



AIA[®] Document A105[™] – 2007

Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor for a Residential or Small Commercial Project

AGREEMENT made as of the **twenty fourth** day of **April**
in the year **2017**
(In words, indicate day, month and year.)

BETWEEN the Owner:
(Name, legal status, address and other information)

Historic Saint Paul Corporation, a non profit organization
400 Landmark Center
75 West 5th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

and the Contractor:
(Name, legal status, address and other information)

Paul Ormseth Restoration and Construction LLC
75 5th St. W. Suite 402
Saint Paul, MN 55102

for the following Project:
(Name, location and detailed description)

689 Conway Street, Saint Paul, MN Repair and Remodel
Repair and remodel of an existing residence in the Dayton's Bluff Heritage Preservation District. Home is currently registered as a Category 3 vacant building with the City of Saint Paul. The Work includes completing repairs to bring the structure into code compliance, remodeling the interior for improved living spaces, energy efficiency improvements, repair and replacement of finishes, repair of electrical wiring and replacement of mechanical and plumbing systems. The Owner will contract separately with a third party, Guadalupe Alternative Programs, for demolition and rough framing.

The Architect:
(Name, legal status, address and other information)

Paul Ormseth Architect LLC
75 5th St. W. Suite 402
Saint Paul, MN 55102

The Owner and Contractor agree as follows.

This document has important legal consequences. Consultation with an attorney is encouraged with respect to its completion or modification.

State or local law may impose requirements on contracts for home improvements. If this document will be used for Work on the Owner's residence, the Owner should consult local authorities or an attorney to verify requirements applicable to this Agreement.

.3 addenda prepared by the Architect as follows:

Number	Date	Pages
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.4 written orders for changes in the Work issued after execution of this Agreement; and

.5 other documents, if any, identified as follows:

ARTICLE 2 DATE OF COMMENCEMENT AND SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION

The number of calendar days available to the Contractor to substantially complete the Work is the Contract Time. The date of commencement of the Work shall be the date of this Agreement unless otherwise indicated below. The Contractor shall substantially complete the Work, no later than **one hundred fifty (150)** calendar days from the date of commencement, subject to adjustment as provided in Article 10 and Article 11. *(Insert the date of commencement, if it differs from the date of this Agreement.)*

Date of commencement is date of Owner closing on financing. Article 11.2 includes adjustments for causes beyond the Contractor's control, which applies to potential delays caused by GAP.

ARTICLE 3 CONTRACT SUM

§ 3.1 Subject to additions and deductions in accordance with Article 10, the Contract Sum is:

\$145,260.00

§ 3.2 For purposes of payment, the Contract Sum includes the following values related to portions of the Work: *(Itemize the Contract Sum among the major portions of the Work.)*

Portion of the Work	Value
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Sworn construction statement, attached

§ 3.3 Unit prices, if any, are as follows:

(Identify and state the unit price; state the quantity limitations, if any, to which the unit price will be applicable.)

Item	Units and Limitations	Price per Unit (\$0.00)
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Carpentry labor **\$65 per hour**

§ 3.4 Allowances included in the Contract Sum, if any, are as follows:

(Identify allowance and state exclusions, if any, from the allowance price.)

Item	Price (\$0.00)
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Appliances	\$3,000 total
Carpet	\$3.20/SF installed

ARTICLE 6 GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 6.1 The Contract

The Contract represents the entire and integrated agreement between the parties and supersedes prior negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral. The Contract may be amended or modified only by a written modification in accordance with Article 10.

§ 6.2 The Work

The term "Work" means the construction and services required by the Contract Documents, and includes all other labor, materials, equipment and services provided, or to be provided, by the Contractor to fulfill the Contractor's obligations.

§ 6.3 Intent

The intent of the Contract Documents is to include all items necessary for the proper execution and completion of the Work by the Contractor. The Contract Documents are complementary, and what is required by one shall be as binding as if required by all.

