

SENATE BILL NO. 2288

Introduced by

Senator Holmberg

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 14-05 of the of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to summary real estate disposition judgments.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 14-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Summary real estate disposition judgment.**

- 7 1. If real estate is described in a judgment and decree of divorce, the court may direct
8 either of the parties or their legal counsel to prepare and submit to the court, in a form
9 prescribed by the court, a proposed summary real estate disposition judgment. Upon
10 approval by the court and filing of the summary real estate disposition judgment with
11 the court administrator, the court administrator shall provide to any party upon request
12 certified copies of the summary real estate disposition judgment.
- 13 2. A summary real estate disposition judgment must contain the following information:
- 14 a. The full caption and file number of the case and the title "Summary Real Estate
15 Disposition Judgment";
- 16 b. The dates of the parties' marriage and of the entry of the judgment and decree of
17 divorce;
- 18 c. The names of the parties' attorneys or if either or both appeared pro se;
- 19 d. The name of the judge and referee, if any, who signed the order for judgment and
20 decree;
- 21 e. Whether the judgment and decree resulted from a stipulation, a default, or a trial
22 and the appearances at the default or trial;
- 23 f. If the judgment and decree resulted from a stipulation, whether the real property
24 was described by a legal description;

- 1 g. If the judgment and decree resulted from a default, whether the petition contained
2 the legal description of the property and whether disposition was made in
3 accordance with the request for relief;
- 4 h. Whether the summons and petition were served personally upon the respondent
5 in accordance with the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure;
- 6 i. If the summons and petition were served on the respondent only by publication,
7 the name of each legal newspaper and county in which the summons and
8 petition were published and the dates of publications;
- 9 j. Whether either party changed the party's name through the judgment and
10 decree;
- 11 k. The legal description of each parcel of real estate;
- 12 l. The name or names of the persons awarded an interest in each parcel of real
13 estate and a description of the interest awarded;
- 14 m. Liens, mortgages, encumbrances, or other interests in the real estate described
15 in the judgment and decree; and
- 16 n. Triggering or contingent events set forth in the judgment and decree affecting the
17 disposition of each parcel of real estate.
- 18 3. a. On the court's own motion or on application by an interested person, the court
19 shall issue an order authorizing the court administrator to issue an amended
20 summary real estate disposition judgment to correct an erroneous legal
21 description of real estate contained in the judgment and decree of divorce.
- 22 b. An application to correct a legal description under this subdivision must contain:
23 (1) The erroneous legal description contained in the judgment and decree;
24 (2) The correct legal description of the real estate;
25 (3) Written evidence satisfactory to the court to show the correct legal
26 description, or a request for an evidentiary hearing to produce evidence of
27 the correct legal description; and
28 (4) A proposed amended summary real estate disposition judgment.
- 29 c. The court shall consider an application under this subsection on an expedited
30 basis. The court's order must be based on the evidence provided in the
31 application, the evidence produced at an evidentiary hearing, or the evidence

1 already in the record of the proceeding. If the court is satisfied that an erroneous
2 legal description should be corrected under this subsection, the court may issue
3 its order without a hearing or notice to any person. A filing fee is not required for
4 an application under this subsection. The court's order must be treated as an
5 amendment of the court's findings of fact regarding the legal description of the
6 property in question, without the need to amend the original judgment and
7 decree. The court shall issue the order if the court specifically finds that the court
8 had jurisdiction over the respondent in the divorce proceeding and that the
9 property was sufficiently identified in the original proceedings to prevent prejudice
10 to the rights of either party to the divorce and that the amendment will not
11 prejudice their rights. The court's order is effective retroactive to the date of entry
12 of the original judgment and decree of divorce.

13 d. An amended summary real estate disposition judgment must be treated the same
14 as the prior summary real estate disposition judgment for all purposes.

15 e. On request by any interested person, the court administrator shall provide a
16 certified copy of an amended summary real estate disposition judgment showing
17 the correct legal description of the real property affected by the judgment and
18 decree.

19 f. This subsection may not be used to add omitted property to a judgment and
20 decree of divorce, unless the court determines that the omitted property is an
21 integral or appurtenant part of real property already properly included in the
22 judgment and decree.

23 4. An order or provision in a judgment and decree that provides that the judgment and
24 decree must be recorded in the office of the county recorder means, if a summary real
25 estate disposition judgment has been approved by the court, that the summary real
26 estate disposition judgment, rather than the judgment and decree, must be recorded in
27 the office of the county recorder.

28 5. The summary real estate disposition judgment operates as a conveyance and transfer
29 of each interest in the real estate in the manner and to the extent described in the
30 summary real estate disposition judgment. A summary real estate disposition
31 judgment, or an amended summary real estate disposition judgment that supersedes

1 an earlier judgment, is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the summary real
2 estate disposition judgment. A purchaser for value without notice of any defect in the
3 divorce proceedings may rely on a summary real estate disposition judgment or a later
4 amended summary real estate disposition judgment to establish the facts stated in the
5 judgment.
6 6 If a conflict exists between the judgment and decree and the summary real estate
7 disposition judgment, the summary real estate disposition judgment recorded in the
8 office of the county recorder controls as to the interest acquired in real estate by any
9 subsequent purchaser in good faith and for a valuable consideration, who is in
10 possession of the interest or whose interest is recorded with the county recorder,
11 before the recording of the judgment and decree in office of county recorder.