

## CHAPTER 179

## UNIFORM LIMITED PARTNERSHIP ACT

|         |  |  |        |   |
|---------|--|--|--------|---|
|         | SUBCHAPTER I   |  | 179.43 | Sharing of profits and losses.                                  |
|         | GENERAL PROVISIONS   |  | 179.44 | Sharing of distributions.                                       |
| 179.01  | Definitions.   |  |        |   |
| 179.02  | Name.  |  |        |   |
| 179.03  | Reservation of name.                                       |  |        |   |
| 179.04  | Record office and agent.                                   |  |        |   |
| 179.045 | Resignation of agent for service of process.               |  |        |   |
| 179.046 | Change of registered office or agent.                      |  |        |   |
| 179.05  | Required records.  |  |        |   |
| 179.06  | Nature of business.  |  |        |   |
| 179.065 | Conveyance of real property of the limited partnership.    |  |        |   |
| 179.07  | Business transactions of partner with limited partnership. |  |        |   |
| 179.08  | Offer and sale of securities.                              |  |        |   |
| 179.10  | Construction and application.                              |  |        |   |
| 179.105 | Transitional provisions.                                   |  |        |   |
|         | SUBCHAPTER II  |  |        |   |
|         | FORMATION  |  |        |   |
| 179.11  | Certificate of limited partnership.                        |  |        |   |
| 179.12  | Amendments to certificate.                                 |  |        |   |
| 179.13  | Cancellation of certificate.                               |  |        |   |
| 179.14  | Execution of certificates.                                 |  |        |   |
| 179.15  | Execution of certificate by court order.                   |  |        |   |
| 179.16  | Filing with the department of financial institutions.      |  |        |   |
| 179.17  | Liability for false statement in certificate.              |  |        |   |
| 179.18  | Notice conferred by filing.                                |  |        |   |
| 179.185 | Restated certificate.                                      |  |        |   |
| 179.19  | Delivery of certificates to limited partners.              |  |        |   |
|         | SUBCHAPTER III   |  |        |   |
|         | LIMITED PARTNERS   |  |        |   |
| 179.21  | Admission of limited partners.                             |  |        |   |
| 179.22  | Voting.  |  |        |   |
| 179.23  | Liability to 3rd parties.                                  |  |        |   |
| 179.24  | Same; mistake as to status as limited partner.             |  |        |   |
| 179.25  | Information.   |  |        |   |
|         | SUBCHAPTER IV  |  |        |   |
|         | GENERAL PARTNERS   |  |        |   |
| 179.31  | Admission of additional general partners.                  |  |        |   |
| 179.32  | Events of withdrawal.                                      |  |        |   |
| 179.33  | General partner powers and liabilities.                    |  |        |   |
| 179.34  | Contributions by general partner.                          |  |        |   |
| 179.35  | Voting.  |  |        |   |
|         | SUBCHAPTER V   |  |        |   |
|         | FINANCE  |  |        |   |
| 179.41  | Form of contribution.                                      |  |        |   |
| 179.42  | Liability for contribution.                                |  |        |   |
|         |  |  | 179.43 | Sharing of profits and losses.                                  |
|         |  |  | 179.44 | Sharing of distributions.                                       |
|         |  |  |        | SUBCHAPTER VI   |
|         |  |  |        | DISTRIBUTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS                                   |
|         |  |  | 179.51 | Interim distributions.  |
|         |  |  | 179.52 | Withdrawal of general partner.                                  |
|         |  |  | 179.53 | Withdrawal of limited partner.                                  |
|         |  |  | 179.54 | Distribution on withdrawal.                                     |
|         |  |  | 179.55 | Distribution in kind.   |
|         |  |  | 179.56 | Right to distribution.  |
|         |  |  | 179.57 | Limitations on distribution.                                    |
|         |  |  | 179.58 | Liability on return of contribution.                            |
|         |  |  |        | SUBCHAPTER VII  |
|         |  |  |        | ASSIGNMENT OF PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS                             |
|         |  |  | 179.61 | Nature of partnership interest.                                 |
|         |  |  | 179.62 | Assignment of partnership interest.                             |
|         |  |  | 179.63 | Rights of creditor.   |
|         |  |  | 179.64 | Right of assignee to become limited partner.                    |
|         |  |  | 179.65 | Power of estate of deceased or partner adjudicated incompetent. |
|         |  |  |        | SUBCHAPTER VIII   |
|         |  |  |        | DISSOLUTION; CONVERSION; MERGER                                 |
|         |  |  | 179.70 | Definitions.  |
|         |  |  | 179.71 | Nonjudicial dissolution.  |
|         |  |  | 179.72 | Judicial dissolution.   |
|         |  |  | 179.73 | Winding up.   |
|         |  |  | 179.74 | Distribution of assets.   |
|         |  |  | 179.76 | Conversion.   |
|         |  |  | 179.77 | Merger.   |
|         |  |  |        | SUBCHAPTER IX   |
|         |  |  |        | FOREIGN LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS                                    |
|         |  |  | 179.81 | Law governing.  |
|         |  |  | 179.82 | Registration.   |
|         |  |  | 179.83 | Issuance of registration.                                       |
|         |  |  | 179.84 | Name.   |
|         |  |  | 179.85 | Amendments.   |
|         |  |  | 179.86 | Cancellation of registration.                                   |
|         |  |  | 179.87 | Transaction of business without registration.                   |
|         |  |  | 179.88 | Substituted service.  |
|         |  |  | 179.89 | Action by attorney general.                                     |
|         |  |  |        | SUBCHAPTER X  |
|         |  |  |        | DERIVATIVE ACTIONS  |
|         |  |  | 179.91 | Right to bring derivative action.                               |
|         |  |  | 179.92 | Proper plaintiff.   |
|         |  |  | 179.93 | Pleading.   |
|         |  |  | 179.94 | Expenses.   |

## SUBCHAPTER I

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**179.01 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) “Certificate of limited partnership” means the certificate under s. 179.11, as amended under s. 179.12 or restated under s. 179.185.

(2) “Contribution” means any cash, property, services rendered, or a promissory note or other binding obligation to contribute cash or property or to perform services, which a partner contributes to a limited partnership in his or her capacity as a partner.

(2m) “Department” means the department of financial institutions.

(3) “Event of withdrawal of a general partner” means an event that causes a person to cease to be a general partner under s. 179.32.

(4) “Foreign limited partnership” means a partnership formed under the laws of any state other than this state and having as partners one or more general partners and one or more limited partners.

(5) “General partner” means a person who has been admitted to a limited partnership as a general partner under the partnership

agreement and named in the certificate of limited partnership as a general partner.

(6) “Limited partner” means a person who has been admitted to a limited partnership as a limited partner under the partnership agreement.

(7) “Limited partnership” and “domestic limited partnership” mean a partnership formed by 2 or more persons under this chapter and having one or more general partners and one or more limited partners.

(8) “Partner” means a limited or general partner, and includes a personal representative or trustee to the extent authorized by the governing instrument or court order.

(9) “Partnership agreement” means any valid agreement of the partners as to the affairs of a limited partnership and the conduct of its business.

(10) “Partnership interest” means a partner’s share of the profits and losses of a limited partnership and the right to receive distributions of partnership assets.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232; 1995 a. 27.

