

# Table of Contents

## **CHAPTER 1. MARRIAGE**

- § 1:1 Marriage defined
- § 1:2 The marriage license
- § 1:4 Common-law marriage
- § 1:9 Same-gender marriage
- § 1:13 Marriage in another state
- § 1:14 Marriage in another country

## **CHAPTER 2. PRE-MARITAL ISSUES**

- § 2:3 The engagement ring and other property as gifts in contemplation of marriage
- § 2:4 Generally
- § 2:5 Postnuptial waiver of marital rights

## **CHAPTER 3. ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE**

- § 3:5 Annulment distinguished from divorce

## **CHAPTER 5. GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE**

- § 5:8 Adultery
- § 5:9 Adultery—Timing of the conduct
- § 5:10 Adultery—Homosexuality and adultery
- § 5:12 Abandonment
- § 5:22 Violence and reasonable apprehension of violence

## **CHAPTER 6. DEFENSES TO DIVORCE**

- § 6:4 Jurisdiction—Subject Matter Jurisdiction
- § 6:6 Jurisdiction—Personal Jurisdiction
- § 6:7 Reconciliation

## **CHAPTER 7. DIVORCE JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- § 7:1 Divorce subject matter jurisdiction
- § 7:2 The meaning of domicile
- § 7:4 Personal jurisdiction
- § 7:5 Divorce jurisdiction as to Native American marriages

- § 7:6 Venue
- § 7:7 Venue in postdivorce modification proceedings
- § 7:8 Subject matter jurisdiction in postdivorce modification proceedings

## **CHAPTER 8. THE ALABAMA UNIFORM CHILD CUSTODY JURISDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT**

- § 8:2 Purposes of the Act
- § 8:3 Child custody proceedings covered by the Act
- § 8:5 Notice, service, jurisdiction and the binding effect of custody judgments
- § 8:7 Communication and cooperation between courts
- § 8:9 Initial child custody jurisdiction
- § 8:10 Continuing exclusive jurisdiction
- § 8:11 Jurisdiction to modify child custody determinations
- § 8:12 Temporary emergency jurisdiction
- § 8:14 Simultaneous proceedings
- § 8:15 Inconvenient forum as a basis for declining jurisdiction
- § 8:19 Enforcement under the Hague Convention
- § 8:22 Registration and enforcement of child custody determinations
- § 8:27 Full faith and credit for other state enforcements orders issued in conformity with the U.C.C.J.E.A

## **CHAPTER 9. CHILD CUSTODY AWARDS**

- § 9:2 Presumptive rights of natural parents
- § 9:4 Policy and evolution of joint custody
- § 9:6 Proper joint custody terminology
- § 9:7 Standard used in initial custody determination
- § 9:8 Evidence in initial custody determinations
- § 9:9 Factors generally
- § 9:12 Characteristics of those seeking custody—*Age and character*
- § 9:13 Characteristics of those seeking custody—*Stability*
- § 9:14 Characteristics of those seeking custody—*Mental and physical health*
- § 9:17 Capacity and interest of each parent to provide for needs of child—*Moral*
- § 9:23 Report and recommendation of any expert witnesses or other independent investigator
- § 9:25 Territorial restrictions
- § 9:28 Homosexuality as a consideration in custody determinations
- § 9:30 Factors to be considered in joint custody awards
- § 9:31 Consent of the parties regarding joint custody

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 9:34 Jurisdiction and venue in custody determinations
- § 9:35 *Pendente lite* and temporary awards
- § 9:36 *Pendente lite* and temporary awards—*Pendente lite*

## CHAPTER 10. CHILD CUSTODY MODIFICATION

- § 10:1 Modification—Generally
- § 10:2 Burdens of proof in custody modification
- § 10:4 Effect of temporary and *pendente lite* awards
- § 10:5 Modification of joint legal custody
- § 10:6 Modification of custody in dependency cases
- § 10:7 Modification of joint physical custody
- § 10:8 The *McLendon* standard
- § 10:9 Material change of circumstances (initial burden)
- § 10:10 Material promotion of best interests and welfare
- § 10:13 Evidentiary concerns in custody modification
- § 10:14 Factors considered in custody modification
- § 10:15 Respective home environments offered by the parties
- § 10:16 Associations of parties
- § 10:20 Parental alienation
- § 10:21 Children's preference in custody modification
- § 10:22 Expert witnesses in custody modification
- § 10:23 Relocation cases
- § 10:25 Considerations related to a party's career
- § 10:27 Jurisdiction and venue in custody modification

