of evidence sufficient to support a finding of the fulfillment of the condition.

**901.04 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

4292

**(3) HEARING OF JURY.** Hearings on the admissibility of confessions shall in all cases be conducted out of the hearing of the jury. Hearings on other preliminary matters shall be so conducted when the interests of justice require.

**(4) TESTIMONY BY ACCUSED.** The accused does not, by testifying upon a preliminary matter, subject himself to cross-examination as to other issues in the case.

**(5) WEIGHT AND CREDIBILITY.** This section does not limit the right of a party to introduce before the jury evidence relevant to weight or credibility.

History: Sup Ct. order, 59 W (2d) R14

**901.06 Limited admissibility.** When evidence which is admissible as to one party or for

one purpose but not admissible as to another party or for another purpose is admitted, the judge, upon request, shall restrict the evidence to its proper scope and instruct the jury accordingly.

History: Sup. Ct. order, 59 W (2d) R21.

**901.07 Remainder of or related writings or recorded statements.** When a writing or recorded statement or part thereof is introduced by a party, an adverse party may require him at that time to introduce any other part or any other writing or recorded statement which ought in fairness to be considered contemporaneously with it.

History: Sup. Ct. order, 59 W (2d) R22