§ 6.4 Ownership and Use of Architect's Drawings, Specifications and Other Documents

Documents prepared by the Architect are instruments of the Architect's service for use solely with respect to this Project. The Architect shall retain all common law, statutory and other reserved rights, including the copyright. The Contractor, subcontractors, sub-subcontractors, and material or equipment suppliers are authorized to use and reproduce the instruments of service solely and exclusively for execution of the Work. The instruments of service may not be used for other Projects or for additions to this Project outside the scope of the Work without the specific written consent of the Architect.

ARTICLE 7 OWNER

§ 7.1 Information and Services Required of the Owner

§ 7.1.1 If requested by the Contractor, the Owner shall furnish all necessary surveys and a legal description of the site.

§ 7.1.2 Except for permits and fees that are the responsibility of the Contractor under the Contract Documents, the Owner shall obtain and pay for other necessary approvals, easements, assessments and charges.

§ 7.2 Owner's Right to Stop the Work

If the Contractor fails to correct Work which is not in accordance with the Contract Documents, the Owner may direct the Contractor in writing to stop the Work until the correction is made.

§ 7.3 Owner's Right to Carry Out the Work

If the Contractor defaults or neglects to carry out the Work in accordance with the Contract Documents and fails within a seven day period after receipt of written notice from the Owner to commence and continue correction of such default or neglect with diligence and promptness, the Owner may, without prejudice to other remedies, correct such deficiencies. In such case, the Contract Sum shall be adjusted to deduct the cost of correction from payments due the Contractor.

§ 7.4 Owner's Right to Perform Construction and to Award Separate Contracts

§ 7.4.1 The Owner reserves the right to perform construction or operations related to the Project with the Owner's own forces, and to award separate contracts in connection with other portions of the Project.

§ 7.4.2 The Contractor shall coordinate and cooperate with the Owner's own forces and separate contractors employed by the Owner.

§ 7.4.3 Costs caused by delays or by improperly timed activities or defective construction shall be borne by the party responsible therefor.

ARTICLE 8 CONTRACTOR

§ 8.1 Review of Contract Documents and Field Conditions by Contractor

§ 8.1.1 Execution of the Contract by the Contractor is a representation that the Contractor has visited the site, become familiar with local conditions under which the Work is to be performed and correlated personal observations with requirements of the Contract Documents.

§ 8.1.2 The Contractor shall carefully study and compare the Contract Documents with each other and with information furnished by the Owner. Before commencing activities, the Contractor shall (1) take field measurements and verify field

§ 8.11 Cleaning Up

The Contractor shall keep the premises and surrounding area free from accumulation of debris and trash related to the Work. At the completion of the Work, the Contractor shall remove its tools, construction equipment, machinery and surplus material; and shall properly dispose of waste materials.

§ 8.12 Indemnification

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Owner, Architect, Architect's consultants and agents and employees of any of them from and against claims, damages, losses and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys' fees, arising out of or resulting from performance of the Work, provided that such claim, damage, loss or expense is attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property (other than the Work itself), but only to the extent caused by the negligent acts or omissions of the Contractor, a subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts they may be liable, regardless of whether or not such claim, damage, loss or expense is caused in part by a party indemnified hereunder.

ARTICLE 9 ARCHITECT

PTO 4/24/17 [Signature]

~~§ 9.1 The Architect will provide administration of the Contract as described in the Contract Documents. The Architect will have authority to act on behalf of the Owner only to the extent provided in the Contract Documents.~~

~~§ 9.2 The Architect will visit the site at intervals appropriate to the stage of construction to become generally familiar with the progress and quality of the Work.~~

~~§ 9.3 The Architect will not have control over or charge of, and will not be responsible for, construction means, methods, techniques, sequences or procedures, or for safety precautions and programs in connection with the Work, since these are solely the Contractor's responsibility. The Architect will not be responsible for the Contractor's failure to carry out the Work in accordance with the Contract Documents.~~

~~§ 9.4 Based on the Architect's observations and evaluations of the Contractor's Applications for Payment, the Architect will review and certify the amounts due the Contractor.~~

~~§ 9.5 The Architect has authority to reject Work that does not conform to the Contract Documents.~~