## CHAPTER 11. DEPENDENCY OF CHILDREN

- § 11:1 Introduction to dependency proceedings in juvenile court
- § 11:2 Jurisdiction of juvenile court in dependency proceedings—Generally
- § 11:3 Age restriction of juvenile court jurisdiction in dependency proceedings
- § 11:4 Subject matter jurisdiction and continuing jurisdiction of juvenile courts in dependency proceedings
- § 11:5 Continuing jurisdiction of juvenile courts in dependency proceedings
- § 11:6 Venue in dependency proceedings
- § 11:8 Complaint, petition, and summons in dependency proceedings
- § 11:9 Temporary orders in dependency proceedings
- § 11:13 Guardians ad litem in dependency proceedings
- § 11:15 Adjudicatory and dispositional hearings in dependency proceedings
- § 11:16 Reasonable efforts determination in dependency proceedings

- § 11:18 Judge or referee in dependency proceedings
- § 11:20 Postjudgment motions in dependency proceedings
- § 11:22 Modification of orders in dependency proceedings
- § 11:24 Indirect appeals to the circuit court in dependency proceedings
- § 11:25 Procedural issues in appeals in dependency proceedings
- § 11:26 Right to counsel on appeal in dependency proceedings

## **CHAPTER 12. FEDERAL ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL CROSS-BORDER DISPUTES OVER CUSTODY**

- § 12:2 The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- § 12:3 Defenses under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- § 12:4 The concept of habitual residence
- § 12:6 The United States International Child Abduction Remedies Act

## **CHAPTER 13. VISITATION**

- § 13:1 Parental visitation based on best interests of child
- § 13:2 Broad discretion of trial court to determine visitation
- § 13:3 Limitations/restrictions on visitation
- § 13:5 Modification of visitation provisions
- § 13:6 Grandparent visitation
- § 13:11 Enforcement of visitation

## **CHAPTER 14. GUARDIANS AD LITEM**

- § 14:4 Representation of minor child—Custody Disputes
- § 14:7 Guardian ad litem fees

## **CHAPTER 15. PROPERTY DIVISION**

- § 15:2 Permanent alimony's evolution to alimony in gross
- § 15:3 Current statutory trends and judicial application of equitable distribution
- § 15:4 Breadth of discretion
- § 15:5 Judicial interpretation of § 30-2-51(a)—Asset classification
- § 15:6 Factors Considered in Property Division—Judicially constructed factors for consideration
- § 15:7 Factors Considered in Property Division—Misconduct
- § 15:11 Factors Considered in Property Division—Contribution to the marital estate
- § 15:13 Factors Considered in Property Division—Title

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 15:14 Factors Considered in Property Division—Future prospects; comparative earning capacities; station in life; potential for maintaining standard of living
- § 15:16 Factors Considered in Property Division—Debt considerations
- § 15:17 Factors Considered in Property Division—Dissipation of marital assets

## CHAPTER 16. SPECIFIC DIVISION OF ASSETS AND ALLOCATION OF MARITAL DEBT

- § 16:1 Real estate—Marital Residence
- § 16:2 Real estate—Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship
- § 16:3 Real estate—Other Real Estate Interests
- § 16:4 Property award in the nature of child support
- § 16:5 Personal property—Wedding Gifts
- § 16:6 Personal property—Personal Apparel and Effects
- § 16:9 Partnership interests
- § 16:12 Other business interests—Small businesses, sole proprietorships, closely held businesses
- § 16:13 Other business interests—Intellectual property
- § 16:14 Trusts
- § 16:15 Estate interests: will directive
- § 16:16 Life insurance as property interest
- § 16:17 Personal injury awards
- § 16:19 Applicable state law: Alabama Code § 30-2-51(b)
- § 16:20 Specific types of retirement plans
- § 16:21 Methods of distribution of retirement benefits
- § 16:22 Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act—Division of Military Retirement Benefits
- § 16:24 The survivor benefit plan
- § 16:25 Non-qualified deferred compensation plans
- § 16:27 Valuation of retirement benefits
- § 16:28 Qualified domestic relations orders
- § 16:30 Allocation of marital debt

## CHAPTER 17. VALUATION GENERALLY

- § 17:1 Absence of written findings by court
- § 17:2 Valuation date generally
- § 17:4 Retirement benefits
- § 17:5 Family-owned or closely held businesses

## **CHAPTER 18. ENFORCEMENT OF PROPERTY DIVISIONS AND ALIMONY**

- § 18:1 Enforcement of Property Divisions—Enforcement and clarification
- § 18:3 Enforcement of Property Divisions—Contempt—Civil Contempt
- § 18:4 Enforcement of Property Divisions—Contempt—Criminal Contempt
- § 18:7 Enforcement of Property Divisions—Attorney’s liens
- § 18:10 Enforcement of alimony—Periodic and in gross
- § 18:11 Enforcement of alimony—Periodic and in gross—Periodic Alimony—Generally
- § 18:12 Enforcement of alimony—Periodic and in gross—Ascertainment and Form of Repayment of Alimony Arrearage
- § 18:13 Enforcement of alimony—Periodic and in gross—Alimony in Gross—Generally
- § 18:14 Specific enforcement methods available—Contempt
- § 18:17 Specific enforcement methods available—Garnishment
- § 18:19 Defenses to enforcement of alimony payments—Inability to Pay
- § 18:20 Defenses to enforcement of alimony payments—Laches and Acquiescence

