

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1. INVALID MARRIAGES AND ANNULMENT

- § 1:2 Essentials of valid marriage in Tennessee
- § 1:3 Essentials of valid marriage outside Tennessee
- § 1:4 Evidential presumptions; equitable estoppel doctrine
- § 1:5 Consequences of invalid marriage
- § 1:6 Annulment
- § 1:7 Annulment—Grounds

CHAPTER 2. SEPARATION OF PARTIES TO MARRIAGE

- § 2:4 Right to protect person and property
- § 2:6 Separation agreements
- § 2:7 Separation agreements—Validity

CHAPTER 4. ANTENUPTIAL (PRENUPTIAL) CONTRACTS

- § 4:3 Fiduciary relationships
- § 4:4 Contract considerations
- § 4:5 Enforcement
- § 4:6 Release of rights and interests—During life of party
- § 4:7 Release of rights and interests—After death of party
- § 4:8 Contests—Invalidity and termination
- § 4:9 Contests—Defenses to contests of validity
- § 4:10 Contests—Procedure
- § 4:11 Postnuptial contracts

CHAPTER 5. NATURE AND HISTORY OF DIVORCE IN TENNESSEE

- § 5:1 History of divorce in Tennessee
- § 5:3 Attorney's duties
- § 5:4 Trial judge in divorce cases in Tennessee
- § 5:5 Reconciliation and divorce counseling in Tennessee

CHAPTER 6. GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

- § 6:1 In general
- § 6:2 From bonds of matrimony

- § 6:3 Legal separation
- § 6:4 Exercise of discretion; absolute divorce or legal separation
- § 6:5 Evidence

CHAPTER 7. DEFENSES TO DIVORCE

- § 7:2 Prior existing marriage
- § 7:3 Connivance
- § 7:5 Condonation
- § 7:11 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act
- § 7:12 Prior suit pending
- § 7:14 Death

CHAPTER 8. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- § 8:2 Courts having jurisdiction
- § 8:3 Jurisdiction over subject matter
- § 8:4 Jurisdiction over parties
- § 8:5 Venue
- § 8:6 Residence and domicile

CHAPTER 9. PLEADING AND PROCEDURE IN DIVORCE CASES

- § 9:2 Parties
- § 9:3 Process
- § 9:4 Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure
- § 9:5 Complaints
- § 9:6 Responsive pleading
- § 9:7 Default judgment
- § 9:9 Judgment on pleadings
- § 9:10 Demand for jury trial
- § 9:11 Discovery
- § 9:14 Local rules
- § 9:15 Waiting period *[New]*

CHAPTER 10. ALIMONY PENDENTE LITE, ATTORNEY FEES, TEMPORARY CUSTODY, AND CHILD SUPPORT

- § 10:2 Alimony pendente lite and suit costs
- § 10:4 Criteria for determining alimony pendente lite
- § 10:8 Termination of pendente lite orders
- § 10:9 Attorney fees and suit expenses
- § 10:10 Attorney fees—Amount
- § 10:11 Attorney fees—Enforcement of fee orders *[Retitled]*
- § 10:13 Attorney fees—Lien

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 11. EQUITABLE RELIEF

- § 11:2 Injunction pendente lite and temporary restraining orders
- § 11:5 Fraudulent conveyances
- § 11:8 Rescission

CHAPTER 12. TRIAL, VERDICT, AND JUDGMENT

- § 12:2 Docketing case for trial
- § 12:4 Trial; judge or jury
- § 12:5 Proof
- § 12:7 Split trials; referral to master and child support referee
- § 12:8 Amendment after evidence
- § 12:10 Verdict
- § 12:12 Restoration of former name
- § 12:13 Judgments and decrees
- § 12:14 Effect of agreement
- § 12:15 Costs
- § 12:16 Nunc pro tunc decree
- § 12:17 Construction of decree
- § 12:18 Interest on judgments
- § 12:19 Prisoners

CHAPTER 13. ALIMONY

- § 13:1 In general
- § 13:3 Rights of needy spouse
- § 13:4 Criteria in determining amount
- § 13:5 Time, manner, and form of payment
- § 13:7 Defenses
- § 13:8 Palimony
- § 13:9 Insurance as alimony
- § 13:10 Rehabilitative alimony
- § 13:11 Transitional alimony