**179.02 Name.** The name of a limited partnership:

(1) Shall contain the words “limited partnership” or the abbreviation “L.P.” or “LP”.

(2) May not contain the name of a limited partner unless:

(a) It is also the name of a general partner or the corporate name of a corporate general partner or of a limited liability company general partner; or

(b) The business of the limited partnership had been carried on under that name before the admission of that limited partner.

(4) May not be the same as, or deceptively similar to, the name of any corporation, limited liability company or limited partnership organized under the laws of this state or licensed or registered as a foreign corporation, limited liability company or limited partnership in this state.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232; 1993 a. 112; 2005 a. 476.

**179.03 Reservation of name.** (1) The exclusive right to the use of a name may be reserved by any of the following:

(a) Any person intending to organize a limited partnership under this chapter and to adopt that name.

(b) Any domestic limited partnership or any foreign limited partnership registered in this state which intends to adopt that name.

(c) Any foreign limited partnership intending to register in this state and adopt that name.

(d) Any person intending to organize a foreign limited partnership and intending to have it register in this state and adopt that name.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the reservation shall be made by filing with the department an application executed by the applicant to reserve a specified name together with a fee of \$10, or such larger amount as the department requires by rule, if the application is filed in paper format. The reservation may be made by making a telephone application to reserve a specified name. The fee for a telephone application to reserve a specified name for 60 days is \$20. If the department finds that the name is available for use by a domestic limited partnership or foreign limited partnership, the department shall reserve the name for the exclusive use of the applicant for a period of 60 days. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the right to the exclusive use of a reserved name may be transferred to any other person by filing with the department, together with a fee of \$10, a notice of the transfer executed by the applicant for whom the name was reserved and specifying the name and address of the transferee. The department may, by rule, specify a larger fee for filing a notice of transfer in paper format.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1985 a. 338; 1993 a. 214; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44.

**179.04 Record office and agent.** (1) Each limited partnership shall continuously maintain in this state the following:

(a) A record office at which shall be kept the records required under s. 179.05.

(b) An agent for service of process on the limited partnership, which agent must be any of the following:

1. An individual resident of this state.

2. A domestic corporation, nonstock corporation, limited partnership, limited liability partnership that has in effect a statement of qualification under s. 178.0901, or limited liability company, or a foreign corporation, nonstock corporation, limited partnership, registered limited liability partnership, or limited liability company authorized to do business in this state, whose business office is identical with the registered office.

(2) If a limited partnership fails to maintain an agent for service of process in this state or if the agent cannot with reasonable diligence be found, substituted service may be made on the department by delivering duplicate copies of the process, together with a fee of \$10. The department shall forward one copy by registered mail, addressed to the limited partnership at its record office.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1985 a. 29; 1993 a. 112; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44; 2015 a. 295.

This section does not provide an exclusive means for service on a limited partnership but merely mandates that a limited partnership maintain an agent for service in the state and provides for substitute service in case the limited partnership fails to comply. Service is governed by s. 801.11 (6), which requires service upon all the general partners known to the plaintiff. *Carmain v. Affiliated Capital Corporation*, 2002 WI App 271, 258 Wis. 2d 378, 655 N.W.2d 531, 01–3077.

**179.045 Resignation of agent for service of process.**

(1) An agent for service of process may resign by executing and filing with the department a statement, in duplicate, containing all of the following information, as applicable:

(a) The name of the domestic or foreign limited partnership for which the agent is acting.

(b) The name and current street address of the agent.

(c) If the agent is acting for a domestic limited partnership, the address of the domestic limited partnership's record office.

(d) If the agent is acting for a foreign limited partnership, the address of the foreign limited partnership's office in its state of organization.

(e) A statement that the agent resigns.

(2) The department shall note on one of the duplicates filed under sub. (1) the date of filing and shall mail that duplicate to the limited partnership at the address provided under sub. (1) (c) or (d).

(3) A resignation under this section is effective on the earlier of the following:

(a) Thirty days after the date on which the statement is filed under sub. (1).

(b) The date on which the appointment of a successor agent is effective.

**History:** 2001 a. 44.

**179.046 Change of registered office or agent.** (1) A limited partnership may change its registered office or registered agent, or both, by doing any of the following:

(a) Delivering to the department for filing a statement of change, together with a fee of \$10.

(b) Including the name of its registered agent and the street address of its registered office, as changed, in an amendment to its certificate of limited partnership.

(2) Except as provided in sub. (3), a statement of change under sub. (1) (a) shall include all of the following information:

(a) The name of the limited partnership.

(b) The name of its registered agent, as changed.

(c) The street address of its registered agent, as changed.

(d) A statement that, after the changes are made, the street addresses of its registered office and the business office of its registered agent will be identical.

(3) If the name of a registered agent changes or if the street address of a registered agent's business office changes, the registered agent may change the name of the registered agent or the street address of the registered office, or both, of any limited partnership for which he, she, or it is the registered agent. To make a change under this subsection, the registered agent shall notify the limited partnership in writing of the change and deliver to the department for filing a signed statement that complies with sub. (2) and recites that the limited partnership has been notified of the change, together with a fee of \$10.

**History:** 2009 a. 237; 2011 a. 260.

**179.05 Required records.** (1) Each limited partnership shall keep at the record office under s. 179.04 (1) (a) all of the following:

(a) A current list of the full name and last-known business address of each partner, separately identifying the general partners in alphabetical order and the limited partners in alphabetical order.

(b) A copy of the certificate of limited partnership and all certificates of amendment, together with executed copies of any

powers of attorney pursuant to which any certificate has been executed.

(c) Copies of the limited partnership's federal, state and local income tax returns and reports for the 3 most recent years.

(d) Copies of any effective written partnership agreements and of any financial statements of the limited partnership for the 3 most recent years.

(e) Unless contained in an effective written partnership agreement or in a certificate of limited partnership in existence on April 28, 1990, a writing containing all of the following information:

1. The amount of cash and a description and statement of the agreed value of the other property or services contributed by each partner and which each partner has agreed to contribute.

2. The times at which or events on the happening of which any additional contributions agreed to be made by each partner are to be made.

3. Any right of a partner to receive, or of a general partner to make, distributions to a partner which include a return of all or any part of the partner's contribution.

4. Any events upon the happening of which the limited partnership is to be dissolved and its affairs wound up.

(2) Records under sub. (1) are subject to inspection and copying at the reasonable request, and at the expense, of any partner during ordinary business hours.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1985 a. 29; 1989 a. 232.

**179.06 Nature of business.** A limited partnership may carry on any business that a partnership without limited partners may carry on.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.065 Conveyance of real property of the limited partnership.** (1) If title to real property is in the name of the limited partnership, a general partner may convey title to that property in the name of the limited partnership, unless the certificate of limited partnership provides otherwise.

(2) Section 178.0302 (1) (b) and (c) governs the authority of a general partner to transfer real property if the property is not in the name of the limited partnership or if the conveyance is not executed in the name of the limited partnership.

**History:** 1989 a. 231; 2015 a. 295.

**179.07 Business transactions of partner with limited partnership.** Except as provided in the partnership agreement, a partner may lend money to and transact other business with the limited partnership and has the same rights and obligations as a person who is not a partner.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.08 Offer and sale of securities.** No limited partnership formed under this chapter and no other limited partnership may offer or sell any of its securities in this state, unless the securities are registered under ch. 551 or the securities or the offer or sale of the securities are exempted from registration under ch. 551.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.10 Construction and application.** (1) This chapter shall be applied and construed to make uniform the law relating to limited partnerships among states enacting substantially identical laws.

