

children or descendants of such deceased child. All money paid by virtue of such an order shall be charged as a debt or debts against the estate of the decedent. Upon payment of the sum or sums ordered to be paid as aforesaid, any bond furnished in the proceedings by the decedent shall be cancelled and the sureties thereon discharged.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 88(b) of Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

88.

(b) (1) Any parent who [shall desert] DESERTS or wilfully [neglect] NEGLECTS to provide for the support and maintenance of his or her child under [eighteen years of] THE age [shall be deemed] OF 18 IS guilty of a misdemeanor[, ] and upon conviction [in any court having criminal jurisdiction shall be punished by] IS SUBJECT TO a fine [of] not exceeding [one hundred dollars] \$100, or imprisonment [in the Maryland House of Correction, or in the Maryland Reformatory for Women, or in jail, for not more than] NOT EXCEEDING three years, or both[, in the discretion of the court].

(2) Any parent charged with a violation of this section may be prosecuted in the jurisdiction where he or she or the child resides. JURISDICTION OF A CRIMINAL COURT UNDER THIS SECTION IS NOT AFFECTED BY COMMENCEMENT OF A CIVIL SUPPORT ACTION BEFORE OR AFTER PROSECUTION UNDER THIS SECTION.

(3) [Provided, that] HOWEVER, before the trial with the consent of the defendant[, ] or after conviction, instead of OR IN ADDITION TO imposing the punishment [hereinbefore] provided[, or in addition thereto] IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, the court, in its discretion, having regard to the circumstances and financial ability of the defendant, [shall have the power to] MAY pass an order [which shall be] THAT, subject to change by [it] THE COURT from time to time[, ] as the circumstances [may] require, [directing] DIRECTS the defendant to pay a certain sum weekly for the space of three years to the person or institution having custody of the minor child or children[, ] or, if THE DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION HAS RECEIVED AN ASSIGNMENT UNDER ARTICLE 88A, §§[59] 48, TO THE DIVISION. IF THERE IS an agreement [be had] with respect to such child or children, [and to] THE COURT MAY PASS AN ORDER DIRECTING THAT THE DEFENDANT ADHERE TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT FOR CHILD SUPPORT AND MAKE PAYMENTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT TO THE [[DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION OR TO