

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former CJ § 5-301(c).

TITLE 4. SPOUSES.

SUBTITLE 1. DEFINITION.

4-101. "SECRETARY" DEFINED.

IN THIS TITLE, "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language added to avoid repetition of the full title "Secretary of Human Resources".

SUBTITLE 2. SPOUSES' AND THIRD PERSONS' RIGHTS.

4-201. DOMICILE.

(A) INDEPENDENT DOMICILE.

A SPOUSE MAY HAVE A DOMICILE THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE DOMICILE OF THE OTHER SPOUSE.

(B) DETERMINATION OF DOMICILE.

THE DOMICILE OF EACH SPOUSE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE SAME FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE DOMICILE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CAPABLE OF HAVING AN INDEPENDENT DOMICILE.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former Article 16, § 29.

INTRODUCTORY GENERAL REVISOR'S NOTE TO §§ 4-202 THROUGH 4-301:

Sections 4-202 through 4-301 of this title, which formerly appeared as Article 45, §§ 1 through 20 of the Code, are the Married Women's Property Acts. The purpose for which these acts were intended was to reduce or eliminate the common law disabilities of married women.

At common law, an unmarried woman had extensive legal rights. She could hold and use property, make contracts, and sue or be sued. However, on marriage, her personal property, including property she acquired during the marriage, became her husband's. The use of the wife's estate of inheritance in land belonged to her husband during the marriage, and, although the wife retained her ownership in the property, she could not convey the interest without her husband's consent. The husband, however, could convey his interest without his wife's consent. Land in which the wife held a life estate was the husband's, in his wife's right, and he was entitled to its use, rents, and profits. Land in which the wife had a leasehold interest or a