~~§ 9.6 The Architect will promptly review and approve or take appropriate action upon Contractor's submittals, but only for the limited purpose of checking for conformance with information given and the design concept expressed in the Contract Documents.~~

~~§ 9.7 The Architect will promptly interpret and decide matters concerning performance under, and requirements of, the Contract Documents on written request from either the Owner or Contractor.~~

~~§ 9.8 Interpretations and decisions of the Architect will be consistent with the intent of and reasonably inferable from the Contract Documents and will be in writing or in the form of drawings. When making such interpretations and decisions, the Architect will endeavor to secure faithful performance by both Owner and Contractor, will not show partiality to either and will not be liable for results of interpretations or decisions rendered in good faith.~~

~~§ 9.9 The Architect's duties, responsibilities and limits of authority as described in the Contract Documents shall not be changed without written consent of the Owner, Contractor and Architect. Consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.~~

ARTICLE 10 CHANGES IN THE WORK

§ 10.1 The Owner, without invalidating the Contract, may order changes in the Work within the general scope of the Contract consisting of additions, deletions or other revisions, the Contract Sum and Contract Time being adjusted accordingly in writing. If the Owner and Contractor can not agree to a change in the Contract Sum, the Owner shall pay the Contractor its actual cost plus reasonable overhead and profit.

~~§ 10.2 The Architect will have authority to order minor changes in the Work not involving changes in the Contract Sum or the Contract Time and not inconsistent with the intent of the Contract Documents. Such orders shall be in writing and shall be binding on the Owner and Contractor. The Contractor shall carry out such orders promptly.~~

PTO 4/24/17 [Signature]

Documents shall commence on the date of Substantial Completion of the Work or designated portion thereof unless otherwise provided in the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

§ 12.6 Final Completion and Final Payment

§ 12.6.1 Upon receipt of a final Application for Payment, the Architect will inspect the Work. When the Architect finds the Work acceptable and the Contract fully performed, the Architect will promptly issue a final Certificate for Payment. *Owner 4/24/17 PTO*

§ 12.6.2 Final payment shall not become due until the Contractor submits to the Architect releases and waivers of liens, and data establishing payment or satisfaction of obligations, such as receipts, claims, security interests or encumbrances arising out of the Contract. *Owner*

§ 12.6.3 Acceptance of final payment by the Contractor, a subcontractor or material supplier shall constitute a waiver of claims by that payee except those previously made in writing and identified by that payee as unsettled at the time of final Application for Payment.

ARTICLE 13 PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

The Contractor shall be responsible for initiating, maintaining and supervising all safety precautions and programs, including all those required by law in connection with performance of the Contract. The Contractor shall take reasonable precautions to prevent damage, injury or loss to employees on the Work, the Work and materials and equipment to be incorporated therein, and other property at the site or adjacent thereto. The Contractor shall promptly remedy damage and loss to property caused in whole or in part by the Contractor, or by anyone for whose acts the Contractor may be liable.

ARTICLE 14 CORRECTION OF WORK

§ 14.1 The Contractor shall promptly correct Work rejected by the Architect as failing to conform to the requirements of the Contract Documents. The Contractor shall bear the cost of correcting such rejected Work, including the costs of uncovering, replacement and additional testing. *Owner 4/24/17 PTO*

§ 14.2 In addition to the Contractor's other obligations including warranties under the Contract, the Contractor shall, for a period of one year after Substantial Completion, correct work not conforming to the requirements of the Contract Documents.

§ 14.3 If the Contractor fails to correct nonconforming Work within a reasonable time, the Owner may correct it in accordance with Section 7.3.

ARTICLE 15 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 15.1 Assignment of Contract

Neither party to the Contract shall assign the Contract as a whole without written consent of the other.

§ 15.2 Tests and Inspections

§ 15.2.1 At the appropriate times, the Contractor shall arrange and bear cost of tests, inspections and approvals of portions of the Work required by the Contract Documents or by laws, statutes, ordinances, codes, rules and regulations, or lawful orders of public authorities.