CHAPTER 14. CHILD SUPPORT

- § 14:2 Requirements of claim
- § 14:3 Rights of custodial parent and child
- § 14:4 Criteria in determining amount
- § 14:5 Time, manner, and form of payment
- § 14:6 Agreement
- § 14:8 Defenses
- § 14:10 Child support guidelines
- § 14:11 Child support guidelines—Income shares model

CHAPTER 15. PROPERTY DIVISION

- § 15:2 Theory of recovery; equitable claim of ownership

- § 15:3 Marital property
- § 15:4 Classification: marital or separate property
- § 15:6 Criteria for equitable distribution
- § 15:7 Defenses
- § 15:8 Form and manner of decree
- § 15:9 Modification, merger, and survival
- § 15:10 Marital property not divested by decree
- § 15:11 Presumption favoring equal ownership
- § 15:12 Valuation
- § 15:13 Intangible property
- § 15:14 Allocation of marital debt

CHAPTER 16. ENFORCEMENT OF ALIMONY, CHILD SUPPORT, AND PROPERTY DIVISION

- § 16:2 Equitable enforcement—Contempt
- § 16:3 Equitable enforcement—Contempt—Procedure
- § 16:4 Equitable enforcement—Contempt—Defenses
- § 16:5 Equitable enforcement—Contempt—Appellate review
- § 16:6 Equitable enforcement—Contempt—Additional sanctions
- § 16:7 Equitable enforcement—Contempt—Attorney fees
- § 16:8 Equitable enforcement—Declaration and enforcement of
lien
- § 16:10 Equitable enforcement—Attachment pro corpus of
defendant
- § 16:13 Equitable enforcement—Injunction
- § 16:14 Equitable enforcement—Constructive trust
- § 16:15 Execution
- § 16:16 Garnishment
- § 16:17 New suit
- § 16:18 Attorney fees
- § 16:19 Foreign decrees: registration
- § 16:21 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)
- § 16:22 Intercounty enforcement and modification
- § 16:23 Child support in juvenile court
- § 16:24 Federal Support Enforcement Law *[Retitled]*
- § 16:26 Involuntary wage assignment for child support
- § 16:29 Further enforcement of property division
- § 16:32 Enforcement of child support by revocation of licenses for
driving, recreation, and business and by requiring public
work

CHAPTER 17. CORRECTION OF ERRORS IN TRIAL COURTS AND COLLATERAL ATTACK ON JUDGMENTS

- § 17:1 In general

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 17:2 New trial, alteration, and amendment of judgments
- § 17:3 Setting aside default judgment
- § 17:4 Clerical mistakes
- § 17:5 Relief from judgment based on fraud, mistake, neglect, or misconduct
- § 17:6 Grounds for relief within one year
- § 17:7 Grounds for relief within reasonable time
- § 17:8 Defenses to relief under Tenn. R. Civ. P. 60.02
- § 17:10 Collateral attack—Void decree
- § 17:11 Collateral attack—Defenses

CHAPTER 18. APPELLATE COURT PROCEEDINGS

- § 18:2 Jurisdiction of appellate courts
- § 18:3 Appeal of right
- § 18:4 Appeal by permission—From trial court
- § 18:5 Appeal of right—Procedure
- § 18:6 Appeal by permission—Procedure
- § 18:8 Standards of review
- § 18:9 Record on appeal
- § 18:10 Briefs
- § 18:11 Notice to attorney general
- § 18:14 Damages for frivolous appeal
- § 18:15 Jurisdiction of trial court during appellate review
- § 18:16 Motion for new trial in trial court
- § 18:18 Mootness *[New]*

CHAPTER 19. OPERATION AND EFFECT OF DECREES AND RIGHTS OF DIVORCED PERSONS

- § 19:4 Tort actions
- § 19:6 Alimony
- § 19:9 Legitimacy of children born after decree
- § 19:10 Death
- § 19:15 Insurance; effect of divorce
- § 19:16 Invalid support order

CHAPTER 20. MODIFICATION OF ALIMONY AND CHILD SUPPORT

- § 20:2 Jurisdiction to modify
- § 20:3 Change of relevant circumstances
- § 20:4 Criteria for modification of alimony
- § 20:5 Criteria for modification of child support
- § 20:6 Defenses to modification
- § 20:8 Attorney fees and costs

