

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1984 Volume and 1986 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Family Law

5-203.

(c)-(1) If the parents live apart, a court may award custody of a minor child to either parent or joint custody to both parents, SUBJECT TO §§ 9-102 AND 9-103 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(2) Neither parent is presumed to have any right to custody that is superior to the right of the other parent.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 9-101, 9-102, and 9-103, respectively, of Article --- Family Law of the --- Annotated --- Code --- of --- Maryland --- be renumbered --- to --- be --- Section(s) --- 9-107, --- 9-108, --- and --- 9-109, respectively.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article --- Family Law

9-101.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

(B) "JOINT CUSTODY" MEANS JOINT PHYSICAL AND LEGAL CUSTODY.

(C)-(1) "JOINT PHYSICAL CUSTODY" MEANS AN ARRANGEMENT WHERE THE PARENTS, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, EQUITABLY SHARE THE PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN.

(2) "JOINT PHYSICAL CUSTODY" INCLUDES AN ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH EACH OF THE PARENTS OR PARTIES ENJOY SIGNIFICANT PERIODS OF TIME IN WHICH THE CHILD RESIDES WITH OR IS UNDER THE CARE AND SUPERVISION OF EACH OF THE PARENTS OR PARTIES.

(D) "JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY" MEANS AN ARRANGEMENT WHERE THE PARENTS OR PARTIES SHARE, OR HAVE VOLUNTARILY ALLOCATED OR THE COURT HAS DECREED BETWEEN THEM, THE DECISION-MAKING RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD.