

## Preamble

The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of this State that marriage is a union ~~of two individuals~~ between a man and a woman having equal rights under the law. Both spouses owe a duty to contribute his or her best efforts to the marriage, and both, by entering into the marriage, undertake to benefit both spouses and any children they may have.

The General Assembly declares further that it is the policy of this State that when a marriage is dissolved the property interests of the spouses should be adjusted fairly and equitably, with careful consideration being given to both monetary and nonmonetary contributions made by the respective spouses to the well-being of the family, and further, that if there are minor children in the family their interests must be given particular and favorable attention.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

## Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3-603.

(a) A court of equity has jurisdiction in an action for divorce, alimony, or annulment of marriage. The court shall hear and determine a case of alimony in as full and ample manner as such case could be heard and determined by the ecclesiastical courts of England.

(b) A court of equity sitting in an action for divorce, alimony, or annulment [, in addition to exercising] HAS all the powers of a court of equity, AND may issue an injunction to protect any party to the action from physical harm or harassment.

[(c) A court granting a limited or absolute divorce may determine the ownership of personal property, other than chattels real, held, possessed, or claimed by a party to the divorce proceedings, and in accordance with that determination may:

(1) Make a division of personal property between the parties;

(2) Order a sale of personal property and a division of proceeds; or

(3) Make any other disposition of personal property it deems proper.]

## SUBTITLE 6A. PROPERTY DISPOSITION IN DIVORCE AND ANNULMENT