(2) Except when inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, the provisions of ch. 178 also apply to a limited partnership.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 2015 a. 295.

**179.105 Transitional provisions.** (1) A limited partnership in existence on April 28, 1990, is not required to amend or restate its certificate of limited partnership to include the information specified in s. 179.11 (1) (dm).

(2) Any provision of a certificate of limited partnership that is in existence on April 28, 1990, and that conforms with s. 179.31, 1987 stats., s. 179.32 (4) (intro.) or (5) (intro.), 1987 stats., s.

179.42 (1), 1987 stats., s. 179.53, 1987 stats., s. 179.55, 1987 stats., s. 179.64 (1) (a), 1987 stats., or s. 179.71 (1) or (3), 1987 stats., is enforceable on and after April 28, 1990, to the same extent that the provision would be enforceable under s. 179.31, 179.32 (4) (intro.) or (5) (intro.), 179.42 (1m), 179.53, 179.55, 179.64 (1) (a) or 179.71 (1m) or (3) if included in a partnership agreement.

(3) If the application of s. 179.43, 179.54 or 179.74 to a limited partnership existing on September 1, 1984, would impair any contract provision in existence on September 1, 1984, s. 179.43, 179.54 or 179.74 does not apply to the limited partnership until the expiration of the contract or unless the parties to the contract agree otherwise.

**History:** 1989 a. 232; 1991 a. 32.

## SUBCHAPTER II

### FORMATION

**179.11 Certificate of limited partnership.** (1) To form a limited partnership, a certificate of limited partnership must be executed and filed with the department. The certificate shall be filed together with a fee of \$70, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format. Each certificate shall contain all of the following information:

(a) The name of the limited partnership.

(c) The address of the record office and the name and address, including street and number, of the agent for service of process required to be maintained under s. 179.04.

(d) The name and business address of each general partner.

(dm) The latest date upon which the limited partnership is to dissolve, except as provided in s. 179.105.

(m) Any other matters the general partners determine to include.

(2) A limited partnership is formed at the time of the filing of the certificate of limited partnership with the department or at any later time specified in the certificate of limited partnership, if there has been substantial compliance with this section.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1985 a. 29, 133; 1989 a. 232; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44.

**179.12 Amendments to certificate.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a certificate of limited partnership is amended by filing a certificate of amendment with the department, together with a fee of \$25. The department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format. No fee may be collected for filing a certificate of amendment to reflect only a change in the name of a registered agent. The certificate of amendment shall specify all of the following:

(a) The name of the limited partnership.

(b) The date of filing the certificate.

(c) The amendment to the certificate.

(2) Within 30 days after the happening of any of the following events, an amendment to a certificate of limited partnership reflecting the occurrence of the event shall be filed:

(b) A change in the name of the limited partnership, or a change in the address of the record office or a change in the name or address of the registered agent.

(c) The withdrawal of a general partner.

(d) The continuation of the business under s. 179.71 after an event of withdrawal of a general partner.

(2m) Within 60 days after the admission of a new general partner, an amendment to a certificate of limited partnership reflecting the event shall be filed.

(3) A general partner who becomes aware that any statement in a certificate of limited partnership was false when made or that any arrangements or other facts described have changed shall promptly amend the certificate.

(4) A certificate of limited partnership may be amended at any time for any other proper purpose the general partners determine.

(5) No person has any liability because an amendment to a certificate of limited partnership has not been filed to reflect the occurrence of any event under sub. (2) if the amendment is filed within the 30-day period specified in sub. (2).

(6) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or in the certificate of amendment, a certificate of amendment is effective on its filing with the department.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1985 a. 29; 1989 a. 232; 1995 a. 27, 417; 2001 a. 44.

**179.13 Cancellation of certificate.** A certificate of limited partnership shall be canceled upon the dissolution and the commencement of winding up of the limited partnership or at any other time that there are no limited partners. A certificate of cancellation shall be filed together with a fee of \$10 with the department, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format. Each certificate shall specify all of the following:

- (1) The name of the limited partnership.
- (2) The date of filing of its certificate of limited partnership.
- (3) The reason for filing the certificate of cancellation.
- (4) The date of cancellation if it is not the date of filing.
- (5) Any other information the general partners filing the certificate determine.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44.

**179.14 Execution of certificates. (1g)** In this section:

- (a) “Electronic” has the meaning given in s. 179.16 (1g) (b).
- (b) “Electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with a writing and executed or adopted by a person with intent to authenticate the writing.
- (c) “Sign” means to execute or adopt a manual, facsimile, conformed, or electronic signature or any symbol with intent to authenticate a writing.

(1r) Each certificate required by this subchapter to be filed with the department shall be executed in the following manner:

- (a) An original certificate of limited partnership must be signed by all general partners.
- (b) A certificate of amendment must be signed by at least one general partner and by each other general partner designated in the certificate as a new general partner.
- (c) A certificate of cancellation must be signed by all general partners or, if there is no general partner, by a majority of the limited partners.

(2) Any person may sign a certificate by an attorney-in-fact, but a power of attorney to sign a certificate relating to the admission of a general partner must specifically describe the admission.

(3) The execution of a certificate by a general partner constitutes an affirmation under the penalties of perjury that the facts stated in the certificate are true.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44.

**179.15 Execution of certificate by court order.** If a person required by s. 179.14 to execute any certificate fails or refuses to do so, any other person who is adversely affected by the failure or refusal, may petition the circuit court to direct the execution of the certificate. If the court finds that it is proper for the certificate to be executed and that any person so designated has failed or refused to execute the certificate, it shall order the department to record an appropriate certificate.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232; 1995 a. 27.

**179.16 Filing with the department of financial institutions. (1g)** In this section:

- (a) “Deliver” means deliver by hand, mail, commercial delivery service, electronic transmission, or any other method of delivery used in conventional commercial practice.

(b) “Electronic” means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

(1r) Two signed copies of the certificate of limited partnership and of any certificates of amendment or cancellation or of any court order under s. 179.15 shall be delivered to the department. A person who executes a certificate as an officer, general partner or fiduciary need not exhibit evidence of his or her authority as a prerequisite to filing. Unless the document does not conform to law, upon receipt of all filing fees the department shall do all of the following:

(a) Endorse on each duplicate original the word “Filed” and the day, month and year of the filing.

(b) File one duplicate original with the department.

(c) Return the other duplicate original to the person who filed it or his or her representative.

(2) Upon the filing of a certificate of amendment or court order of amendment in the department, the certificate of limited partnership shall be amended as set forth in the certificate or order, and upon the effective date of a certificate of cancellation or court order of cancellation, the certificate of limited partnership is canceled.

(3) (a) The department may waive any of the following:

1. Submission of more than one original of a document.
2. An omission or defect in a document, if the department determines from the face of the document that the omission or defect is immaterial.

(b) A waiver under par. (a) occurs when the document is filed.

