

# Table of Contents

## **PART I. THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW**

### **CHAPTER 1. THE ORIGINS OF MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW**

- § 1:6 The Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 and domestic relations law
- § 1:12 Traditional definition of marriage refined
- § 1:13 Alimony reform

## **PART II. THE MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONER**

### **CHAPTER 2. THE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONER**

- § 2:7 Setting and charging fees in domestic relations cases
- § 2:8 The family lawyer's duty of diligence and competence
- § 2:22 Ethical obligations in the negotiation of a family settlement
- § 2:31 Ethical duty regarding financial statement

### **CHAPTER 3. THE RESOURCES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONER**

- § 3:1 Primary library and research resources for the Massachusetts family law practitioner
- § 3:7 Arbitration services

### **CHAPTER 4. INITIATING AND TERMINATING THE ATTORNEY'S APPEARANCE IN THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACTION**

- § 4:9 Terminating the attorney-client relationship
- § 4:21 Request for limited issues settlement conference *[New]*
- § 4:22 Request for limited issues settlement conference—Form *[New]*

## **PART III. ATTORNEY FEES**

### **CHAPTER 5. ATTORNEY FEES TO BE PAID BY THE CLIENT**

- § 5:1 Fees generally in family law cases
- § 5:2 Fees to be paid by the client—General principles
- § 5:11 Attorney liens to secure fees
- § 5:14 Fee information to be provided to the client

## **PART IV. THE COURTS AND FAMILY LAW PRACTICE**

### **CHAPTER 7. THE MASSACHUSETTS COURTS AND THEIR FAMILY LAW JURISDICTION**

- § 7:3 Probate and Family Court Department of the Trial Court

## **PART V. STATUTES AND RULES GOVERNING MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LAW PRACTICE**

### **CHAPTER 8. THE MASSACHUSETTS STATUTORY SCHEME GOVERNING FAMILY LAW MATTERS**

- § 8:4 Statutes governing divorce jurisdiction, venue and pleading
- § 8:6 Statutes governing equity jurisdiction and injunctions in family law controversies
- § 8:7 Statutes governing family and spousal support
- § 8:10 Statutes governing care, custody and visitation of children
- § 8:11 Statutes on child support
- § 8:12 Statutes governing parentage of children born out of wedlock
- § 8:15 Statutes governing change of name
- § 8:18 Statutes governing premarital contracts
- § 8:22 Statutes governing revocation of probate and nonprobate transfers by divorce [*New*]

### **CHAPTER 9. THE MASSACHUSETTS RULES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEDURE**

- § 9:4 Rules governing pleadings and motions
- § 9:5 Rules governing parties
- § 9:10 Rules governing judgments

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**CHAPTER 10. FAMILY LAW PRACTICES,  
POLICIES AND UNIFORM RULES OF  
THE MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT**

- § 10:1 Introduction to the Massachusetts child support guidelines
- § 10:2 Massachusetts child support guidelines (2021, as amended July 31, 2023)—Official text *[Retitled]*

**CHAPTER 11. SELECTED RULES,  
STANDING ORDERS AND PRACTICES  
OF THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT**

- § 11:2 Miscellaneous supplemental rules of the Probate and Family Court *[Retitled]*
- § 11:23 Probate and Family Court Standing Order 3-2023: Co-parenting education course for married and unmarried parents *[Retitled]*
- § 11:28 Supplemental Rule 412 dealing with uncontested actions to modify a judgment or order *[Retitled]*
- § 11:35 Standing Order 6-08—Parent education program for never married parents
- § 11:40 Joint petition/motion to change a judgment or temporary order—Official Probate and Family Court form *[New]*
- § 11:41 Agreement to change a judgment or temporary order—Official Probate and Family Court form *[New]*
- § 11:42 Judgment on petition/motion to change a judgment or order—Official Probate and Family Court form *[New]*
- § 11:43 Request for Limited Issues Settlement Conference—Official Probate and Family Court form *[New]*
- § 11:44 *[Reserved]*
- § 11:44.50 Standing order 1-17 governing parenting coordination *[New]*
- § 11:45 *[Reserved]*
- § 11:46 Supreme judicial court rule 1:24—Protection of personal identifying information in publicly accessible court documents *[New]*
- § 11:47 Standing Order 2-17 regarding family-centered case resolution and case management *[New]*
- § 11:48 Standing Order 4-20 concerning email service in cases under Rule 5(b) of the Massachusetts Rules of Domestic Relations Procedure *[New]*
- § 11:49 Standing Order 2-2021—Interdivisional case transfers and interdivisional case assignments for hearing purposes only *[New]*

