

MARYLAND, That new Section 7.307 be and it is hereby added to the Public Local Laws of Howard County being Article 14 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1972 Edition) to read as follows:

Article 14

7.307.

A. THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY MAY APPOINT NO MORE THAN TWO MEMBERS OF THE BAR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND AS MASTERS IN CHANCERY FOR JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS CAUSES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY. EACH MASTER SHALL HEAR ANY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE THAT THE CIRCUIT COURT MAY ASSIGN TO HIM INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CASES INVOLVING ADOPTION, DIVORCE, ANNULMENT, CUSTODY, ALIMONY AND SUPPORT, AND SHALL PERFORM ANY SIMILAR AND RELATED DUTIES AS FROM TIME TO TIME MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE COURT. THESE ADDITIONAL DUTIES MAY INCLUDE ANY DUTIES AUTHORIZED BY ANY LAW OR RULE OF COURT RELATING TO MASTERS IN CHANCERY FOR JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS.

B. EACH MASTER SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT THE COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME MAY PRESCRIBE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE COURT.

C. THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY MAY APPOINT QUALIFIED PERSONS FOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES IN CONNECTION WITH DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION, RESEARCH, TREATMENT, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PSYCHIATRIC, INVESTIGATIVE, SUPERVISORY, CONCILIATORY, STENOGRAPHIC, CLERICAL AND OTHER SIMILAR SERVICES. THE APPOINTEES SHALL PERFORM ANY DUTIES PRESCRIBED BY THE JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT AND SHALL BE PAID SALARIES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY IN SUCH AMOUNTS AS THE COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME MAY PRESCRIBE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE COURT.

D. THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY MAY PRESCRIBE ANY ADDITIONAL RULES PERTAINING TO ACTIONS HEARD BY MASTERS IN CHANCERY FOR JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS THAT IT DEEMS NECESSARY. EXCEPT FOR JUVENILE CASES, THE CIRCUIT COURT MAY PRESCRIBE ALL COSTS PERTAINING TO ANY ACTIONS HEARD BY THE MASTERS; AND ALL COSTS SO PRESCRIBED MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY. THE CLERK SHALL PAY THOSE COSTS TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1974.