

GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 2. JUDICIAL BRANCH

Text of subtitle as added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42

(S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.01

SUBTITLE K. COURT PROFESSIONS REGULATION

CHAPTER 154. COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION AND SHORTHAND REPORTING
FIRMS REGISTRATION

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.001. DEFINITIONS. (a) In this chapter:

(1) "Advisory board" means the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board.

(2) "Certification" means, notwithstanding Section 151.001, a certification issued by the supreme court on the commission's recommendation.

(3) "Official court reporter" means the shorthand reporter appointed by a judge as the official court reporter.

(4) "Shorthand reporter" and "court reporter" mean a person who engages in shorthand reporting.

(5) "Shorthand reporting" and "court reporting" mean the practice of shorthand reporting for use in litigation in the courts of this state by making a verbatim record of an oral court proceeding, deposition, or proceeding before a grand jury, referee, or court commissioner using written symbols in shorthand, machine shorthand, or oral stenography.

(6) "Shorthand reporting firm," "court reporting firm," and "affiliate office" mean an entity wholly or partly in the business of providing court reporting or other related services in this state.

(b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(6), a court reporting firm, shorthand reporting firm, or affiliate office is considered to be providing court reporting or other related services in this state if:

(1) any act that constitutes a court reporting service or shorthand reporting service occurs wholly or partly in this

state;

(2) the firm or affiliate office recruits a resident of this state through an intermediary located inside or outside of this state to provide court reporting services, shorthand reporting services, or other related services in this state; or

(3) the firm or affiliate office contracts with a resident of this state by mail or otherwise and either party is to perform court reporting services, shorthand reporting services, or other related services wholly or partly in this state.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.01, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.002. RULES. The supreme court may adopt rules consistent with this subtitle, including rules governing:

(1) the certification and conduct of official and deputy court reporters and shorthand reporters; and

(2) the registration and conduct of court reporting and shorthand reporting firms.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.01, eff. September 1, 2014.

SUBCHAPTER B. COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.051. ORGANIZATION. (a) The Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board is established as an advisory board to the commission. The advisory board is composed of at least seven members appointed by the supreme court as follows:

(1) one active district judge presiding over a court that employs an official court reporter;

(2) one active attorney licensed in this state who has been a practicing member of the State Bar for more than the five years immediately preceding the attorney's appointment to the advisory board;

(3) two active official court reporters who have

practiced shorthand reporting in this state for more than the five years immediately preceding their appointment to the advisory board;

(4) two active certified shorthand reporters who work on a freelance basis and who have practiced shorthand reporting for more than the five years immediately preceding their appointment to the advisory board; and

(5) one representative of a shorthand reporting firm that has operated as a shorthand reporting firm in this state for more than the three years immediately preceding the representative's appointment to the advisory board.

(b) Appointments to the advisory board shall be made without regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin of the appointees.

(c) The advisory board member appointed under Subsection (a)(1) serves as presiding officer of the advisory board.

(d) A majority of the advisory board constitutes a quorum.

(e) Advisory board members serve staggered six-year terms of office as ordered by the supreme court.

(f) If a vacancy occurs on the advisory board, the supreme court shall appoint a similarly qualified person to serve the remainder of the term.

(g) Advisory board members serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses and other actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official advisory board duties, as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 480, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1985. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 148, Sec. 2.68(a), eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 167, Sec. 2.19(15), eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 561, Sec. 22, eff. Aug. 26, 1991; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.95(28), eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 29, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 2001; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 813, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 808 (S.B. [1441](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 19, 2009.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Section 52.011 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.03, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.052. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER TRAINING. (a) A person who is appointed to and qualifies for office as a member of the advisory board may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a member in attendance at a meeting of the advisory board until the person completes a training program that complies with this section.

(b) The training program must provide the person with information regarding:

- (1) this chapter;
- (2) the role and functions of the advisory board;
- (3) the rules of the commission, with an emphasis on the rules that relate to disciplinary and investigatory authority; and

(4) any applicable ethics policies adopted by the commission.

(c) A person appointed to the advisory board is entitled to reimbursement, as provided by the General Appropriations Act, for the travel expenses incurred in attending the training program regardless of whether the attendance at the program occurs before or after the person qualifies for office.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 813, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Section 52.0111 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.03, eff. September 1, 2014.

SUBCHAPTER C. CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.101. CERTIFICATION OF REPORTERS. (a) A person may not be appointed an official court reporter or a deputy court reporter unless the person is certified as a shorthand reporter by

the supreme court.

(b) A person may not engage in shorthand reporting in this state unless the person is certified as a shorthand reporter by the supreme court.