## **PART VI. FEDERAL POLICIES AFFECTING FAMILY LAW**

### **CHAPTER 13. FEDERAL FAMILY LAW POLICIES**

- § 13:2 The domestic relations exception to federal diversity jurisdiction
- § 13:4 Federal policies regarding pensions of married persons
- § 13:5 Federal policies on parental kidnapping of children
- § 13:7 Federal policies regarding adoption and custody of Native American children *[Retitled]*
- § 13:11 Federal immigration policy and the status of children
- § 13:13 The impact of federal constitutional doctrine on family law policy
- § 13:14 The Federal Respect for Marriage Act *[Retitled]*
- § 13:15 Social security support benefits paid to a divorced spouse
- § 13:16 The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003
- § 13:17 The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003—Child support garnishment limitations under the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 14. FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY PRACTICES AFFECTING FAMILY LAW**

- § 14:1 The impact of federal bankruptcy policy on family law
- § 14:4 Nondischargeability of domestic support obligations
- § 14:5 Non-dischargeability of obligations arising from court-ordered attorney fees
- § 14:8 Priority for domestic support obligations
- § 14:9 Automatic stays of pending state domestic relations actions involving financial liabilities of bankruptcy petitioners *[Retitled]*

### **CHAPTER 15. FAMILY LAW AND FEDERAL TAX POLICY**

- § 15:6 The dependent child exemption
- § 15:9 The alimony deduction
- § 15:12 Federal tax policies governing division of pensions
- § 15:13 Determination of marital status for purposes of federal tax law
- § 15:16 The dependent child exemption
- § 15:17 Federal and State Taxation and same-sex marriage *[Retitled]*
- § 15:18 Taxation of payments made to surrogates and gamete donors *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 16. TAX LAW AND DIVORCE**

- § 16:2 Tax consequences of alimony
- § 16:5 Tax filing status
- § 16:6 Dependency exemption

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 16:7 Mortgage interest and real estate taxes
- § 16:8 Retirement plans and IRAs
- § 16:10 Tax considerations for same sex couples
- § 16:11 Obligation to raise tax issues

## **PART VII. THE LAW OF MARRIAGE**

### **CHAPTER 17. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY DEFINED AND ILLUSTRATED**

- § 17:1 Definition of marriage
- § 17:5 The disqualification of spousal conversations *[Retitled]*
- § 17:14 Parental leave under state law *[New]*
- § 17:15 Rights of abused person in regard to employment leave *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 18. THE INTENTION AND CAPACITY TO MARRY**

- § 18:1 The engagement to marry

### **CHAPTER 19. SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE**

- § 19:7 Marriages contracted in foreign countries
- § 19:16 The evolution of same-sex marriage

### **CHAPTER 20. THE VALIDITY OF MARRIAGE**

- § 20:3 Voidable marriages

### **CHAPTER 21. PREMARITAL PLANNING FOR DEATH AND DIVORCE**

- § 21:4 Standards governing premarital agreements, generally
- § 21:7 Standards for determining if the premarital agreement is fair and reasonable as of the time of its pre-marriage execution
- § 21:8 Standards for determining if the premarital agreement is unconscionable at the time of the divorce *[Retitled]*
- § 21:12 Alimony waivers in premarital agreements *[New]*
- § 21:13 Postnuptial or marital agreements *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 23. ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE**