(5) The department shall charge and collect, for processing a document required or permitted to be filed under this chapter in an expeditious manner, the fee established under s. 182.01 (4) (d) in addition to the fee required by other provisions of this chapter.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1985 a. 29, 338; 1987 a. 27; 1989 a. 232; 1991 a. 32; 1993 a. 214; 1995 a. 27, 417; 2001 a. 16, 44.

**179.17 Liability for false statement in certificate.** If any certificate of limited partnership or certificate of amendment or cancellation contains a materially false statement, one who suffers loss by reliance on the statement may recover damages for the loss from any of the following:

(1) Any person who executes the certificate, or causes another to execute it on his or her behalf, and knew, and any general partner who knew or should have known, the statement to be false in any material respect at the time the certificate was executed.

(2) Any general partner who knows or should have known that any arrangement or other fact described in the certificate has changed, making the statement inaccurate in any material respect within a sufficient time before the statement was relied upon reasonably to have enabled that general partner to cancel or amend the certificate, or to file a petition for its cancellation or amendment under s. 179.15.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.18 Notice conferred by filing.** The fact that a certificate of limited partnership is on file with the department is notice that the partnership is a limited partnership and the persons designated as general partners are general partners, but it is not notice of any other fact.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232; 1995 a. 27.

**179.185 Restated certificate. (1)** A limited partnership may integrate into a single instrument the operative provisions of its certificate of limited partnership, as shown by the original certificate and amendments filed under this subchapter, and it may at the same time also further amend its certificate of limited partnership by adopting a restated certificate of limited partnership. The restated certificate shall be filed together with a fee of \$25 with the department, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format.

(2) If the restated certificate does not further amend the original certificate, as amended under this subchapter, it shall be executed by a general partner. If the restated certificate further amends the original certificate, as amended under this subchapter, it shall be executed by at least one general partner and by each other general partner designated in the restated certificate as a new general partner.

(3) A restated certificate of limited partnership shall be specifically designated as such in its heading. It shall state, either in its heading or in an introductory paragraph, the limited partnership's present name and, if it has been changed, the name under which the original certificate was filed and the date of filing. A restated certificate shall also state that it was executed and filed under this section. If it was executed by a general partner alone because it does not further amend the original certificate, as amended under this subchapter, it shall state that fact.

(4) On filing the restated certificate with the department, the original certificate, as amended under this subchapter, is superseded. After its filing, the restated certificate is the certificate of limited partnership of the limited partnership, but the original effective date of formation shall remain unchanged.

(5) Any amendment effected by the restated certificate is subject to any other provision of this chapter, not inconsistent with this section, which would apply if a certificate of amendment were filed to effect the amendment.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44.

#### 179.19 Delivery of certificates to limited partners.

Upon the return by the department under s. 179.16 of a certificate marked "Filed", the general partners shall promptly deliver or mail a copy of the certificate of limited partnership and each certificate to each limited partner unless the partnership agreement provides otherwise.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1995 a. 27.

### SUBCHAPTER III

#### LIMITED PARTNERS

**179.21 Admission of limited partners.** (1) A person becomes a limited partner when the limited partnership is formed or at any later time specified in the records of the limited partnership for becoming a limited partner.

(1m) After the filing of a limited partnership's original certificate of limited partnership, a person may be admitted as a limited partner:

(a) In the case of a person acquiring a partnership interest directly from the limited partnership, upon the compliance with the partnership agreement or, if the partnership agreement does not so provide, upon the written consent of all partners.

(b) In the case of an assignee of a partnership interest of a partner who has the power, as provided under s. 179.64, to grant the assignee the right to become a limited partner, upon the exercise of that power and compliance with any conditions limiting the grant or exercise of the power.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.22 Voting.** Subject to s. 179.23, the partnership agreement may grant to all or a specified group of the limited partners the right to vote, on a per person or other basis, upon any matter.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.23 Liability to 3rd parties.** (1) Except as provided in sub. (4), a limited partner is not liable for the obligations of a limited partnership unless he or she is also a general partner or, in addition to the exercise of his or her rights and powers as a limited partner, he or she participates in the control of the business. If the limited partner participates in the control of the business, he or she is liable only to persons who transact business with the limited

partnership reasonably believing, based upon the limited partner's conduct, that the limited partner is a general partner.

(2) A limited partner does not participate in the control of the business solely by doing one or more of the following:

(a) Being a contractor for or an agent or employee of the limited partnership or of a general partner, being an officer, director or shareholder of a general partner that is a corporation or being a manager or member of a general partner that is a limited liability company.

(b) Consulting with and advising a general partner with respect to the business of the limited partnership.

(c) Acting as surety for the limited partnership or guaranteeing or assuming one or more specific obligations of the limited partnership.

(e) Proposing, approving or disapproving, by voting or otherwise, one or more of the following matters:

1. The dissolution and winding up of the limited partnership.

2. The sale, exchange, lease, mortgage, pledge or other transfer of all or substantially all of the assets of the limited partnership.

3. The incurrence of indebtedness by the limited partnership other than in the ordinary course of its business.

4. A change in the nature of the business.

5. The removal of a general partner or the admission of an additional general partner.

6. The removal of a limited partner or the admission of an additional limited partner.

7. A transaction involving an actual or potential conflict of interest between a general partner and the limited partnership or the limited partners.

8. An amendment to the partnership agreement or certificate of limited partnership.

9. Matters related to the business of the limited partnership, other than those described in this subsection, that the partnership agreement states in writing may be subject to the approval or disapproval of limited partners.

(f) Taking any action required or permitted by law to bring or pursue a derivative action in the right of the limited partnership.

(g) Requesting or attending a meeting of partners.

(h) Winding up the limited partnership under s. 179.73.

(i) Exercising any right or power permitted to limited partners under this chapter and not specifically enumerated in this subsection.

(3) The enumeration in sub. (2) does not mean that the possession or exercise of any other powers by a limited partner constitutes participation by him or her in the business of the limited partnership.

(4) A limited partner who knowingly permits his or her name to be used in the name of the limited partnership, except as permitted under s. 179.02 (2) (a), is liable to creditors who extend credit to the limited partnership without actual knowledge that the limited partner is not a general partner.

**History:** 1983 a. 173, 216; 1989 a. 232; 1993 a. 112; 2005 a. 253.

#### 179.24 Same; mistake as to status as limited partner.

(1) Except as provided in sub. (2), a person who makes a contribution to a business enterprise and erroneously but in good faith believes that he or she has become a limited partner in the enterprise is not a general partner in the enterprise and is not bound by its obligations by reason of making the contribution, receiving distributions from the enterprise, or exercising any rights of a limited partner, if, on ascertaining the mistake, the person:

(a) Causes an appropriate certificate of limited partnership or a certificate of amendment to be executed and filed; or

(b) Withdraws from future equity participation in the enterprise by executing and filing with the department, together with a \$15 filing fee, a certificate declaring withdrawal under this para-

graph, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format.

(2) A person who makes a contribution of the kind described under sub. (1) is liable as a general partner to any 3rd party who satisfies all of the following conditions:

(a) Transacts business with the enterprise before any of the following occurs:

1. The person withdraws and an appropriate certificate is filed to show withdrawal.

2. An appropriate certificate is filed to show that the person is not a general partner.

(b) Actually believed in good faith that the person was a general partner at the time of the transaction.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 56, 232, 359; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44.

**179.25 Information.** Each limited partner has the right to:

(1) Inspect and copy any of the partnership records required to be maintained by s. 179.05.

