

638A. Release of person on own recognizance.

(a) May be released before or after conviction; failure to appear. When from all the circumstances the court is of the opinion that any accused person in a criminal case will appear as required for trial either before or after his conviction, the person may be released on his own recognizance. A failure to appear as required by such recognizance shall be subject to the penalty provided in Section 12A of this article.

(b) Liberal construction of section; purpose. This section shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purpose of relying upon criminal sanctions instead of financial loss to assure the appearance of an accused person in a criminal case either before or after trial of the case.

(c) Application of section. The provisions of this section shall be applicable to any criminal case or offense except a case where death OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT PAROLE is a possible punishment before any judge of any circuit court in the counties or any judge of the criminal courts of Baltimore City, any people's court judge with criminal jurisdiction, any of the judges of the Municipal Court of Baltimore City, or any trial magistrate. The provisions of this section shall [only be applicable to persons twenty-one years of age and older] *apply to all persons regardless of age.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1967.

Approved April 21, 1967.

CHAPTER 573

(House Bill 16)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 9 (a) of Article 62 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Marriages," revising and clarifying the provisions of the marriage law with respect to the minimum age for marriage and the circumstances under which marriages of females under eighteen and males under twenty-one are allowed.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 9 (a) of Article 62 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Marriages," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

9.

(a) [It shall be unlawful within the State for any female below the age of sixteen years or any male below the age of eighteen years to marry, or for a parent or guardian to permit any such female or male to marry or for any female between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years, or for any male under the age of twenty-one years to marry, unless the parent or guardian of such male or female, in person or by signed affidavit, assent thereto, and, in the case of a female,