- § 23:15 Affirmative defenses in annulment actions

# Table of Contents

## **PART VIII. UNMARRIED DOMESTIC PARTNERS**

### **CHAPTER 24. THE LEGAL STATUS OF NON-MARITAL UNIONS**

- § 24:1 Non-marital cohabitation generally
- § 24:2 Non-marital cohabitation distinguished from marriage
- § 24:3 Criminal statutes regarding private consensual sexual relations between unmarried persons

### **CHAPTER 25. RIGHTS, DUTIES AND LIABILITIES OF DOMESTIC PARTNERS**

- § 25:10 Co-parenting between partners and visitation claims by a non-parent
- § 25:11 Verified Complaint to Establish De Facto Parentage (M.G.L. c. 209C, § 25)—Official form *[New]*
- § 25:12 Answer to Verified Complaint to Establish De Facto Parentage Under M.G.L. c. 209C, § 25—Official form *[New]*
- § 25:13 Motion for Temporary Contact De Facto Parentage (M.G.L. c. 209C, § 25(h))—Official form *[New]*
- § 25:14 Request for Hearing on Sufficiency and Standing on a Complaint to Establish De Facto Parentage (M.G.L. c. 209C, § 25(f), (g))—Official form *[New]*

## **PART IX. ISSUES RELATING TO HUMAN REPRODUCTION**

### **CHAPTER 26. REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

- § 26:1 Family law and the reproductive revolution, generally
- § 26:2 Summarizing the various forms of assisted reproduction under Massachusetts law
- § 26:3 Intrauterine insemination, gestation and parenthood
- § 26:5 In vitro fertilization and the disposition of excess embryos
- § 26:6 Surrogacy arrangements
- § 26:7 Use of cryopreserved gametes or embryos to achieve posthumous reproduction

### **CHAPTER 27. BIRTH CONTROL**

- § 27:2 Massachusetts health facilities not required to provide birth prevention services

- § 27:3 The early law governing abortion
- § 27:4 The landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade* and its offspring
- § 27:9 The trimester standard replaced by an undue burden test in *Casey*
- § 27:10 The pregnant minor child, parental consent and abortion

## **PART X. DIVORCE PLEADING AND PRACTICE**

### **CHAPTER 29. DIVORCE JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- § 29:2 The meaning of domicile in divorce practice
- § 29:3 The Massachusetts statutory provisions as to domicile in divorce actions
- § 29:4 The durational residency requirement in divorce actions where cause occurred outside the Commonwealth
- § 29:5 Massachusetts domiciliary seeking divorce in another jurisdiction
- § 29:6 Jurisdiction to award or modify alimony at or after a divorce
- § 29:7 Jurisdiction to award or modify child support at or after a divorce
- § 29:8 Jurisdiction to assign property interests of the parties at the time of a divorce or thereafter
- § 29:9 Jurisdiction to provide for custody of minor children incident to or after a divorce
- § 29:10 Judgments of support and/or property division and application of the full faith and credit clause
- § 29:12 Venue in divorce actions
- § 29:18 Limits on state divorce jurisdiction over foreign diplomats

### **CHAPTER 30. CONFLICT OF LAWS AND CHOICE OF LAW**

- § 30:4 Divorce judgments of other states and foreign nations
- § 30:6 The statutory rules governing child support proceedings in multiple states

### **CHAPTER 32. COMMENCEMENT OF THE DIVORCE ACTION**

- § 32:17 Affidavit of indigency and request for waiver of fees and costs, with supplements and instructions—Official form
- § 32:30 Military affidavit—Official trial court form [*New*]

### **CHAPTER 36. NO-FAULT DIVORCE**

- § 36:1.50 Conference for settlement of limited issues [*New*]

### **CHAPTER 37. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- § 37:3 Types of dispute resolution services

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**CHAPTER 39. SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL**

§ 39:6 Admissibility of electronically stored information

**CHAPTER 40. HEALTH INSURANCE**

§ 40:3 Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)