§ 20:9 Automatic modification

CHAPTER 21. JUDGMENTS OF SISTER STATES AND FOREIGN NATIONS

§ 21:3 Full faith and credit—Jurisdictional requirements

§ 21:5 Enforcement of judgments of sister states

§ 21:6 Attacking judgments of sister states

§ 21:8 Decrees of sister states—Personal rights

CHAPTER 22. REMEDIES FOR ADJUDICATING CUSTODY DISPUTES

§ 22:2 Divorce action

§ 22:8 Juvenile court proceedings to declare children dependent and neglected

§ 22:9 Proceedings for termination of parental rights; adoption

§ 22:10 Proceeding for writ of habeas corpus

§ 22:11 Probate action to appoint guardian of person

§ 22:13 Permanent guardianship

§ 22:14 Preference guardian *[New]*

§ 22:15 Surrogacy and assisted reproduction *[New]*

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 23. JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE IN CHILD CUSTODY CASES

- § 23:2 Divorce, annulment, and separate maintenance actions
- § 23:3 Juvenile court proceedings
- § 23:4 Registered foreign support orders
- § 23:5 Habeas corpus proceedings
- § 23:6 Adoption proceedings
- § 23:7 Child outside state
- § 23:8 Domicile of child
- § 23:9 Parties to custody proceeding
- § 23:10 Sufficiency of pleading
- § 23:12 Evidence
- § 23:13 Custody of Indian children
- § 23:14 Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act

CHAPTER 24. FACTORS IN AWARDING CUSTODY

- § 24:1 In general
- § 24:1.50 Revised statutory criteria for custody *[New]*
- § 24:2 Statutory criteria for custody (old) *[Retitled]*
- § 24:3 Agreement of parents
- § 24:4 Child's best interest
- § 24:5 Child's preference
- § 24:6 Parents' superior rights doctrine
- § 24:7 Tender years doctrine
- § 24:8 Parental fitness; morals
- § 24:9 Custodian's fitness; health and age
- § 24:11 After death of custodial parent
- § 24:12 Removal of child from jurisdiction
- § 24:13 Physical surroundings
- § 24:16 Separation from siblings *[Retitled]*
- § 24:17 Continuity of placement
- § 24:19 Disabled adult child
- § 24:22 Presumption of correctness on appeal
- § 24:23 Legitimacy
- § 24:26 Suggestions for drafting custody agreements
- § 24:27 Comparative fitness doctrine

- § 24:28 Openness to encourage relationship with other parent
- § 24:29 History of abuse
- § 24:30 Truthfulness of parent
- § 24:31 Experience as parent (parenting skills)
- § 24:32 Relationship with extended family

CHAPTER 25. PARENTING PLANS

- § 25:1 In general
- § 25:2 Temporary parenting plan
- § 25:3 Permanent parenting plan
- § 25:3.50 Revised statutory factors *[New]*
- § 25:4 Factors in establishing residential schedule
- § 25:5 Provision for dispute resolution
- § 25:6 Allocation of parenting responsibility
- § 25:7 Designation as primary residential parent *[Retitled]*
- § 25:8 Parenting educational seminar

CHAPTER 26. INCIDENTS OF CHILD CUSTODY DECREES

- § 26:2 Exclusive custody and custody with visitation rights to noncustodial parent
- § 26:3 Joint, alternating, or divided custody
- § 26:4 Visitation
- § 26:5 Selection of residence and domicile
- § 26:11 Consent to adoption
- § 26:13 Kidnapping and custodial interference by parent
- § 26:16 Rights of noncustodial parent
- § 26:17 Permission to marry *[New]*
- § 26:18 Return of child from noncustodial parent *[New]*

CHAPTER 27. MODIFICATION OF CUSTODY DECREES

- § 27:1 In general
- § 27:2 Jurisdiction and venue
- § 27:3 Procedure for modification of custody
- § 27:4 Grounds; change of circumstances
- § 27:4.50 Statutory factors revised *[New]*
- § 27:5 Criteria for modification of custody (old) *[Retitled]*
- § 27:6 Modification of visitation rights
- § 27:7 Modification of custody decrees of sister states
- § 27:9 Attorney fees and costs
- § 27:11 Clean hands
- § 27:12 Change of name
- § 27:13 Burden on appeal
- § 27:15 Removal of child from jurisdiction
- § 27:16 Active military service of parent *[New]*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**CHAPTER 28. FEDERAL TAX
CONSIDERATIONS IN DIVORCE AND
ALIMONY**