(c) A certification issued under this chapter must be for one or more of the following methods of shorthand reporting:

- (1) written shorthand;
- (2) machine shorthand;
- (3) oral stenography; or
- (4) any other method of shorthand reporting authorized by the supreme court.

(d) A person certified under state law as a court reporter before September 1, 1983, may retain a general certification authorizing the person to use any authorized method of shorthand reporting. The person must keep the certification in continuous effect.

(e) A person may not assume or use the title or designation "court recorder," "court reporter," or "shorthand reporter," or any abbreviation, title, designation, words, letters, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that the person is a court reporter or shorthand reporter, unless the person is certified as a shorthand reporter by the supreme court. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to either sanction or prohibit the use of electronic court recording equipment operated by a noncertified court reporter pursuant and according to rules adopted or approved by the supreme court.

(f) Except as provided by Section 154.112 and by Section 20.001, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, all depositions conducted in this state must be recorded by a certified shorthand reporter.

(g) The commission may enforce this section by seeking an injunction or by filing a complaint against a person who is not certified by the supreme court in the district court of the county in which that person resides or Travis County. Said action for an injunction shall be in addition to any other action, proceeding, or remedy authorized by law. The commission shall be represented by the attorney general and/or the county or district attorney of this state, or counsel designated and empowered by the commission.

(h) A court reporting firm shall register with the commission by completing an application in a form adopted by the commission.

(i) Rules applicable to a court reporter are also applicable to a court reporting firm. The commission may enforce this subsection by assessing a reasonable fee against a court reporting firm. This subsection does not apply to court reporting services performed outside of this state by a foreign shorthand reporter who is not certified in this state for use in a court proceeding in this state, provided that the work resulting from those services is produced and billed wholly outside of this state.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.102. APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION. A person seeking certification must file an application for examination with the commission not later than the 30th day before the date fixed for the examination. The application must be accompanied by the required fee.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.103. EXAMINATION. (a) The examination for certification in one or more of the authorized methods of shorthand reporting consists of two parts, designated Part A and Part B.

(b) Part A consists of five minutes of two-voice dictation of questions and answers given at 225 words per minute, five minutes of dictation of jury charges given at 200 words per minute, and five minutes of dictation of selected literary material given at 180 words per minute. Each applicant must personally take down the test material, either in writing or in voice, and must prepare a transcript of the material taken down. The minimum passing grade

for each section of Part A is 95 percent. A dictionary may be used during Part A. Each applicant has three hours to complete the transcription of Part A. If an applicant finishes before the three hours have elapsed, the applicant may review the transcript but may use only the test material taken down by that applicant to review the transcript. An error is charged for:

- (1) each wrong word;
- (2) each omitted word;
- (3) each word added by the applicant that was not dictated;
- (4) each contraction interpreted by the applicant as two words;
- (5) two words interpreted by the applicant as a contraction;
- (6) each misplaced word;
- (7) each misplaced period that materially alters the sense of a group of words or a sentence;
- (8) each misspelled word;
- (9) the use of the plural or singular if the opposite was dictated; and
- (10) each wrong number.

(c) Part B consists of objective questions relating to elementary aspects of shorthand reporting, spelling, and grammar. The minimum passing grade for Part B is 75 percent. A dictionary may not be used during Part B.

(d) An applicant who cheats on the examination is disqualified and may not take the examination again until two years have elapsed from the date of the examination at which the applicant was disqualified.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.104. CERTIFICATION TO SUPREME COURT. The commission shall certify to the supreme court the name of each qualified applicant who has passed the examination.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.105. TITLE; OATHS. (a) On certification, a shorthand reporter may use the title "Certified Shorthand Reporter" or the abbreviation "CSR."

(b) A certified shorthand reporter may administer oaths to witnesses anywhere in this state.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.106. FIRM REGISTRATION. (a) A shorthand reporting firm may not assume or use the title or designation "court recording firm," "court reporting firm," or "shorthand reporting firm" or any abbreviation, title, designation, words, letters, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that the firm is a court reporting firm or shorthand reporting firm, or offer services as a court reporting firm or shorthand reporting firm, unless the firm and its affiliate offices are registered with the commission on a form prescribed by the commission as required by this subchapter.

(b) The commission may enforce this section against a firm, its affiliate office, or both, if the firm or affiliate office is not registered with the commission, by seeking an injunction or by filing a complaint in the district court of the county in which the firm or affiliate office is located or in Travis County. An action for an injunction is in addition to any other action, proceeding, or remedy authorized by law. The attorney general, a county or district attorney of this state, or counsel designated and empowered by the commission shall represent the commission.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.107. CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION FEE AND RENEWAL. (a) A person who receives certification as a shorthand reporter or a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office that registers with the commission must pay the initial fee and any other required fee before receiving the certification or registration.