§ 40:5 Support orders and health insurance

**CHAPTER 41. LIFE AND DISABILITY  
INSURANCE**

§ 41:1 Life insurance

**CHAPTER 42. PARENTING COORDINATORS**

§ 42:4 Appointment of parent coordinators

§ 42:6 Violations of Parent Coordinator Decisions *[New]*

§ 42:7 Probate and family court standing order 1-17: Parenting  
coordination *[New]*

§ 42:8 Failure to submit issue to parenting coordinator *[New]*

**CHAPTER 44. ORDERS PROHIBITING  
RESTRAINT ON PERSONAL LIBERTY,  
TO PREVENT ABUSE AND/OR TO  
VACATE THE RESIDENCE IN PENDING  
DIVORCE ACTIONS**

§ 44:18 Order to vacate the marital home—Harassment Prevention  
Orders *[New]*

**CHAPTER 47. ORDERS PENDENTE LITE IN  
DIVORCE PRACTICE**

§ 47:7 Temporary spousal support—General principles

§ 47:17 Temporary child support in divorce actions—General  
principles

§ 47:64 Status inquiry from those awaiting decisions *[New]*

§ 47:65 Form for submission of a status inquiry from those awaiting  
decisions—Probate and Family Court Form PFC13 (1/2/14)  
*[New]*

**CHAPTER 48. INCOME ISSUES AND  
SUPPORT**

§ 48:1 Child support

§ 48:2 Child support in high income cases

§ 48:3 Double dipping

**CHAPTER 49. THE MASSACHUSETTS  
CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES**

§ 49:1 The child support guidelines—Introduction

- § 49:2 The Massachusetts child support guidelines (2021, as amended July 31, 2023) *[Retitled]*
- § 49:3 Child support guidelines worksheet
- § 49:4 Child support guidelines chart
- § 49:5 Report of the Task Force on the 2017 child support guidelines *[Retitled]*
- § 49:6 Court decisions interpreting the child support guidelines
- § 49:7 Findings and determination for child support and post-secondary education *[Retitled]*

## **CHAPTER 50. CHILD SUPPORT**

- § 50:6 The Massachusetts child support guidelines
- § 50:8 Modification or enforcement of prior child support order against an out-of-state obligor under the long-arm statute
- § 50:9 Modification or enforcement of child support order against an out-of-state obligor under G.L. c. 209D
- § 50:10 Continuing exclusive jurisdiction over support orders
- § 50:12 Agreements for child support
- § 50:16 Child support services available through Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement Division—D.O.R. form
- § 50:22 Past due child support reduced to judgment by operation of law
- § 50:45 Federal taxation and child support
- § 50:46 Claiming the exemption for children of divorced or separated parents
- § 50:50 Expenses of college education
- § 50:75 Equity jurisdiction and child support

## **CHAPTER 51. INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT**

- § 51:2 Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction
- § 51:5 Jurisdiction over nonresidents

## **CHAPTER 52. QUICK REFERENCE CITATIONS TO MASSACHUSETTS CHILD SUPPORT DECISIONS**

- § 52:1 Decisions on setting child support orders
- § 52:2 Decisions on post-majority child support
- § 52:3 Decisions on child support guidelines
- § 52:4 Decisions on modification of child support
- § 52:5 Attribution of income for purposes of determining child support obligation
- § 52:6 Enforcement of child support obligations

## **CHAPTER 53. ALIMONY**

- § 53:1 Alimony in Massachusetts
- § 53:4 Importance of the length of the marriage
- § 53:5 Marital lifestyle and ability of each party to maintain the marital lifestyle

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 53:6 The support function of general term alimony
- § 53:9 Alimony in divorce agreements *[Retitled]*
- § 53:10 Premarital and marital agreements
- § 53:13 Rehabilitative alimony
- § 53:15 Tax aspects of alimony awards or agreements
- § 53:17 Termination of alimony on remarriage of recipient
- § 53:19 Post-divorce alimony awards
- § 53:20 Modification of Massachusetts alimony judgments
- § 53:21 Complaint for modification of alimony—Official probate and family court form
- § 53:29 Health insurance coverage and alimony
- § 53:35 Alimony and disposable military retirement pay