(2) Obtain from the general partners from time to time upon reasonable demand:

(a) True and full information regarding the state of the business and financial condition of the limited partnership.

(b) Promptly after becoming available, a copy of the limited partnership's federal, state and local income tax returns for each year.

(c) Other information regarding the affairs of the limited partnership as is just and reasonable.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

#### SUBCHAPTER IV

#### GENERAL PARTNERS

**179.31 Admission of additional general partners.** After the filing of a limited partnership's original certificate of limited partnership, additional general partners may be admitted as provided in writing in the partnership agreement or, if the partnership agreement does not provide in writing for the admission of additional general partners, with the written consent of all of the partners, except as provided in s. 179.105 (2).

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.32 Events of withdrawal.** Except as approved by the written consent of all partners, a person ceases to be a general partner of a limited partnership upon the happening of any of the following events:

(1) The general partner withdraws from the limited partnership under s. 179.52.

(2) The general partner ceases to be a member of the limited partnership under s. 179.62.

(3) The general partner is removed as a general partner in accordance with the partnership agreement.

(4) Unless otherwise provided in writing in the partnership agreement or in a certificate of limited partnership under s. 179.105 (2), the general partner:

(a) Makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors;

(b) Files a voluntary petition in bankruptcy;

(c) Is adjudicated as bankrupt or insolvent;

(d) Files a petition or answer seeking for himself or herself any reorganization, arrangement, composition, readjustment, liquidation, dissolution or similar relief;

(e) Files an answer or other pleading admitting or failing to contest the material allegations of a petition filed against him or her in any proceeding under par. (d); or

(f) Seeks, consents to, or acquiesces in the appointment of a trustee, receiver, or liquidator of the general partner or of all or any substantial part of his or her properties.

(5) Unless otherwise provided in writing in the partnership agreement or in a certificate of limited partnership under s. 179.105 (2), if:

(a) Within 120 days after the commencement of any proceeding against the general partner seeking reorganization, arrangement, composition, readjustment, liquidation, dissolution or similar relief, the proceeding has not been dismissed;

(b) Within 90 days after the appointment without his or her consent or acquiescence of a trustee, receiver, or liquidator of the general partner or of all or any substantial part of his or her properties, the appointment is not vacated or stayed; or

(c) Within 90 days after the expiration of any stay under par. (b) the appointment is not vacated.

(6) In the case of a general partner who is a natural person:

(a) His or her death; or

(b) The entry of a court order adjudicating him or her incompetent to manage his or her person or estate.

(7) In the case of a general partner which is a trust, the termination of the trust.

(8) In the case of a general partner that is a separate partnership, the dissolution and commencement of winding up of the separate partnership.

(9) In the case of a general partner that is a corporation or limited liability company, the filing of a certificate of dissolution, or its equivalent, for the corporation or limited liability company or the revocation of its charter.

(10) In the case of an estate, the distribution by the fiduciary of the estate's entire interest in the partnership.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232; 1993 a. 112.

**179.33 General partner powers and liabilities.**

(1) Except as provided in this chapter or in the partnership agreement, a general partner of a limited partnership has the rights and powers and is subject to the restrictions of a partner in a partnership without limited partners.

(2) (a) Except as provided in this chapter, a general partner of a limited partnership has the liabilities of a partner in a partnership without limited partners to persons other than the partnership and the other partners.

(b) Except as provided in this chapter or in the partnership agreement, a general partner of a limited partnership has the liabilities of a partner in a partnership without limited partners to the partnership and to the other partners.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.34 Contributions by general partner.** A general partner of a limited partnership may make contributions to the limited partnership and share in the profits and losses of, and in distributions from, the limited partnership as a general partner. A general partner also may make contributions to and share in profits, losses and distributions as a limited partner. A person who is both a general partner and a limited partner has the rights and powers, and is subject to the restrictions and liabilities, of a general partner and, except as provided in the partnership agreement, also has the powers, and is subject to the restrictions, of a limited partner to the extent of his or her participation in the limited partnership as a limited partner.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.35 Voting.** The partnership agreement may grant to all or certain identified general partners the right to vote, on a per person or any other basis, separately or with all or any class of the limited partners, on any matter.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

#### SUBCHAPTER V

#### FINANCE

**179.41 Form of contribution.** The contribution of a partner may be in cash, property, or services rendered, or a promissory note or other obligation to contribute cash or property or to perform services.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.42 Liability for contribution. (1)** A promise by a limited partner to contribute to the limited partnership is not enforceable unless specified in writing and signed by the limited partner or specified in a provision of the certificate of limited partnership in existence on April 28, 1990.

**(1m)** Except as provided in the partnership agreement or in a certificate of limited partnership under s. 179.105 (2), a partner is obligated to the limited partnership to perform any enforceable promise to contribute cash or property or to perform services, even if he or she is unable to perform because of death, disability or any other reason. If a partner does not make the required contribution of property or services, he or she is obligated at the option of the limited partnership to contribute cash equal to that portion of the value, as stated in the partnership records required to be kept under s. 179.05, of the stated contribution that has not been made.

**(2)** Unless otherwise provided in the partnership agreement, the obligation of a partner to make a contribution or return money or other property paid or distributed in violation of this chapter may be compromised only by consent of all the partners. Notwithstanding the compromise, a creditor of a limited partnership may enforce the original obligation if the creditor extends credit or otherwise acts in reliance on the obligation after the partner signs a writing which reflects the obligation and before a certificate of amendment or cancellation reflecting the compromise is filed.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.43 Sharing of profits and losses.** The profits and losses of a limited partnership shall be allocated among the partners, and among classes of partners, in the manner provided in writing in the partnership agreement. If the partnership agreement does not so provide in writing, profits and losses shall be allocated on the basis of the value, as stated in the partnership records required to be kept under s. 179.05, of the contributions made by each partner to the extent they have been received by the partnership and have not been returned. This section does not apply to a limited partnership described in s. 179.105 (3).

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.44 Sharing of distributions.** Distributions of cash or other assets of a limited partnership shall be allocated among the partners, and among classes of partners, in the manner provided in writing in the partnership agreement. If the partnership agreement does not so provide in writing, distributions shall be made on the basis of the value, as stated in the partnership records required to be kept under s. 179.05, of the contributions made by each partner to the extent they have been received by the partnership and have not been returned.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

## SUBCHAPTER VI

### DISTRIBUTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

**179.51 Interim distributions.** Except as provided in this subchapter, a partner is entitled to receive distributions from a limited partnership before his or her withdrawal from the limited partnership and before its dissolution and winding up thereof:

**(1)** To the extent and at the times or upon the happening of the events specified in the partnership agreement; and

**(2)** If any distribution constitutes a return of any part of his or her contribution under s. 179.58 (2), to the extent and at the times or upon the happening of the events specified in provisions of a certificate of limited partnership that are in existence on April 28, 1990.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.52 Withdrawal of general partner.** A general partner may withdraw from a limited partnership at any time by giving written notice to the other partners, but if the withdrawal violates the partnership agreement, the limited partnership may recover from the withdrawing general partner damages for breach of the partnership agreement and offset the damages against the amount otherwise distributable to him or her.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.53 Withdrawal of limited partner. (1)** A limited partner may withdraw from a limited partnership only at the time or upon the occurrence of an event specified in writing in the partnership agreement, except as provided in sub. (2) and s. 179.105 (2).

