

**CHAPTER 303****REFERENCE OF DISPUTES****§1151. Controversies referable; powers of referees; revocation by consent**

All controversies which may be the subject of a personal action may be submitted to one or more referees, with the same powers as those appointed by the court. The parties personally or by attorney may sign and acknowledge an agreement before a notary public, although he is one of the referees, in substance as follows:

"Know all men by these presents, that ....., of ....., in the County of ....., and ....., of ....., in the County of ....., have agreed to submit the demand made by said ....., against said ....., which is hereunto annexed," (and all other demands between the parties, as the case may be,) "to the determination of ....., .... and ....; and judgment rendered on their report, or that of a majority of them, made to the Superior Court for the said County of ....., within one year from this day, shall be final. And if either party neglects to appear before the referees, after proper notice given to him of the time and place appointed for hearing the parties, they may proceed in his absence.

Dated this .... day of ....., A.D., 19.... ." [PL 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, §128 (AMD).]

Such agreement shall not be revoked without mutual consent, but the parties may agree when the report shall be made and vary the form accordingly.

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1981, c. 456, §A128 (AMD).

**§1152. Submission of all demands; specific demands**

If all demands between the parties are so submitted, no specific demand need be annexed to the agreement; but if a specific demand only is submitted, it shall be annexed to the agreement and signed by the party making it and be so stated as to be readily understood.

**§1153. Authority of referees**

All the referees must meet and hear the parties; but a majority may make the report, which is as valid as if signed by all, if it appears by the report or certificate of the dissenting referee that all attended and heard the parties. They may allow costs or not to either party, unless special provision is made therefor in the submission, but the court may reduce their compensation. Any referee may swear witnesses. [PL 2009, c. 166, §2 (AMD).]

A referee appointed to hear a dispute concerning real property must report the referee's decision within one year of appointment by the court unless good cause for extending this period is shown. [PL 2009, c. 166, §2 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 2009, c. 166, §2 (AMD).

**§1154. Return of report**

The report shall be made to the court within the time specified in the submission. One of the referees shall deliver it into court, or it shall be sealed up and sent sealed to the court, and shall be opened by the clerk.

**§1155. Action on report; appeals**

The court may accept, reject or recommit the report. If recommitted, the referees shall notify the parties of the time and place for a new hearing. When the report is accepted, judgment shall be entered thereon as in case of submissions by rule of court. Either party may appeal from such judgment or from rejection of the report.

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