**CHAPTER 54. QUICK REFERENCE  
CITATIONS ON ALIMONY**

- § 54:1 Court decisions on alimony
- § 54:3 Court decisions on alimony under the Alimony Reform Act

# Table of Contents

## **PART XI. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MARITAL ESTATE**

### **CHAPTER 55. CONTROLLING FACTORS IN PROPERTY ASSIGNMENT**

- § 55:3 Relationship between alimony and property division
- § 55:5 The mandatory section 34 factors
- § 55:6 Length of the marriage
- § 55:7 Conduct of the parties

### **CHAPTER 56. PROPERTY SUBJECT TO DIVISION OR ASSIGNMENT**

- § 56:8 Federal pensions
- § 56:10 Qualified domestic relations orders and the Retirement Equity Act of 1984
- § 56:12 Royalties, copyright and patent interests
- § 56:14 Interest in a business
- § 56:17 Inheritances, gifts and pre-marital property
- § 56:19 Social security benefits
- § 56:21 Property held in trust for benefit of a spouse
- § 56:22 Assignment of proceeds from an injury action or settlement  
*[Retitled]*
- § 56:23 Stock options
- § 56:25 Pets
- § 56:26 Embryos subject to division in divorce *[Retitled]*

### **CHAPTER 59. VALUATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ASSIGNABLE PROPERTY**

- § 59:3 Time factors in identification and valuation of assets
- § 59:7 Valuation of dissipated assets

### **CHAPTER 60. QUICK REFERENCE CITATIONS ON PROPERTY DIVISION IN DIVORCE**

- § 60:4 Citations to decisions interpreting the statutory factors
- § 60:5 Quick reference citations on property division court decisions

## **PART XII. CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION**

### **CHAPTER 61. JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURES IN CHILD CUSTODY CASES**

- § 61:1 The interests of children and parents in custody disputes
- § 61:2 Massachusetts judicial interpretations of the Child Custody Jurisdiction Act
- § 61:4 Need to file affidavit disclosing care or custody proceedings
- § 61:5 Affidavit disclosing care and custody proceedings—Official trial court form
- § 61:6 Shared legal custody
- § 61:9 Parent education programs in divorce and custody cases
- § 61:11 Statutes governing domestic abuse as a factor which is contrary to the best interest of the child in custody disputes and a rebuttable presumption against custody being given to the abuser
- § 61:28 Parent coordinator
- § 61:29 Access by the non-custodial parent to the child's public elementary and secondary school records *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 62. DETERMINING THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD**

- § 62:1 The best interests of the child rule, generally
- § 62:2 Factors considered in child custody disputes between parents

### **CHAPTER 63. RELOCATION**

- § 63:1 Removal of minor children from the Commonwealth by the custodial parent under the real advantage standard
- § 63:5 Applicable standard in removal cases *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 64. VISITATION**

- § 64:1 Visitation with the non-custodial parent
- § 64:2 Visitation with grandparent
- § 64:4 Visitation and a de facto parent
- § 64:6 Sibling visitation of children in foster care or adoption

### **CHAPTER 65. CUSTODY ISSUES ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS**

- § 65:2 The Hague Convention on international child abduction
- § 65:3 The meaning of habitual residence under the Hague Convention
- § 65:4 Child abducted to a country which is not a party to the Hague Convention
- § 65:6 Application Under The Hague Convention On The Civil Aspects Of International Child Abduction—Form

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PART XIII. CONTRACTS**

**CHAPTER 66. MARITAL SETTLEMENTS  
AND AGREEMENTS—GENERALLY**

- § 66:5 Oral agreements
- § 66:9 Non-enforceability of agreements which violate public policy
- § 66:11 Duty of fair dealing and good faith in performance of marital contracts

**CHAPTER 68. PREMARITAL AGREEMENTS  
AND DIVORCE**

- § 68:1 Premarital agreements—Generally
- § 68:6 Application of the unconscionability test to premarital agreements in divorce actions
- § 68:9 Premarital agreements and death *[New]*