§ 15.2.2 If the Architect requires additional testing, the Contractor shall perform those tests. *Owner PTO 4/21/17*

§ 15.2.3 The Owner shall bear cost of tests, inspections or approvals that do not become requirements until after the Contract is executed.

§ 15.3 Governing Law

The Contract shall be governed by the law of the place where the Project is located.

ARTICLE 16 TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT

§ 16.1 Termination by the Contractor

~~If the Architect fails to certify payment as provided in Section 12.3 for a period of 30 days through no fault of the Contractor, or if the Owner fails to make payment as provided in Section 12.4.1 for a period of 30 days, the Contractor may, upon seven additional days' written notice to the Owner and Architect, terminate the Contract and recover from the Owner payment for Work executed including reasonable overhead and profit, and costs incurred by reason of such termination.~~ *PTO 4/24/17* *leave in (if from the Owner...)*

Contractor's Pre-Lien Notice to Owner

(a) Any person or company supplying labor or materials for this improvement to your property may file a lien against your property if that person or company is not paid for the contributions.

(b) Under Minnesota law, you have the right to pay persons who supplied labor or materials for this improvement directly and deduct this amount from our contract price, or withhold the amounts due them from us until 120 days after completion of the improvement unless we give you a lien waiver signed by persons who supplied any labor or material for the improvement and who gave you timely notice.

Statutory Warranty for Home Improvements

The "Statutory Warranties" of Minn. Stat. Chapter 327A applies to the Work (copy of statute attached).

CHAPTER 327A
HOUSING; STATUTORY WARRANTIES

327A.01	DEFINITIONS.	327A.051	HOME WARRANTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION.
327A.02	STATUTORY WARRANTIES.	327A.06	OTHER WARRANTIES.
327A.03	EXCLUSIONS.	327A.07	VARIATIONS.
327A.04	WAIVER AND MODIFICATION LIMITED.	327A.08	LIMITATIONS.
327A.05	REMEDIES.		

327A.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** As used in sections 327A.01 to 327A.07, the terms in this section shall have the meanings assigned to them.

Subd. 2. **Building standards.** "Building standards" means the materials and installation standards of the State Building Code, adopted by the commissioner of labor and industry pursuant to sections 326B.101 to 326B.194, in effect at the time of the construction or remodeling.

Subd. 3. **Dwelling.** "Dwelling" means a new building, not previously occupied, constructed for the purpose of habitation; but does not include appurtenant recreational facilities, detached garages, driveways, walkways, patios, boundary walls, retaining walls not necessary for the structural stability of the dwelling, landscaping, fences, nonpermanent construction materials, off-site improvements, and all other similar items.

Subd. 4. **Initial vendee.** "Initial vendee" means a person who first contracts to purchase a dwelling from a vendor for the purpose of habitation and not for resale in the ordinary course of trade.

Subd. 5. **Major construction defect.** "Major construction defect" means actual damage to the load-bearing portion of the dwelling or the home improvement, including damage due to subsidence, expansion or lateral movement of the soil, which affects the load-bearing function and which vitally affects or is imminently likely to vitally affect use of the dwelling or the home improvement for residential purposes. "Major construction defect" does not include damage due to movement of the soil caused by flood, earthquake or other natural disaster.

Subd. 6. **Vendee.** "Vendee" means any purchaser of a dwelling and includes the initial vendee and any subsequent purchasers.

Subd. 7. **Vendor.** "Vendor" means any person, firm, or corporation that constructs dwellings, including the construction of dwellings on land owned by vendees. Vendor does not include a subcontractor or material supplier involved in the construction of a dwelling.

Subd. 8. **Warranty date.** "Warranty date" means the date from and after which the statutory warranties provided in section 327A.02 shall be effective, and is the earliest of:

- (a) the date of the initial vendee's first occupancy of the dwelling; or
- (b) the date on which the initial vendee takes legal or equitable title in the dwelling.

In the case of a home improvement, the warranty date is the date on which the home improvement work was completed.

