

and commission one as chief judge of his respective court, and all acts of the governor in designating one of said judges as chief judge, and in commissioning him as such, and all commissions heretofore issued by the governor to said judges so designated and commissioned as the chief judge of his respective court are hereby ratified and confirmed to all intents and purposes as if this section had been in full force when such designations were made and commissions issued, and full power and authority are hereby vested in each of said judges so designated and commissioned as chief judge to act as such chief judge, and all writs and other process tested in the names of said chief judges respectively are hereby declared valid to all intents and purposes, as if this section had been in force when the same were issued.

An. Code, sec. 233. 1904, sec. 232. 1888, sec. 228. 1798, ch. 101, sub-ch. 15, sec. 8.

**241.** The orphans' court, unless a different time is prescribed by the local law, shall be held in each county and the city of Baltimore, at the usual place of holding the court of said county or city, on the second Tuesday in every month of February, April, June, August, October and December, and oftener if need be, according to its own adjournment; and any one of the judges of the said court, in the absence of the others shall have power to hold the said court at a stated time of adjournment only for the purpose of adjourning; any two of them shall have full power to do any act which the said court is or shall be authorized by law to perform, and any two of them shall have power to hold the court on any day not named in an adjournment, on the application of any person having pressing business in the said court; provided, notice thereof be given to all, and in such case the register shall record that such notice hath been given.

An. Code, sec. 234. 1904, sec. 233. 1888, sec. 229. 1795, ch. 55. 1831, ch. 315, sec. 14.

**242.** A recess of the orphans' court shall be deemed and taken to be not only such days as they may not hold a court, but also such parts or portions of a day as they may not be in actual session; if the orphans' court shall not meet on a day fixed for its meeting, the register shall adjourn the court from day to day until a meeting shall be had according to law.

An. Code, sec. 235. 1904, sec. 234. 1888, sec. 230. 1798, ch. 101, sub-ch. 15, sec. 1.  
1896, ch. 246. 1908, ch. 125.

**243.** The court shall have full power to take probate of wills, grant letters testamentary and of administration, direct the conduct and accounting of executors and administrators, superintend the distribution of estates of intestates, secure the rights of orphans and legatees and administer justice in all matters relating to the affairs of deceased persons, also of persons supposed to be dead, under the following conditions: (a) Whenever letters testamentary or of administration are applied for on the estate of any person supposed to be dead on account of uninterrupted absence for above seven years from the place of last domicile within the State and having been for such time unheard of, the court, if satisfied that the per-