**(2)** If all of the following conditions are met, a limited partner may withdraw upon not less than 6 months' prior written notice to each general partner at his or her address on the books of the limited partnership at its record office in this state:

(a) The limited partnership was formed prior to July 1, 1996.

(b) On July 1, 1996, the partnership agreement of the limited partnership did not specify in writing the time or the events upon the happening of which a limited partner could withdraw or a definite time for the dissolution and the winding up of the limited partnership.

(c) The limited partnership has not amended its partnership agreement since July 1, 1996, to specify in writing, the time or the events upon the happening of which a limited partner may withdraw or a definite time for the dissolution and winding up of the limited partnership.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1995 a. 400.

**179.54 Distribution on withdrawal.** Except as provided in this subchapter, on withdrawal any withdrawing partner is entitled to receive any distribution to which he or she is entitled under the partnership agreement and, if not otherwise provided in the agreement, he or she is entitled to receive, within a reasonable time after withdrawal, the fair value of his or her interest in the limited partnership as of the date of withdrawal based upon his or her right to share in distributions from the limited partnership.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1985 a. 29; 1989 a. 232.

**179.55 Distribution in kind.** Except as provided in writing in the partnership agreement or in a certificate of limited partnership under s. 179.105 (2), a partner has no right to demand and receive any distribution from a limited partnership in any form other than cash. Except as provided in writing in the partnership agreement, a partner may not be compelled to accept a distribution of any asset in kind from a limited partnership to the extent that the percentage of the asset distributed to him or her exceeds a percentage of that asset which is equal to the percentage in which he or she shares in distributions from the limited partnership.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.56 Right to distribution.** At the time a partner is entitled to receive a distribution, he or she has the status of and is entitled to all remedies available to a creditor of the limited partnership with respect to the distribution.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.57 Limitations on distribution.** A partner may not receive a distribution from a limited partnership to the extent that, after giving effect to the distribution, all liabilities of the limited partnership, other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interests, exceed the fair value of the partnership assets.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.58 Liability on return of contribution. (1)** If a partner has received the return of any part of his or her contribution without violation of the partnership agreement or this chapter, he or she is liable to the limited partnership for one year after the return for the amount of the returned contribution, but only to the extent necessary to discharge the limited partnership's liabilities

to creditors who extended credit to the limited partnership during the period the contribution was held by the limited partnership.

(2) If a partner has received the return of any part of his or her contribution in violation of the partnership agreement or this chapter, he or she is liable to the limited partnership for a period of 6 years after the return for the amount of the contribution wrongfully returned.

(3) A partner receives a return of his or her contribution to the extent that a distribution to him or her reduces his or her share of the fair value of the net assets of the limited partnership below the value, as set forth in the partnership records required to be kept under s. 179.05, of his or her contribution which has not been distributed to him or her.

History: 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

## SUBCHAPTER VII

### ASSIGNMENT OF PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS

**179.61 Nature of partnership interest.** A partnership interest is personal property.

History: 1983 a. 173.

**179.62 Assignment of partnership interest.** Except as provided in the partnership agreement, a partnership interest is assignable in whole or in part. An assignment of a partnership interest does not dissolve a limited partnership or entitle the assignee to become or to exercise any rights of a partner. An assignment entitles the assignee to receive, to the extent assigned, only the distribution to which the assignor would be entitled. Except as provided in the partnership agreement, a partner ceases to be a partner upon assignment of all his or her partnership interest.

History: 1983 a. 173.

**179.63 Rights of creditor.** On application to the circuit court by any judgment creditor of a partner, the court may charge the partnership interest of the partner with payment of the unsatisfied amount of the judgment with interest. To the extent charged, the judgment creditor has only the rights of an assignee of the partnership interest.

History: 1983 a. 173.

**179.64 Right of assignee to become limited partner.** (1) An assignee of a partnership interest, including an assignee of a general partner, may become a limited partner if and to the extent that:

(a) The assignor gives the assignee that right in accordance with authority described in the partnership agreement, except as provided in s. 179.105 (2); or

(b) All other partners consent.

(2) An assignee who has become a limited partner has, to the extent assigned, the rights and powers, and is subject to the restrictions and liabilities, of a limited partner under the partnership agreement and this chapter. An assignee who becomes a limited partner also is liable for the obligations of the assignor to make and return contributions as provided in subchs. V and VI. The assignee is not obligated for liabilities unknown to the assignee at the time he or she became a limited partner.

(3) If an assignee of a partnership interest becomes a limited partner, the assignor is not released from his or her liability to the limited partnership under ss. 179.17 and 179.42.

History: 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.65 Power of estate of deceased or partner adjudicated incompetent.** If a partner who is an individual dies or is adjudicated incompetent to manage his or her person or property, the partner's personal representative, guardian, conservator, or other legal representative may exercise all of the partner's rights for the purpose of settling his or her estate or administering his or

her property, including any power the partner had to give an assignee the right to become a limited partner. If a partner is a corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other entity and is dissolved or terminated, the powers of that partner may be exercised by its legal representative or successor.

History: 1983 a. 173; 1993 a. 112; 2001 a. 102; 2005 a. 387.

## SUBCHAPTER VIII

### DISSOLUTION; CONVERSION; MERGER

**179.70 Definitions.** In this subchapter:

(1) "Business entity" means a domestic business entity and a foreign business entity.

(2) "Domestic business entity" means a corporation, as defined in s. 180.0103 (5), a limited liability company, as defined in s. 183.0102 (10), a partnership, as defined in s. 178.0102 (11), a limited partnership, or a corporation, as defined in s. 181.0103 (5).

(3) "Foreign business entity" means a foreign limited liability company, as defined in s. 183.0102 (8), a foreign partnership, as defined in s. 178.0102 (6), a foreign limited partnership, a foreign corporation, as defined in s. 180.0103 (9), or a foreign corporation, as defined in s. 181.0103 (13).

History: 2001 a. 44; 2015 a. 295.

**179.71 Nonjudicial dissolution.** A limited partnership is dissolved and its affairs shall be wound up on the happening of the first of the following:

(1) At the time specified in the certificate of limited partnership.

(1m) Upon the happening of events specified in writing in the partnership agreement, except as provided in s. 179.105 (2).

(2) On the written consent of all partners.

(3) An event of withdrawal of a general partner unless at the time there is at least one other general partner and the written provisions of the partnership agreement permit the business of the limited partnership to be carried on by the remaining general partner and that partner does so, but the limited partnership is not dissolved and is not required to be wound up by reason of any event of withdrawal if, within 90 days after the withdrawal, all partners agree in writing to continue the business of the limited partnership and to the appointment of one or more additional general partners if necessary or desired.

(4) On the entry of an order of judicial dissolution under s. 179.72.

History: 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.72 Judicial dissolution.** (1) On application by or for a partner the circuit court may order dissolution of a limited partnership, if it is not practicable to carry on the business under the partnership agreement.

(2) On application by a district attorney or the attorney general, the circuit court shall order dissolution of a limited partnership, if the limited partnership has violated s. 940.302 (2) or 948.051 (2).

History: 1983 a. 173; 2007 a. 116.