Subd. 9. **Home improvement.** "Home improvement" means the repairing, remodeling, altering, converting or modernizing of, or adding to a residential building. For the purpose of this definition, residential building

does not include appurtenant recreational facilities, detached garages, driveways, walkways, patios, boundary walls, retaining walls not necessary for the structural stability of the building, landscaping, fences, nonpermanent construction materials, off-site improvements, and all other similar items.

Subd. 10. **Home improvement contractor.** "Home improvement contractor" means a person who is engaged in the business of home improvement either full time or part time, and who holds out to the public as having knowledge or skill peculiar to the business of home improvement.

Subd. 11. **Owner.** "Owner" means any person who owns a residential building on which home improvement work is performed, and includes any subsequent owner of the residential building.

Subd. 12. **Inspection.** "Inspection" means a visual or invasive examination of the alleged property damage.

History: 1977 c 65 s 1; 1981 c 119 s 1-5; 1986 c 444; 2001 c 207 s 8; 1Sp2003 c 8 art 1 s 12; 2007 c 140 art 4 s 61; art 12 s 12; art 13 s 4; 2010 c 343 s 4,5

327A.02 STATUTORY WARRANTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Warranties by vendors.** In every sale of a completed dwelling, and in every contract for the sale of a dwelling to be completed, the vendor shall warrant to the vendee that:

(a) during the one-year period from and after the warranty date the dwelling shall be free from defects caused by faulty workmanship and defective materials due to noncompliance with building standards;

(b) during the two-year period from and after the warranty date, the dwelling shall be free from defects caused by faulty installation of plumbing, electrical, heating, and cooling systems due to noncompliance with building standards; and

(c) during the ten-year period from and after the warranty date, the dwelling shall be free from major construction defects due to noncompliance with building standards.

Subd. 2. **Warranties to survive passage of title.** The statutory warranties provided in this section shall survive the passing of legal or equitable title in the dwelling to the vendee.

Subd. 2a. **Remedies unaffected by corporate dissolution.** The statutory warranties provided in this section are not affected by the dissolution of a vendor or home improvement contractor that is a corporation or limited liability company.

Subd. 3. **Home improvement warranties.** (a) In a sale or in a contract for the sale of home improvement work involving major structural changes or additions to a residential building, the home improvement contractor shall warrant to the owner that:

(1) during the one-year period from and after the warranty date the home improvement shall be free from defects caused by faulty workmanship and defective materials due to noncompliance with building standards; and

(2) during the ten-year period from and after the warranty date the home improvement shall be free from major construction defects due to noncompliance with building standards.

(b) In a sale or in a contract for the sale of home improvement work involving the installation of plumbing, electrical, heating or cooling systems, the home improvement contractor shall warrant to the owner that, during the two-year period from and after the warranty date, the home improvement shall be free from

defects caused by the faulty installation of the system or systems due to noncompliance with building standards.

(c) In a sale or in a contract for the sale of any home improvement work not covered by paragraph (a) or (b), the home improvement contractor shall warrant to the owner that, during the one-year period from and after the warranty date, the home improvement shall be free from defects caused by faulty workmanship or defective materials due to noncompliance with building standards.

Subd. 4. Response from vendor or home improvement contractor to notice of claim; right to inspect.

(a) The vendee or owner must allow an inspection for purposes of the preparation of an offer to repair the alleged loss or damage under subdivision 5. The inspection must be performed by the vendor or home improvement contractor within 30 days of the notification under section 327A.03, clause (a). Any damage to property caused as a result of an inspection must be promptly repaired by the inspecting party to restore the property to its preinspected condition.

(b) The applicable statute of limitations and statute of repose for an action based on breach of a warranty imposed by this section, or any other action in contract, tort, or other law for any injury to real or personal property or bodily injury or wrongful death arising out of the alleged loss or damage, is tolled from the date the written notice provided by the vendee or owner is postmarked, or if not sent through the mail, received by the vendor or home improvement contractor until the latest of the following:

- (1) the date of completion of the home warranty dispute resolution process under section 327A.051; or
- (2) 180 days.

