

received, as evidenced by return through the post office of the return receipt for such notice, or, after notice in writing from the said addressee of a change of address, to his new address. If no return receipt is received apparently signed by the addressee, and there is no proof of actual notice, no action taken in any proceeding under this Article shall prejudice the rights of the person entitled to notice unless proof is made by verified writing to the satisfaction of the Court or Register that reasonable efforts to locate the addressee and warn him of the pendency of the action have been made.

104. Construction of Article.

(a) *Purposes.* The purposes of this Article are to simplify the administration of the estates of minors and disabled persons, to reduce the expenses of administration, to clarify the law governing the estates of minors and disabled persons, and to eliminate certain provisions of existing law which are archaic, often meaningless under modern procedures, and no longer useful. This Article shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes.

(b) *Severability.* If any provision or clause of this Article, or application thereof, to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Article which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Article are declared to be severable.

105. Jurisdiction of Subject Matter.

(a) *Minors—The Orphans' Courts and the Circuit Courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction over guardians of the person of any minor and over protective proceedings for minors. Any matter initiated in the Orphans' Court may, upon petition of any interested person, be transferred to the Circuit Court.*

(b) *Disabled Persons—The Circuit Courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction over protective proceedings for disabled persons.*

106. Powers of the Orphans' Courts.

The Orphans' Court shall have full power to secure the rights of minors whose estates are being administered under its jurisdiction by a guardian. The Orphans' Court shall not, under the pretext of incidental power or constructive authority, exercise any jurisdiction not expressly conferred by law.

107. Enforcement; Rules of Court.

The Orphans' Court shall have the same legal and equitable powers under this Article to effectuate its jurisdiction, punish contempts, and carry out its orders, judgments and decrees as it has under Article 93. The Maryland Rules for the summoning of a witness, and for depositions and discovery, shall apply to all actions and proceedings of the Orphans' Court in the same manner and with like effect as they apply to the law and equity courts of this State.

108. Plenary proceeding.

In any controversy in the Orphans' Court, issues of fact may be determined by the Orphans' Court or, at the request of any interested