- § 28:5 Dependency exemptions for children and child tax credit
- § 28:10 Joint tax returns and innocent spouse rules
- § 28:11 Miscellaneous provisions

**CHAPTER 29. BANKRUPTCY
CONSIDERATIONS**

- § 29:1 Introduction and scope
- § 29:4 Overview of bankruptcy and its chapters for relief—
“Domestic support obligation” under 2005 Act
- § 29:6 Consumer and individual bankruptcies: special provisions
in 2005 Act
- § 29:7 Consumer and individual bankruptcies: special provisions
in 2005 Act—Means testing under 2005 Act
- § 29:9 Consumer and individual bankruptcies: special provisions
in 2005 Act—Other hurdles for individual debtors: credit
counseling and financial education
- § 29:10 Debt relief agencies: potential liability and ethical concerns
for lawyers representing consumer debtors
- § 29:12 Debt relief agencies: potential liability and ethical concerns
for lawyers representing consumer debtors—Lawyers as
“debt relief agencies”; 11 U.S.C.A. § 526 to 11 U.S.C.A.
§ 528
- § 29:13 Debt relief agencies: potential liability and ethical concerns
for lawyers representing consumer debtors—Conflicts
with state ethical rules
- § 29:14 “Domestic support obligations” and incredible shrinking
discharge
- § 29:15 “Domestic support obligations” and incredible shrinking
discharge—2005 Act and advent of domestic support
obligation
- § 29:16 Automatic stay, domestic support obligation, and
distribution of marital property
- § 29:20 Property of estate, exemptions, tenancy by entireties, and
equitable distribution of marital property—Property of
bankruptcy estate and exemptions
- § 29:21 Property of estate, exemptions, tenancy by entireties, and
equitable distribution of marital property—Tenancy by
entireties issues
- § 29:22 Property of estate, exemptions, tenancy by entireties, and
equitable distribution of marital property—Equitable
distribution of marital property and debts
- § 29:23 Property of estate, exemptions, tenancy by entireties, and
equitable distribution of marital property—State vs.
federal: who decides property issues?

§ 29:24 Claims against debtor's bankruptcy estate, filing proofs of claim, and priority of distribution