(c) Upon completion of repairs as described in an offer to repair, the vendor must provide the vendee with a list of the repairs made and a notice that the vendee may have a right to pursue a warranty claim under this chapter. Provision of this statement is not an admission of liability. Compliance with this subdivision does not affect any rights of the vendee under this chapter.

Subd. 5. Right to repair; agreement. (a) Within 15 days of completion of the inspection required by subdivision 4, the vendor or home improvement contractor must provide to the vendee or owner a written offer to repair. The offer to repair must include, at a minimum:

- (1) the scope of the proposed repair work; and
- (2) the proposed date on which the repair work would begin and the estimated date of completion.

(b) This subdivision does not prevent the vendee or owner from obtaining the information in paragraph (a) from another contractor or from negotiating with the vendor or home improvement contractor for a different scope of work.

(c) If the parties agree to a scope of work, the vendor or home improvement contractor must perform the repair work in accordance with the offer to repair. If the parties do not agree to a scope of work, the vendee or owner must submit the matter to the homeowner warranty dispute resolution process under section 327A.051.

(d) Upon completion of repairs described in an offer to repair, the vendor or home improvement contractor must provide the vendee or owner with a written notice that the scope of the work agreed upon has been completed.

Subd. 6. **Failure to perform inspection or repair.** If the vendor or home improvement contractor fails to perform an inspection under subdivision 4 or fails to make an offer to repair or perform agreed upon repairs under subdivision 5, the vendee or owner may commence an action.

Subd. 7. **Processes required before commencement of action.** Except as provided in subdivision 6, a cause of action for which the statute of limitations or statute of repose is tolled under subdivision 4, paragraph (b), must not be commenced in district court until the earlier of:

- (1) the completion of the home warranty dispute resolution process under section 327A.051; or
- (2) 60 days after the written offer of repair is provided to the vendee or owner.

History: 1977 c 65 s 2; 1981 c 119 s 6; 2001 c 207 s 9,10; 2006 c 202 s 5,6; 2010 c 343 s 6-9

327A.03 EXCLUSIONS.

The liability of the vendor or the home improvement contractor under sections 327A.01 to 327A.07 is limited to the specific items set forth in sections 327A.01 to 327A.07 and does not extend to the following:

(a) loss or damage not reported by the vendee or the owner to the vendor or the home improvement contractor in writing within six months after the vendee or the owner discovers or should have discovered the loss or damage; unless the vendee or owner establishes that the vendor or home improvement contractor had actual notice of the loss or damage;

(b) loss or damage caused by defects in design, installation, or materials which the vendee or the owner supplied, installed, or directed to be installed;

(c) secondary loss or damage such as personal injury or property damage;

(d) loss or damage from normal wear and tear;

(e) loss or damage from normal shrinkage caused by drying of the dwelling or the home improvement within tolerances of building standards;

(f) loss or damage from dampness and condensation due to insufficient ventilation after occupancy;

(g) loss or damage from negligence, improper maintenance or alteration of the dwelling or the home improvement by parties other than the vendor or the home improvement contractor;

(h) loss or damage from changes in grading of the ground around the dwelling or the home improvement by parties other than the vendor or the home improvement contractor;

(i) landscaping or insect loss or damage;

(j) loss or damage from failure to maintain the dwelling or the home improvement in good repair;

(k) loss or damage which the vendee or the owner, whenever feasible, has not taken timely action to minimize;

(l) loss or damage which occurs after the dwelling or the home improvement is no longer used primarily as a residence;

(m) accidental loss or damage usually described as acts of God, including, but not limited to: fire, explosion, smoke, water escape, windstorm, hail or lightning, falling trees, aircraft and vehicles, flood, and earthquake, except when the loss or damage is caused by failure to comply with building standards;

(n) loss or damage from soil movement which is compensated by legislation or covered by insurance;

(o) loss or damage due to soil conditions where construction is done upon lands owned by the vendee or the owner and obtained by the vendee or owner from a source independent of the vendor or the home improvement contractor;

(p) in the case of home improvement work, loss or damage due to defects in the existing structure and systems not caused by the home improvement.

