

(2006 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

5-401.1.

(a) **(1)** A release of the claim of an injured individual for damages resulting from a tort, signed by the injured individual within [5] 30 days of the infliction of the injuries WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OR GUIDANCE OF AN ATTORNEY AT LAW, and any power of attorney to or contract of employment with an attorney at law, with reference to recovery of damages for the tort, signed by the individual within [5] 30 days after the infliction of the injuries, shall be voidable **AT THE OPTION OF THE INJURED INDIVIDUAL** within 60 days [at the option of the injured individual] **AFTER THE DAY ON WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNED THE DOCUMENT.**

**(2) (I) NOTICE THAT A RELEASE IS VOIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION BY THE INJURED INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE:**

**1. IN WRITING; AND**

**2. ACCOMPANIED BY THE RETURN OF ANY MONEY PAID TO THE INJURED INDIVIDUAL AS A RESULT OF THE SIGNING OF THE RELEASE.**

**(II) THE RELEASE IS VOID FROM THE DATE THAT THE NOTICE IS MAILED.**

(b) A person whose interest is or may become adverse to an injured individual who is confined to a hospital or sanitarium as a patient may not, within 15 days from the date of the occurrence causing the patient's injury:

(1) Negotiate or attempt to negotiate a settlement with the patient;

(2) Obtain or attempt to obtain a general release of liability from the patient; or

(3) Obtain or attempt to obtain any statement, either written or oral from the patient, for use in negotiating a settlement or obtaining a release.