**CHAPTER 69. PREMARITAL  
AGREEMENTS—FORMS**

- § 69:1 Drafting the premarital agreement

**CHAPTER 71. THE PRETRIAL  
CONFERENCE**

- § 71:1 The pretrial conference—Generally
- § 71:3 Complete the Child Support Guidelines Worksheet for the pretrial conference *[Retitled]*

**CHAPTER 74. EVIDENCE**

- § 74:1 Hearsay
- § 74:3 Spousal disqualification
- § 74:9 Status inquiry about decision more than five months after hearing of evidence and matter being taken under advisement *[New]*
- § 74:10 Judicial consideration of evidence *[New]*

**CHAPTER 75. JUDGMENT AND POST-  
JUDGMENT PROCEEDINGS**

- § 75:8 Motions for a new trial or to open judgment—Generally
- § 75:13 Rules governing stay of proceedings to enforce a judgment
- § 75:21 Procedures for submission and disposition of certain post-hearing motions *[New]*

**PART XIV. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND  
ABUSE PREVENTION ACTIONS**

**CHAPTER 76. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- § 76:3 Domestic violence and custody visitation orders

- § 76:4 Abuse defined by Chapter 209A
- § 76:5 No contact orders
- § 76:6 Family, household members or others eligible for protection under Chapter 209A defined
- § 76:7 Jurisdiction and venue of the court in Chapter 209A abuse prevention cases
- § 76:8 Remedies for abuse in Chapter 209A cases
- § 76:9 Time limits on relief granted under Chapter 209A
- § 76:14 The domestic violence tracking system
- § 76:16 Service of the notice of the order
- § 76:23 Criminal proceedings against violator of abuse prevention orders
- § 76:24 Criminal prosecution for violation of other statutes
- § 76:25 The crime of stalking
- § 76:28 Probate court custody or support order supersedes orders of other courts in abuse prevention case
- § 76:33 Destruction of vacated 209A orders
- § 76:34 Standard to be applied in actions to renew an abuse protection order
- § 76:35 Standard to determine a defendant's request to vacate or modify an abuse prevention order

## **CHAPTER 77. PLEADINGS, ORDERS AND APPEALS IN CHAPTER 209A ABUSE PREVENTION CASES**

- § 77:10 The Abuse Prevention Order—Generally

## **CHAPTER 79. HARASSMENT**

- § 79:1 Civil harassment prevention orders

## **PART XVI. NAMES**

## **CHAPTER 84. CHANGE OF NAME PROCEEDINGS**

- § 84:1 Petitions for change of name

# Table of Contents

## **PART XVII. THE CHILD, THE STATE AND THE FAMILY**

### **CHAPTER 85. ADOPTION**

- § 85:5 Parental consent to adoption is not required when the court has dispensed with the need for parental consent
- § 85:6 Court decisions on petitions to dispense with consent to adoption
- § 85:34 Adoption of Native American children
- § 85:35 Post-adoption contact between child and birth parents
- § 85:38 Tax credit or income exclusion for expenses of adoption
- § 85:44 Parental leave following adoption *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 86. GUARDIANSHIP FOR MINOR CHILD OR INCOMPETENT FAMILY MEMBER**

- § 86:1 Guardianship of minor child
- § 86:5 Guardian for mentally ill or intellectually disabled adult person
- § 86:7 Substituted judgment for incompetent adult family members in medical treatment cases

### **CHAPTER 87. THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WHO ARE ABUSED, WHO ARE WITHOUT PROPER GUARDIANSHIP OR WHO HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS**

- § 87:1 The care and protection proceeding
- § 87:2 The statutory basis of actions for the care of children
- § 87:11 Voluntary surrender of child into care of the department of children and families
- § 87:26 Admission of hearsay evidence of sexual abuse of child under the age of 10
- § 87:27 Standard of proof in care and protection proceedings
- § 87:29 Visitation among siblings in foster care
- § 87:31 Judicial certification of need to remove child from its home
- § 87:33 Determination of the future status of children who have been committed to foster care
- § 87:44.50 Guardianship proceedings in immigrant cases *[New]*
- § 87:45 Vacating a Termination Judgment *[New]*