History: 1977 c 65 s 3; 1981 c 119 s 7; 1986 c 444; 2010 c 343 s 10

327A.04 WAIVER AND MODIFICATION LIMITED.

Subdivision 1. **Waiver.** Except as provided in subdivisions 2 and 3, the provisions of sections 327A.01 to 327A.08 cannot be waived or modified by contract or otherwise. Any agreement which purports to waive or modify the provisions of sections 327A.01 to 327A.08, except as provided in subdivisions 2 and 3 of this section, shall be void.

Subd. 2. **Modification.** At any time after a contract for the sale of a dwelling is entered into by and between a vendor and a vendee or a contract for home improvement work is entered into by and between a home improvement contractor and an owner, any of the warranties provided for in section 327A.02 may be excluded or modified only by a written instrument, printed in boldface type of a minimum size of ten points, which is signed by the vendee or the owner and which sets forth in detail the warranty involved, the consent of the vendee or the owner, and the terms of the new agreement contained in the writing. No exclusion or modification shall be effective unless the vendor or the home improvement contractor provides substitute express warranties offering substantially the same protections to the vendee or the owner as the statutory warranties set forth in section 327A.02. Any modification or exclusion agreed to by vendee and vendor or the owner and home improvement contractor pursuant to this subdivision shall not require the approval of the commissioner of labor and industry pursuant to section 327A.07.

Subd. 3. **Exception.** If a major construction defect is discovered prior to the sale of a dwelling, the warranty set forth in section 327A.02, subdivision 1, clause (c) may be waived for the defect identified in the waiver instrument, after full oral disclosure of the specific defect, by an instrument which sets forth in detail: the specific defect; the difference between the value of the dwelling without the defect and the value of the dwelling with the defect, as determined and attested to by an independent appraiser, contractor, insurance adjuster, engineer or any other similarly knowledgeable person selected by the vendee; the price reduction; the date the construction was completed; the legal description of the dwelling; the consent of the vendee to the waiver; and the signatures of the vendee, the vendor, and two witnesses.

A single waiver agreed to pursuant to this subdivision may not apply to more than one major construction defect in a dwelling.

The waiver shall not be effective unless recorded with the county recorder or registrar of titles who shall file the waiver for record.

History: 1977 c 65 s 4; 1981 c 119 s 8; 2005 c 4 s 61; 2008 c 337 s 59; 2009 c 91 s 1

327A.05 REMEDIES.

Subdivision 1. **New home warranties.** Upon breach of any warranty imposed by section 327A.02, subdivision 1, the vendee shall have a cause of action against the vendor for damages arising out of the breach, or for specific performance. Damages shall be limited to:

(a) the amount necessary to remedy the defect or breach; or

(b) the difference between the value of the dwelling without the defect and the value of the dwelling with the defect.

Subd. 2. Home improvement warranty. Upon breach of any warranty imposed by section 327A.02, subdivision 3, the owner shall have a cause of action against the home improvement contractor for damages arising out of the breach, or for specific performance. Damages shall be limited to the amount necessary to remedy the defect or breach.

History: 1977 c 65 s 5; 1981 c 119 s 9

327A.051 HOME WARRANTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Subdivision 1. Panel of neutrals. (a) The commissioner of labor and industry shall maintain a list of persons who consent to serve as qualified neutrals for purposes of this section. The commissioner shall establish application requirements and qualifications for qualified neutrals, taking into consideration the education, experience, and training of the applicant, potential conflicts of interest, and that the purpose of the process is to assist parties in determining an agreeable scope of repair or other resolution of their dispute.

(b) As a condition of being included on the panel of neutrals identified in this section, the commissioner of labor and industry may charge each qualified neutral a fee of \$200 per year for the administration of the home warranty dispute resolution process.

Subd. 2. Dispute resolution process. (a) The home warranty dispute resolution process required by this section is commenced by written application to the commissioner. A request must include the complete current address and full name of the contact person for each participating party.