CHAPTER 30. FORMS

- § 30:1 Complaint for divorce
- § 30:2 Complaint for divorce—Irreconcilable differences
- § 30:10 Waiver of Servicemembers Civil Relief Act
- § 30:17 Order allowing constructive service
- § 30:34 Motion to set aside default judgment
- § 30:41.50 Complaint for legal custody of child conceived by artificial insemination *[New]*
- § 30:41.70 Divided custody of child *[New]*
- § 30:50 Motion for continuance
- § 30:57 Decree of divorce
- § 30:58 Decree of divorce—Irreconcilable differences
- § 30:59 Decree of divorce—Fault-based
- § 30:60.50 Qualified domestic relations order *[New]*
- § 30:66 Marital dissolution agreement—Short form
- § 30:66.50 Marital dissolution agreement—Another form *[New]*
- § 30:67 Marital dissolution agreement—Long form
- § 30:72.50 Petition to modify custody decree—Another form *[New]*
- § 30:72.60 Petition to modify custody decree—Another form *[New]*
- § 30:72.70 Petition for change of custody and increase in child support *[New]*
- § 30:72.80 Postdivorce petition—For custody with allegations of dependency and neglect *[New]*
- § 30:73.50 Postdivorce petition—For contempt for failure to comply with visitation order *[New]*
- § 30:73.90 Postdivorce petition—For contempt for failure to pay child support *[New]*
- § 30:75.50 Petition for termination of parental rights *[New]*
- § 30:81 Child support enforcement: request for transfer
- § 30:82.50 Postdivorce petition—For contempt for failure to comply with divorce decree *[New]*
- § 30:85.40 Postdivorce petition—To set support *[New]*
- § 30:85.50 Postdivorce petition—To enforce child support *[New]*
- § 30:85.60 Postdivorce petition—For change of custody *[New]*
- § 30:85.70 Postdivorce petition—To register foreign decree and reduce child support *[New]*
- § 30:87 Order to show cause
- § 30:88 Order for contempt of court
- § 30:100 Petition for contempt and writ of attachment
- § 30:101 Petition for contempt and writ of habeas corpus
- § 30:116.50 Interrogatories—Another form *[New]*
- § 30:119 Petition for change of name
- § 30:120 Petition and order for change of name
- § 30:127 Petition to establish paternity
- § 30:128 Petition for legitimation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 30:129	Order appointing guardian of person
§ 30:131.50	Income withholding for support—Order/notice <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:131.60	Income withholding for support—Instructions <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:135.30	Agreement for separation of husband and wife <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:135.50	Separation and settlement agreement—Community property—Waiver of spousal support—No minor children <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:135.70	Complaint for breach of property settlement agreement <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:139.50	Document checklist for divorce clients <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:141	Prohibited degrees of consanguinity and affinity
§ 30:151	Order to mediate (AOC Form 15a)
§ 30:155	Mediator’s final progress report (AOC Form 13)
§ 30:155.40	Motion to preempt education <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:155.50	Motion for reduced fee mediation <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:155.60	Motion to preempt mediation <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:155.70	Order for reduced fee mediation <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:155.80	Order for reduced fee parent education <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:155.90	Order to mediate designating a mediator <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:156	Temporary parenting plan <i>[Retitled]</i>
§ 30:159	Approved form—Request for uncontested divorce (complaint) with no minor children <i>[Retitled]</i>
§ 30:159.10	Approved form—Spouses’ personal information <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:159.20	Approved form—Request to postpose filing fees and order <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:159.30	Approved form—Health insurance notice <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:159.40	Approved form—Divorce agreement <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:159.50	Approved form—Final decree of divorce (with marital dissolution agreement) <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:159.60	Approved form—Restraining order for divorcing spouses (statutory injunction) <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:159.70	Approved form—Notice of hearing to approve irreconcilable differences divorce <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:159.80	Approved form—Instructions <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:160	Approved form—Request for uncontested divorce (complaint) with minor or dependent children <i>[Retitled]</i>
§ 30:161	Affidavit of assets and liabilities <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:162	Affidavit of assets and liabilities—Another form <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:163	General order concerning parenting plan <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:164	Permanent parenting plan order <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:165	Application for child support services <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:166	Child support services—Administrative complaint procedure <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:167	Child support services—Request for administrative hearing <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:168	Petition for protection order <i>[New]</i>
§ 30:168.50	Petition for lifetime order of protection and order for hearing pursuant to T.C.A. § 36-3-627 <i>[New]</i>

- § 30:168.60 Temporary order of protection—Lifetime (ex parte order of protection - lifetime) pursuant to T.C.A. § 36-3-627 *[New]*
- § 30:168.70 Lifetime order of protection pursuant to T.C.A. § 36-3-627 *[New]*
- § 30:169 Ex parte order of protection *[New]*
- § 30:170 Protection order *[New]*
- § 30:171 Dismissal of order of protection petition *[New]*
- § 30:172 Motion to modify or extend protection order *[New]*
- § 30:173 Order extending protection order *[New]*
- § 30:173.30 Wireless phone transfer order *[New]*
- § 30:173.70 Attachment to order transferring wireless phone *[New]*
- § 30:174 Agreed petition for adoption—Stepfather *[New]*
- § 30:174.50 Agreed petition for adoption—Stepfather *[New]*
- § 30:175 Agreed order of adoption—Stepfather *[New]*
- § 30:176 Petition for adoption and consent to adoption *[New]*
- § 30:177 Petition for adoption involving interstate placement *[New]*
- § 30:178 Final order of adoption *[New]*
- § 30:179 Antenuptial marital property agreement—Parties married before and have children—Each spouse retains separate property—Waiver of interest in other party’s retirement plan—Disposition upon death in accordance with will *[New]*
- § 30:180 Antenuptial marital property agreement—Purchase of family residence *[New]*
- § 30:181 Basic postnuptial agreement *[New]*
- § 30:182 Basic postnuptial agreement—Another form *[New]*

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I. Domestic Relations; Periodicals

APPENDIX II. Child Support Guidelines

APPENDIX VI. 2014 Tennessee Laws Pub. Ch. 617 (S.B. 1488)

Table of Laws and Rules

Table of Cases

Index