

**4027 AGENCY: TERMINATION: GENERAL**

A principal may terminate his or her agent's authority at any time before the agent undertakes to execute the transaction he or she was authorized to accomplish, by notifying the agent that he or she withdraws, suspends, or revokes his or her authority.

**COMMENT**

This instruction and comment were originally published in their present form in 1962. Editorial changes were made in 1994 to address gender references in the instruction. No substantive changes were made to the instruction.

Reid v. Milwaukee Air Pump Co., 211 Wis. 242, 247 N.W. 868 (1933); Kirby v. Corning, 54 Wis. 599, 12 N.W. 69 (1882); Restatement, second, Agency § 118 (1958).

A principal may not revoke his or her agent's authority after the agent, on the strength of that authority, has committed himself or herself to some obligation from which he or she cannot withdraw. Wiger v. Carr, 131 Wis. 584, 111 N.W. 657, (1907). Further, the termination of authority does not terminate apparent authority. Restatement, second, Agency § 124A (1958).

Georgeson v. Nielsen, 214 Wis. 191, 252 N.W. 576 (1934), holds that where the agency is gratuitous, there is no obligation on the part of either party to continue the relationship. See also Restatement, second, Agency § 16b Comment b (1958).

The agent may terminate the relationship by renouncing it, that is, manifesting to his or her principal his or her dissent to its continuance. Restatement, second, Agency § 118 (1958).

As to effect on third parties, see Wis JI-Civil 4028.