(b) Within ten days of receiving a written request, the commissioner shall provide each party with a written list of three qualified neutrals randomly selected from the panel of neutrals established under subdivision 1. The commissioner shall also provide complete contact information for each qualified neutral.

(c) Within five business days after receipt of the list from the commissioner, the parties shall mutually select one of the three qualified neutrals identified by the commissioner to serve as the qualified neutral for their dispute. If the parties cannot mutually agree on a neutral, the vendor or home improvement contractor shall strike one of the neutrals from the list, the vendee or owner shall subsequently strike one of the remaining neutrals from the list, and the remaining neutral shall serve as the qualified neutral for the dispute resolution process. The parties shall notify the selected qualified neutral and the commissioner of the selection.

Subd. 3. Neutral evaluation; fee. (a) The qualified neutral selected by the parties shall convene, and each party shall attend, an in-person conference of the parties. The qualified neutral shall select the date for the conference after consulting the parties. The conference must occur no later than 30 days after the neutral's selection, except by mutual agreement of the parties. In addition, the neutral shall collect from each party an administrative fee of \$25 and shall submit those fees to the commissioner no later than ten days after the completion of the conference.

(b) At least seven days before the conference, each party must provide the qualified neutral and the other party with all information and documentation necessary to understanding the dispute, or the alleged loss or damages.

(c) After reviewing the information and documentation provided by the parties and after consulting with the parties at the conference, the neutral shall issue to the parties a nonbinding, written determination, which

must include, to the extent possible, findings and recommendations on the scope and amount of repairs necessary, if any. The qualified neutral shall mail the determination to each party within ten days after the conference.

(d) The parties shall share the expense of the qualified neutral's billed time equally, unless otherwise agreed. The neutral's billed time for evaluation of documents, meeting with the parties, and issuing a written determination must not exceed six hours, unless agreed to in writing by both parties. The neutral must identify the neutral's hourly rate to the parties.

Subd. 4. **Alternative process.** If both parties agree, the parties may designate an alternative dispute resolution process in lieu of participating in the home warranty dispute resolution process established by this section. If the parties agree to an alternative dispute resolution process, they shall provide written notice of the agreement and a description of the selected process to the commissioner as soon as practicable, but no later than the date the parties are required to select a neutral under subdivision 2.

Subd. 5. **Effect on future proceedings.** (a) The written determination issued by the qualified neutral and all communications relating to the home warranty dispute resolution process, except those between any party and the commissioner, are deemed confidential settlement communications pursuant to Rule 408 of the Minnesota Rules of Evidence.

(b) No party may use the written offer of repair provided by a vendor or home improvement contractor, a counteroffer to repair, or a written determination issued by the qualified neutral as evidence of liability in subsequent litigation between the parties. The qualified neutral may not be called to testify regarding the dispute resolution proceedings.

(c) Any amount paid by a party for the services of a qualified neutral under this section is deemed a taxable cost of the prevailing party in a subsequent litigation involving the same subject matter.

Subd. 6. **Noncompliance with timelines; effect.** Failure to strictly comply with the timelines in this section shall not be grounds for dismissal of any claim brought under section 327A.05, provided that the parties establish good faith effort in complying with this section.

History: 2010 c 343 s 11

327A.06 OTHER WARRANTIES.

The warranties provided for in section 327A.02 shall be in addition to all other warranties imposed by law or agreement. The remedies provided in section 327A.05 shall not be construed as limiting the remedies in any action not predicated upon breach of the statutory warranties imposed by section 327A.02.

History: 1977 c 65 s 6; 2009 c 91 s 2

327A.07 VARIATIONS.

The commissioner of labor and industry may approve pursuant to sections 14.05 to 14.28, variations from the provisions of sections 327A.02 and 327A.03 if the warranty program of the vendor or the home improvement contractor requesting the variation offers at least substantially the same protections to the vendee or owner as provided by the warranties set forth in section 327A.02.

History: 1977 c 65 s 7; 1981 c 119 s 10; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1995 c 233 art 2 s 56; 2008 c 337 s 60; 2009 c 91 s 3