(b) A certification or registration expires at 12:01 a.m. on January 1 following the second anniversary of the date on which it was issued unless the certification or registration is renewed. Thereafter, the certification or registration expires at 12:01 a.m. of each second January 1 unless renewed.

(c) A person who is otherwise eligible to renew a certification or registration may renew an unexpired certification or registration by paying the required renewal fee to the commission before the expiration date of the certification or registration. A person whose certification or registration has expired may not engage in activities that require a certification or registration until the certification or registration has been renewed.

(d) A person whose certification or registration has been expired for 90 days or less may renew the certification or registration by paying to the commission a renewal fee that is equal to 1-1/2 times the normally required renewal fee.

(e) A person whose certification or registration has been expired for more than 90 days but less than one year may renew the certification or registration by paying to the commission a renewal fee that is equal to two times the normally required renewal fee.

(f) A person whose certification or registration has been expired for one year or more may not renew the certification or registration. The person may obtain a new certification or registration by complying with the requirements and procedures, including the examination requirements, for obtaining an original certification or registration.

(g) A person who was certified in this state, moved to another state, and is currently certified and has been in practice in the other state for the two years preceding the date of

application may obtain a new certification without reexamination. The person must pay to the commission a fee that is equal to two times the normally required renewal fee for the certification.

(h) Not later than the 30th day before the date a person's certification or registration is scheduled to expire, the commission shall send written notice of the impending expiration to the person at the person's last known address according to the records of the commission.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.108. STAGGERED RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION OR REGISTRATION. The supreme court by rule may adopt a system under which certifications or registrations expire on various dates during the year. For the year in which the certification or registration expiration date is changed, the commission shall prorate certification or registration fees on a monthly basis so that each certification or registration holder pays only that portion of the certification or registration fee that is allocable to the number of months during which the certification or registration is valid. On renewal of the certification or registration on the new expiration date, the total certification or registration renewal fee is payable.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.109. COMPLAINT. (a) To file a complaint against a certified shorthand reporter or a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office registered with the commission, a person must:

- (1) have personal knowledge of the alleged violation;
- (2) complete a complaint form provided by the

commission;

(3) sign the completed form; and

(4) attach any pertinent documentary evidence to the form.

(b) On receipt of a properly executed complaint, the commission shall furnish a copy of the complaint and any attachments to the shorthand reporter or shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office that is the subject of the complaint.

(c) This section does not preclude the commission or a court of this state from filing a complaint against a certified shorthand reporter or a shorthand reporting firm. An advisory board member may recommend to the commission a complaint to be filed against a certified shorthand reporter or a shorthand reporting firm or affiliated office registered with the commission.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.110. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AGAINST COURT REPORTERS.

(a) After receiving a complaint and giving the certified shorthand reporter notice and an opportunity for a hearing as prescribed by Subchapter B, Chapter 153, the commission shall revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew the shorthand reporter's certification or issue a reprimand to the reporter for:

(1) fraud or corruption;

(2) dishonesty;

(3) wilful or negligent violation or failure of duty;

(4) incompetence;

(5) fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining certification;

(6) a final conviction of a felony or misdemeanor that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of a certified court reporter, as determined by supreme court rules;

(7) engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting using a method for which the reporter is not certified;

(8) engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting

while certification is suspended;

(9) unprofessional conduct, including giving directly or indirectly, benefiting from, or being employed as a result of any gift, incentive, reward, or anything of value to attorneys, clients, or their representatives or agents, except for nominal items that do not exceed \$100 in the aggregate for each recipient each year;

(10) entering into or providing services under a prohibited contract described by Section 154.115;

(11) committing any other act that violates this chapter or a rule or provision of the code of ethics adopted under this subtitle; or

(12) other sufficient cause.

(b) The commission may suspend the certification:

(1) for a designated period of time not to exceed 12 months;

(2) until the person corrects the deficiencies that were the grounds for the suspension; or

(3) until the person complies with any conditions imposed by the commission to ensure the person's future performance as a shorthand reporter.

(c) A suspended shorthand reporter may apply for reinstatement by presenting proof that:

(1) the designated time has expired;

(2) the person has corrected the deficiencies; or

(3) the person has complied with the conditions imposed by the commission.

(d) On its own motion, the commission may conduct a hearing to inquire into a suspension. If the commission finds that a person has not corrected the deficiencies that were the grounds of the suspension or has not complied with the conditions imposed by the commission, the commission may revoke the person's certification.

(e) The supreme court may authorize and the commission may adopt rules relating to the nonrenewal of the certification of a court reporter who is in default on a loan guaranteed under Chapter 57, Education Code, by the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan

Corporation.

