

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2002 Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

Article - Criminal Law

3-704.

(a) A person, with the intent to UNLAWFULLY extort money [or procure other profit], PROPERTY, OR ANYTHING OF VALUE FROM ANOTHER, may not falsely accuse or threaten to FALSELY accuse another of a crime or of anything that, if the accusation were true, would tend to bring the other into contempt or disrepute.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding [2] 10 years OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 OR BOTH.

3-705.

(a) A person, with the intent to UNLAWFULLY extort [or gain] money, property, or anything of value from another, may not verbally threaten to:

(1) accuse any person of a crime [that may be charged by indictment under the laws of the State] or of anything that, if true, would bring the person into contempt or disrepute; or

(2) (I) [injure the person or property of anyone] CAUSE PHYSICAL INJURY TO A PERSON;

(II) INFLICT EMOTIONAL DISTRESS ON A PERSON;

(III) CAUSE ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO A PERSON; OR

(IV) CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY OF A PERSON.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction [shall be sentenced] IS SUBJECT to imprisonment [for not less than 2 years and] not exceeding 10 years OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 OR BOTH.

3-706.

(a) (1) This section applies to any writing, whether or not the writing is signed, or if the writing is signed, whether or not it is signed with a fictitious name or any other mark or designation.

(2) This section does not apply to a good faith reasonable notice of dishonor and warning of criminal prosecution under Title 8, Subtitle 1 of this article given by a holder of an instrument to the maker of the instrument.