## CHAPTER 89. PROCEEDINGS AS TO THE PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN

- § 89:1 Overview of the Massachusetts statutory system for adjudication or acknowledgment of parentage
- § 89:1.50 Massachusetts Parentage Act *[New]*
- § 89:3 Procedure for voluntary acknowledgement of parentage
- § 89:4 Voluntary acknowledgment of parentage—Sample court form *[Retitled]*
- § 89:5 Filing of notarized voluntary acknowledgment of parentage and challenges to the same *[Retitled]*
- § 89:6 Full faith and credit for foreign judgments or acknowledgments of parentage
- § 89:7 Complaint to establish parentage—Official probate and family court form *[Retitled]*
- § 89:7.10 Answer to Complaint to Establish Parentage Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 209C, § 5 *[New]*
- § 89:7.20 Complaint for Custody-Support-Parenting Time Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 209C *[New]*
- § 89:7.30 Complaint to Establish Parentage (Assisted Reproduction) M.G.L. c. 209C, § 27—Official form *[New]*
- § 89:7.50 Joint Petition for Judgment of Parentage (Assisted Reproduction) M.G.L. c. 209C, § 27—Official form *[New]*
- § 89:16 The decriminalization of the paternity proceeding
- § 89:17 Persons entitled to maintain action or execute voluntary acknowledgment of parentage
- § 89:18 Persons competent to testify in parentage adjudication case
- § 89:19 Paternity of child born to a married woman
- § 89:20 Mandatory joinder of presumed father
- § 89:21 The privilege against self-incrimination in parentage cases
- § 89:22 Husband-wife disqualification to testify as to confidential communications does not bar testimony by a spouse or former spouse which is otherwise competent
- § 89:23 Views of the parties
- § 89:24 Evidence that the mother had sexual relations with men other than the putative father at the probable time of conception
- § 89:25 All other relevant evidence is admissible
- § 89:26 Evidence of red blood grouping tests for the purpose of excluding paternity
- § 89:27 Admissibility of genetic marker test results showing a high degree of probability of paternity
- § 89:30 Power of DOR to order genetic marker testing
- § 89:34 Support order and judgments in parentage proceedings
- § 89:37 Awards of custody and visitation after an adjudication or acknowledgment of parentage
- § 89:38 The exclusive jurisdiction of the probate and family court to determine custody or visitation in chapter 209C actions
- § 89:39 *[Deleted]*
- § 89:40 Proceedings relating to maternity and pregnancy
- § 89:41 Rights and liabilities of sperm donors and others as to children conceived by assisted reproduction
- § 89:43 Effect of marriage of parents on parentage proceedings

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 89:46 Paternity and civil support cases in district courts
- § 89:47 *[Deleted]*
- § 89:51 Modification of parentage judgment
- § 89:55 *[Deleted]*

## **PART XVIII. MODIFICATION, EQUITABLE REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **CHAPTER 90. PROCEEDINGS FOR MODIFICATION**

- § 90:6 Modification of child custody and visitation orders and judgments
- § 90:8 Modification of child support
- § 90:17 Complaint for modification of alimony *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 91. EQUITABLE RELIEF**

- § 91:2 Civil actions for equitable relief in the Superior Court or Probate and Family Court departments
- § 91:22 Invocation of equity jurisdiction to award child support in the absence of express statutory authority
- § 91:23 Equitable credits against child support arrears *[New]*

### **CHAPTER 92. CONTEMPT**

- § 92:2 Standard of proof in civil contempt
- § 92:6 Modification of support in contempt proceeding

## **PART XIX. APPEALS**

### **CHAPTER 94. PROCEEDINGS ON APPEAL**

- § 94:1 General principles governing appeals
- § 94:13 Service and filing of briefs
- § 94:29 Application for further appellate review in the Supreme Judicial Court
- § 94:34 Summary disposition (Rule 23.0, formerly known as Appeals Court Rule 1:28) *[New]*

#### **Table of Laws and Rules**

#### **Table of Cases**

#### **Index**