

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments,

Article 16 - Chancery
Section 24
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1973 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 24 of Article 16 - Chancery, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1973 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 16 - Chancery

24.

Upon a hearing of any bill for a divorce, the court may decree a divorce a vinculo matrimonii for the following causes, to wit: First, the impotence of either party at the time of the marriage; secondly, for any cause which by the laws of this State, render a marriage null and void ab initio; thirdly, for adultery; fourthly, when the court shall be satisfied by competent testimony that the party complained against has abandoned the party complaining, and that such abandonment has continued uninterruptedly for at least twelve months, and is deliberate and final, and the separation of the parties beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation; fifthly, when the husband and wife shall have voluntarily lived separate and apart, without any cohabitation, for twelve consecutive months prior to the filing of the bill of complaint, and such separation is beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation; sixthly, when the party complained against has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor under the laws of this State or of any other state in the United States, or the United States and has been sentenced to serve at least three years or an indeterminate sentence in any penitentiary or penal institution [eighteen] 12 months of which sentence has been served; seventhly, on the application of either party when the husband and wife have lived separate and apart without any cohabitation and without interruption for three years. A plea of res adjudicata or of recrimination with respect to any other provisions of this section shall not be a bar to either party obtaining a divorce on this seventh ground.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1975.