

SECTION 1. Every justice is authorized to try and determine prosecutions and actions of a criminal nature, where the punishment is by fine, not exceeding ten dollars; and to issue a warrant to carry his judgment into effect, in case no appeal is taken.

SECT. 2. Any justice is empowered to cause to be apprehended and committed to prison, or bound over, with sufficient sureties, for trial by the county court, all persons charged with crimes exceeding his jurisdiction to try.

SECT. 3. He shall, in the cases mentioned in the preceding section, file with the clerk of the county, in which such proceeding is had, a certified copy of the records and process in the cause, within thirty days after the trial or examination, or, if there are not thirty days to intervene between such time and the next term of the county court, then on the first day of said term.

SECT. 4. Whenever a justice shall commit or bind over a respondent for trial, as provided in the second section, he shall take the recognizance of the necessary witnesses, who shall appear before him, for their appearance at the county court, in the same sum in which the respondent is ordered to find bonds.

SECT. 5. In case any witness shall refuse to enter into the bond of recognizance so ordered, he may be committed to jail on the warrant of the justice making such order.

SECT. 6. A justice may order any person, arrested for a criminal offence, to find sureties of the peace, when, in the opinion of such justice, it shall be necessary, and may commit such person to jail, until he find such sureties.

SECT. 7. A justice shall have jurisdiction of all actions of a civil nature,—except actions for slanderous words, false imprisonment, replevin above the sum of seven dollars, and where the title of land is concerned,—where the debt or other matter in demand does not exceed one hundred dollars, and of actions of trespass on the freehold, where the sum in demand does not exceed twenty dollars.

SECT. 8. The matter in demand, in an action on a note, shall be considered the amount of the note, deducting endorsements; and, in actions on book account, the matter in demand shall be considered the debtor side of the plaintiff's book.

SECT. 9. A justice is authorized to accept and record a confession of any debt to a creditor, made by a debtor personally, either with or without antecedent process, as the parties shall agree, and render judgment on such confession.

SECT. 10. No justice shall take cognizance of any cause, or take confession of any debt, or do any judicial act, where he shall be related, within the fourth degree of affinity or consanguinity to either party in any such matter, or shall have been of counsel, or shall be, directly or indirectly, interested in such cause or matter.

SECT. 11. Suits returnable before a justice may be commenced by writ of summons or attachment, directed to any sheriff or constable in the state.