**179.73 Winding up.** Except as provided in the partnership agreement, the general partners who have not wrongfully dissolved a limited partnership or, if none, the limited partners, may wind up the limited partnership's affairs; but the circuit court, upon cause shown, may wind up the limited partnership's affairs upon application of any partner, his or her legal representative, or assignee.

History: 1983 a. 173.

**179.74 Distribution of assets.** Except as provided in s. 179.105 (3), on the winding up of a limited partnership, the assets shall be distributed in the following order:



(1) To creditors, including partners who are creditors, in satisfaction of liabilities of the limited partnership other than liabilities for distributions to partners under s. 179.51 or 179.54.

(2) Except as provided in the partnership agreement, to partners and former partners in satisfaction of liabilities for distributions under s. 179.51 or 179.54.

(3) Except as provided in the partnership agreement, to partners in the following order:

(a) For the return of their contributions in the proportions in which the partners share in distributions.

(b) For their partnership interests in the proportions in which the partners share in distributions.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.76 Conversion.** (1) A domestic limited partnership may convert to another form of business entity if it satisfies the requirements under this section and if the conversion is permitted under the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the organization of the business entity into which the domestic limited partnership is converting.

(2) (a) A business entity other than a domestic limited partnership may convert to a domestic limited partnership if it satisfies the requirements under this section and if the conversion is permitted under the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the business entity.

(b) A business entity converting into a domestic limited partnership shall comply with the procedures that govern the submission and approval of a plan of conversion of the jurisdiction that governs the business entity.

(3) A plan of conversion shall set forth all of the following:

(a) The name, form of business entity, and the identity of the jurisdiction governing the business entity that is to be converted.

(b) The name, form of business entity, and the identity of the jurisdiction that will govern the business entity after conversion.

(c) The terms and conditions of the conversion.

(d) The manner and basis of converting the shares or other ownership interests of the business entity that is to be converted into the shares or other ownership interests of the new form of business entity.

(e) The effective date and time of the conversion, if the conversion is to be effective other than at the time of filing the certificate of conversion, as provided under s. 179.11 (2) or otherwise.

(f) A copy of the articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited partnership, or other similar governing document of the business entity after conversion.

(g) Other provisions relating to the conversion, as determined by the business entity.

(4) When a conversion is effective, all of the following apply:

(a) 1. Except with respect to taxation laws of each jurisdiction that are applicable upon the conversion of the business entity, the business entity that is converted is no longer subject to the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governed the organization of the prior form of business entity and is subject to the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the new form of business entity.

2. If the conversion is from or to a business entity under the laws applicable to which one or more of the owners thereof is liable for the debts and obligations of such business entity, such owner or owners shall continue to be or become so liable for debts and obligations of such business entity, but only for such debts and obligations accrued during the period or periods in which such laws are applicable to such owner or owners. This subdivision does not affect liability under any taxation laws.

(b) The business entity continues to have all liabilities of the business entity that was converted.

(c) The business entity continues to be vested with title to all property owned by the business entity that was converted without reversion or impairment.

(d) The articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited partnership, or other similar governing document, whichever is applicable, of the business entity are as provided in the plan of conversion.

(e) All other provisions of the plan of conversion apply.

(5) Except as provided under sub. (7), after a plan of conversion is submitted and approved, the business entity that is to be converted shall deliver to the department for filing a certificate of conversion that includes all of the following together with a fee of \$150:

(a) The plan of conversion.

(b) A statement that the plan of conversion was approved in accordance with the applicable law of the jurisdiction that governs the organization of the business entity.

(c) The registered agent and registered office, record agent and record office, or other similar agent and office of the business entity before and after conversion.

(6) Any civil, criminal, administrative, or investigatory proceeding that is pending by or against a business entity that is converted may be continued by or against the business entity after the effective date of conversion.

(7) The department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for filing a certificate of conversion under sub. (5) in paper format.

**History:** 2001 a. 44; 2005 a. 476; 2015 a. 295.

Next Economy Legislation: Allowing Complex Business Reorganizations. Boucher, Sosnowski, & Nichols. Wis. Law. Aug. 2002.

**179.77 Merger.** (1) One or more domestic limited partnerships may merge with or into one or more other business entities if the merger is permitted under the applicable laws of the jurisdiction that governs each other business entity that is a party to the merger and each business entity approves the plan of merger in the manner required by the laws applicable to the business entity.

(2) The plan of merger shall set forth all of the following:

(a) The name, form of business entity, and identity of the jurisdiction governing each business entity that is a party to the merger and the name, form of business entity, and identity of the jurisdiction of the surviving business entity with, or into, which each other business entity proposes to merge.

(b) The manner and basis of converting the interests in each business entity that is a party to the merger into shares, interests, obligations, or other securities of the surviving business entity or any other business entity or into cash or other property in whole or in part.

(3) The plan of merger may set forth any of the following:

(a) Amendments to the certificate of limited partnership or other similar governing document of the surviving business entity.

(b) Other provisions relating to the merger.

(4) After a merger is authorized, and at any time before the articles of merger are filed with the department, the planned merger may be abandoned, subject to any contractual rights, without further action on the part of the shareholders or other owners, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the plan of merger or, if none is set forth, in the manner determined by the governing body of any business entity that is a party to the merger.

(5) After a plan of merger is approved by each business entity that is a party to the merger in the manner required by the laws applicable to each business entity, the surviving business entity shall deliver to the department the fee specified under sub. (5m) and articles of merger that include all of the following:

(a) The plan of merger.

(b) A statement that the plan was approved by each business entity that is a party to the merger in the manner required by the laws applicable to each business entity.

(c) The effective date and time of the merger, if the merger is to take effect at a time other than the close of business on the date of filing the articles of merger under s. 179.11 (2).

(d) Other provisions relating to the merger, as determined by the surviving business entity.

(5m) The fee for filing articles of merger is \$150, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for filing articles in paper format.

(6) A merger has the following effects:

(a) Every other business entity that is a party to the merger merges into the surviving business entity, and the separate existence of every business entity, except the surviving business entity, ceases.

(b) 1. If, under the laws applicable to a business entity that is a party to the merger, one or more of the owners thereof is liable for the debts and obligations of such business entity, such owner or owners shall continue to be liable for the debts and obligations of the business entity, but only for such debts and obligations accrued during the period or periods in which such laws are applicable to such owner or owners.

2. If, under the laws applicable to the surviving business entity, one or more of the owners thereof is liable for the debts and obligations of such business entity, the owner or owners of a business entity that is party to the merger, other than the surviving business entity, who become subject to such laws shall be liable for the debts and obligations of the surviving business entity to the extent provided in such laws, but only for such debts and obligations accrued after the merger. The owner or owners of the surviving business entity prior to the merger shall continue to be liable for the debts and obligations of the surviving business entity to the extent provided in subd. 1.

(c) The title to all property owned by each business entity that is a party to the merger is vested in the surviving business entity without reversion or impairment.

(d) The surviving business entity has all liabilities of each business entity that is party to the merger.

(e) A civil, criminal, administrative, or investigatory proceeding pending by or against any business entity that is a party to the merger may be continued as if the merger did not occur, or the surviving business entity may be substituted in the proceeding for the business entity whose existence ceased.

(f) The articles of incorporation, articles of organization, certificate of limited partnership, or other similar governing document, whichever is applicable, of the surviving business entity shall be amended to the extent provided in the plan of merger.