(f) The commission may place on probation a person whose certification is suspended. If a certification suspension is probated, the commission may require the person to:

(1) report regularly to the commission on matters that are the basis of the probation;

(2) limit practice to the areas prescribed by the commission; or

(3) continue or review professional education until the person attains a degree of skill satisfactory to the commission in those areas that are the basis of the probation.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.111. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AGAINST FIRMS.

(a) After receiving a complaint and giving the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office notice and an opportunity for a hearing as prescribed by Subchapter B, Chapter 153, the commission shall reprimand, assess a reasonable fine against, or suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the registration of a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office for:

(1) fraud or corruption;

(2) dishonesty;

(3) conduct on the part of an officer, director, or managerial employee of the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office if the officer, director, or managerial employee orders, encourages, or permits conduct that the officer, director, or managerial employee knows or should have known violates this subtitle;

(4) conduct on the part of an officer, director, or managerial employee or agent of the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office who has direct supervisory authority over a person for whom the officer, director, employee, or agent knows or should have known violated this subtitle and knowingly fails to take reasonable remedial action to avoid or mitigate the consequences of

the person's actions;

(5) fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining registration;

(6) a final conviction of an officer, director, or managerial employee of a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office for a felony or misdemeanor that is directly related to the provision of court reporting services, as determined by supreme court rules;

(7) engaging the services of a reporter that the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office knew or should have known was using a method for which the reporter is not certified;

(8) knowingly providing court reporting services while the shorthand reporting firm's or affiliate office's registration is suspended or engaging the services of a shorthand reporter whose certification the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office knew or should have known was suspended;

(9) unprofessional conduct, including a pattern of giving directly or indirectly or benefiting from or being employed as a result of giving any gift, incentive, reward, or anything of value to attorneys, clients, or their representatives or agents, except for nominal items that do not exceed \$100 in the aggregate for each recipient each year;

(10) entering into or providing services under a prohibited contract described by Section 154.115;

(11) committing any other act that violates this chapter or a rule or provision of the code of ethics adopted under this subtitle; or

(12) other sufficient cause.

(b) Nothing in Subsection (a)(9) shall be construed to define providing value-added business services, including long-term volume discounts, such as the pricing of products and services, as prohibited gifts, incentives, or rewards.

(c) The commission may suspend the registration of a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office:

(1) for a designated period of time;

(2) until the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office corrects the deficiencies that were the grounds for the

suspension; or

(3) until the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office complies with any conditions imposed by the commission to ensure the shorthand reporting firm's or affiliate office's future performance.

(d) A shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office whose registration is suspended may apply for reinstatement by presenting proof that:

(1) the designated time has expired;

(2) the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office has corrected the deficiencies; or

(3) the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office has complied with the conditions imposed by the commission.

(e) On its own motion, the commission may conduct a hearing to inquire into a suspension. If the commission finds that a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office has not corrected the deficiencies that were the grounds for the suspension or has not complied with the conditions imposed by the commission, the commission may revoke the registration of the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office.

(f) The commission may place on probation a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office whose registration is suspended. If a registration suspension is probated, the commission may require the firm or office to:

(1) report regularly to the commission on matters that are the basis of the probation;

(2) limit practice to the areas prescribed by the commission; or

(3) through its officers, directors, managerial employees, or agents, continue or review professional education until those persons attain a degree of skill satisfactory to the commission in those areas that are the basis of the probation.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Sec. 154.112. EMPLOYMENT OF NONCERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS. (a) A noncertified shorthand reporter may be employed until a certified shorthand reporter is available.

(b) A noncertified shorthand reporter may report an oral deposition only if:

(1) the noncertified shorthand reporter delivers an affidavit to the parties or to their counsel present at the deposition stating that a certified shorthand reporter is not available; or

(2) the parties or their counsel stipulate on the record at the beginning of the deposition that a certified shorthand reporter is not available.

(c) This section does not apply to a deposition taken outside this state for use in this state.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.113. CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) Except as provided by Section 154.112, a person commits an offense if the person engages in shorthand reporting in violation of Section 154.101. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor. Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.114. EXEMPTIONS. This chapter does not apply to:

(1) a party to the litigation involved;

(2) the attorney of the party; or

(3) a full-time employee of a party or a party's attorney.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B.

[966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 154.115. PROHIBITED CONTRACTS. (a) A court reporter may not enter into or provide services under any contractual agreement, written or oral, exclusive or nonexclusive, that:

- (1) undermines the impartiality of the court reporter;
- (2) requires a court reporter to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript and copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney;
- (3) requires a court reporter to provide any service not made available to all parties to an action; or
- (4) gives or appears to give an exclusive advantage to any party.

(b) This section does not apply to a contract for court reporting services for a court, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or this state.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 52 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. September 1, 2014.