

as is had in other cases in chancery; and in all cases where, from the default of the defendant, a bill for divorce or annulment may be taken pro confesso, the court shall order testimony to be taken and shall decide the case upon the testimony so taken].

26. A divorce a vinculo matrimonii may be granted when either husband or wife has become permanently and incurably insane, provided that no divorce shall be granted under this section unless such permanently incurable insane person shall have been confined in an insane asylum, hospital or other similar institution for a period of not less than three years prior to the filing of the bill of complaint, nor unless the court shall find from the testimony of two or more physicians competent in psychiatry that such insanity is permanently incurable with no hope of recovery, and provided further, that no such suit shall be maintained unless one of the parties is an actual resident of this State, and shall have resided therein for at least two years immediately prior to the institution of the proceedings. [The bill of complaint shall be filed under oath in the court having jurisdiction over divorce matters in the county or city, as the case may be, where either party resides.

Service of process under this section shall be made as in other suits in equity and in addition to the writ of subpoena a copy of the bill of complaint shall also be served on said defendant, and on his or her committee, if one has been appointed by any court of this State, and if none has been so appointed, then a copy of said writ and of said bill shall be served on the institution having the custody of said defendant.

If said defendant shall be a nonresident of this State, then he or she may be proceeded against as such by publication process, as in other suits in equity against nonresidents.

Upon the return of process duly served, or upon proof of due publication, as the case may be, the court shall require the committee to appear and answer for said defendant, if one has been so appointed, and if not, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to appear and answer for said defendant.

Before such committee or guardian ad litem shall answer said complaint, the court shall appoint counsel of its own independent selection to appear for and represent said defendant, committee, or guardian ad litem.] In cases arising under this section, the court shall possess all powers which courts of equity now have, or which may hereafter be conferred upon them, relative to alimony and to the custody, control and support of infant children of the parties. Where the plaintiff is the husband, the court may, when necessity and circumstances warrant, require the plaintiff to pay alimony support or maintenance for the benefit of said defendant, or it may require the plaintiff to pay a sum of money as a whole, based on the expectancy of life of said defendant and the plaintiff's financial condition, together with reasonable expense for the burial of said defendant, or it may require the plaintiff to give bond to the State of Maryland conditioned upon the payment by the plaintiff for the care and maintenance of said defendant during the remainder of her natural life, and necessary funeral expenses. The court may modify or revoke any orders or decrees relating to the custody of