(g) The shares or other interests of each business entity that is party to the merger that are to be converted into shares, interests, obligations, or other securities of the surviving business entity or any other business entity or into cash or other property are converted, and the former holders of the shares or interests are entitled only to the rights provided in the articles of merger or to their rights under the laws applicable to each business entity that is a party to the merger.

(h) If the surviving business entity is a foreign business entity, the department is the agent of the surviving foreign business entity for service of process in a proceeding to enforce any obligation of any business entity that is a party to the merger or the rights of the dissenting members or other owners of each business entity that is a party to the merger.

(i) When a merger takes effect, any surviving foreign business entity of the merger shall promptly pay to the dissenting shareholders of each domestic corporation or dissenting owners of each other domestic business entity that is a party to the merger the amount, if any, to which they are entitled under ss. 180.1301 to 180.1331 or under any law applicable to the other domestic business entity.

History: 2001 a. 44, 105; 2005 a. 476; 2015 a. 295.

## SUBCHAPTER IX

### FOREIGN LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS

**179.81 Law governing.** The laws of the state under which a foreign limited partnership is organized govern its organization and internal affairs and the liability of its limited partners.

History: 1983 a. 173.

**179.82 Registration.** Before transacting business in this state, a foreign limited partnership shall register with the department. A foreign limited partnership shall submit in duplicate, together with a filing fee of \$75, an application for registration as a foreign limited partnership, signed and sworn to by a general partner, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for applications that are filed in paper format. Each application shall set forth all of the following:

(1) The name of the foreign limited partnership and, if different, the name under which it proposes to register and transact business in this state.

(2) The state and date of its formation.

(4) The name and address of an agent for service of process on the foreign limited partnership, who must be any of the following:

(a) An individual resident of this state.

(b) A domestic corporation, nonstock corporation, limited partnership, limited liability partnership that has in effect a statement of qualification under s. 178.0901, or limited liability company, or a foreign corporation, nonstock corporation, limited partnership, registered limited liability partnership, or limited liability company authorized to do business in this state, whose business office is identical with the registered office.

(5) A statement that the department is appointed the agent of the foreign limited partnership for service of process under s. 179.88 if the agent's authority has been revoked or the agent cannot be found or served with the exercise of reasonable diligence.

(6) The address of the office required to be maintained in the state of its organization by the laws of that state or, if not required, of the principal office of the foreign limited partnership.

(7) The name and business address of each general partner.

(8) The address of the office at which the foreign limited partnership keeps a list of the names and addresses of the limited partners and their capital contributions, and an undertaking by the foreign limited partnership to keep those records until the foreign limited partnership's registration in this state is canceled or withdrawn.

History: 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232; 1993 a. 112; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44; 2015 a. 295.

**179.83 Issuance of registration.** (1) If the department finds that an application for registration conforms to law and all requisite fees have been paid, the department shall:

(a) Endorse on the application the word "Filed", and the month, day and year of the filing thereof.

(b) File a duplicate original of the application.

(c) Issue a certificate of registration to transact business in this state.

(2) The certificate of registration, together with a duplicate original of the application, shall be returned to the person who filed the application or his or her representative.

History: 1983 a. 173; 1995 a. 27.

**179.84 Name.** A foreign limited partnership may register with the department under any name that includes the words "limited partnership" or the abbreviation "L.P." or "LP", if the name could be registered by a domestic limited partnership.

History: 1983 a. 173; 1995 a. 27; 2005 a. 476.

**179.85 Amendments.** If any statement in the application for registration of a foreign limited partnership was false when made or any arrangements or other facts described have changed, making the application inaccurate in any respect, the foreign limited partnership shall promptly file with the department, together with

a filing fee of \$15, a certificate, signed and sworn to by a general partner, correcting the statement.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1995 a. 27.

**179.86 Cancellation of registration. (1)** A foreign limited partnership may cancel its registration by filing with the department, together with a filing fee of \$15, a certificate of cancellation signed and sworn to by a general partner, except that the department, by rule, may specify a larger fee for certificates that are filed in paper format.

**(2)** A cancellation does not terminate the authority of the department to accept service of process on the foreign limited partnership with respect to claims arising out of the transaction of business in this state.

**(3)** Upon application by a district attorney or the attorney general, a court shall cancel the registration of a foreign limited partnership if the foreign limited partnership has violated s. 940.302 (2) or 948.051 (2).

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 44; 2007 a. 116.

**179.87 Transaction of business without registration.**

**(1)** A foreign limited partnership transacting business in this state may not initiate any action, suit or proceeding in any court of this state unless it is registered in this state.

**(2)** The failure of a foreign limited partnership to register or maintain registration in this state does not impair the validity of any contract or act of the foreign limited partnership or prevent the foreign limited partnership from defending or bringing counterclaims or cross claims in any action, suit or proceeding in any court of this state.

**(3)** A limited partner of a foreign limited partnership is not liable as a general partner of the foreign limited partnership solely by reason of having transacted business in this state without registration.

**(4)** A foreign limited partnership, by transacting business in this state without registration, appoints the department as its agent for service of process under s. 179.88 with respect to claims arising out of the transaction of business in this state.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1995 a. 27.

**179.88 Substituted service.** Service of process on the department under this subchapter shall be made by serving of duplicate copies of the process on the department, together with the fee established under s. 182.01 (4) (c). The department shall mail notice of the service and a copy of the process within 10 days addressed to the foreign limited partnership at its office in the state of its organization or its principal office, as appearing on the

records of the department from information supplied under s. 179.82 (6). The time within which the foreign limited partnership may answer or move to dismiss under s. 802.06 (2) does not start to run until 10 days after the date of the mailing. The department shall keep a record of service of process under this section showing the day and hour of service and the date of mailing.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1985 a. 29; 1995 a. 27; 2001 a. 16, 44.

**179.89 Action by attorney general.** The attorney general may bring an action to restrain a foreign limited partnership from transacting business in this state in violation of this subchapter.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

## SUBCHAPTER X

### DERIVATIVE ACTIONS

**179.91 Right to bring derivative action.** Subject to s. 179.92, a limited partner may bring an action on behalf of a limited partnership to recover a judgment in its favor if general partners with authority to do so have refused to bring the action or if an effort to cause those general partners to bring the action is not likely to succeed.

**History:** 1983 a. 173, 538.

**179.92 Proper plaintiff.** In a derivative action, the plaintiff must be a partner at the time of bringing the action and must satisfy any of the following conditions:

**(1)** Have been a partner at the time of the transaction which is the subject of the complaint.

**(2)** Derive his or her status as a partner by operation of law or pursuant to the terms of the partnership agreement from a person who was a partner at the time of the transaction.

**History:** 1983 a. 173; 1989 a. 232.

**179.93 Pleading.** In a derivative action, the complaint shall set forth with particularity the effort of the plaintiff to secure initiation of the action by a general partner or the reasons for not making the effort.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.

**179.94 Expenses.** If a derivative action is successful, in whole or in part, or if anything is received by the plaintiff as a result of a judgment, compromise or settlement of an action or claim, the court may award the plaintiff reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorney fees, and shall direct the plaintiff to remit to the limited partnership the remainder of the proceeds.

**History:** 1983 a. 173.