## **CHAPTER 19. FEDERAL TAX AND FAMILY LAW**

- § 19:1 Federal tax policies and family law—Generally
- § 19:2 Federal policy on the determination of what constitutes alimony
- § 19:5 The innocent spouse rule
- § 19:17 Federal tax policy and same-sex marriages applied to Alabama residents

## **CHAPTER 20. BANKRUPTCY**

- § 20:1 Federal bankruptcy policy and family law
- § 20:2 Bankruptcy proceedings
- § 20:4 Nondischargeability of obligations for domestic support
- § 20:5 Nondischargeability of obligations arising from court-ordered attorney’s fees
- § 20:6 Property division obligations
- § 20:7 Priority of debts
- § 20:8 Automatic stay of other proceedings

# Table of Contents

## CHAPTER 21. ALIMONY

- § 21:1 Types of alimony defined—Generally
- § 21:2 Integrated Bargaining Agreement
- § 21:3 Periodic alimony
- § 21:4 Permanent alimony
- § 21:5 Lump sum alimony
- § 21:6 Lump sum alimony—Periodic Alimony
- § 21:7 Lump sum alimony—Alimony in Gross
- § 21:8 Rehabilitative alimony
- § 21:9 Alimony *pendente lite*
- § 21:10 Reservation of right to periodic alimony
- § 21:11 Modification of periodic alimony
- § 21:12 Modification of periodic alimony—Criteria to Increase or Extend Amount of Award
- § 21:13 Modification of periodic alimony—Criteria to Decrease Amount Paid
- § 21:14 Termination of periodic alimony payments

## CHAPTER 22. CHILD SUPPORT

- § 22:1 Parents' duty of support
- § 22:5 Award of Child Support
- § 22:7 Child Support Guidelines—Enactment and review
- § 22:8 Child Support Guidelines—Purpose
- § 22:9 Child Support Guidelines—Income shares approach
- § 22:11 Child Support Guidelines—Deviating from the guidelines
- § 22:13 Child Support Guidelines—Modifications
- § 22:14 Child Support Guidelines—Health care needs
- § 22:15 Child Support Guidelines—Income definitions
- § 22:16 Child Support Guidelines—Gross income from self-employment income
- § 22:17 Child Support Guidelines—Other income
- § 22:20 Child Support Guidelines—Health-Care Coverage/Cash Medical Support *[Retitled]*
- § 22:21 Child Support Guidelines—Child-care costs
- § 22:22 Child Support Guidelines—Split custody
- § 22:23 Child Support Guidelines—Rule 32(C)(1): Basic child support obligation
- § 22:24 Child Support Guidelines—Rule 32(C)(2): computation of child support

- § 22:27 Child Support Guidelines—Rule 32(D): Schedule of basic child support obligations
- § 22:28 Child Support Guidelines—Rule 32(E): Standardized Child-Support Guidelines Form, Child-Support-Obligation Income Statement/Affidavit Form, and Child-Support Guidelines Notice of Compliance Form *[Retitled]*
- § 22:29 Child Support Guidelines—Child-Support-Obligation Income Statement/Affidavit (CS-41)
- § 22:30 Child Support Guidelines—Child-Support Guidelines Form (CS-42)
- § 22:33 Child Support Guidelines—Rule 32(G): Review of Guidelines
- § 22:34 Child Support Guidelines—Income tax exemptions
- § 22:37 Temporary child support
- § 22:40 Child support pursuant to a paternity judgment
- § 22:41 Retroactive child support
- § 22:42 Shared 50% physical-custody adjustment *[New]*
- § 22:43 Self-Support Reserve *[New]*
- § 22:44 Zero-Dollar Order *[New]*

## **CHAPTER 23. POSTMINORITY SUPPORT**

- § 23:1 General overview of postminority support in Alabama
- § 23:2 Evolution of postminority support in Alabama
- § 23:3 Postminority support for disabled adult children
- § 23:4 Overview of postminority support for education: *Bayliss*
- § 23:5 Constitutionality of postminority support
- § 23:6 Modification and enforcement of postminority support

## **CHAPTER 24. MODIFICATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND TERMINATION OF CHILD SUPPORT**

### **I. MODIFICATION OF CHILD SUPPORT**

- § 24:1 Child support modification in general
- § 24:2 Jurisdiction to modify child support
- § 24:4 Modification of child support based on changed circumstances
- § 24:5 Proof of a material change in the needs of the child as ground for modification
- § 24:6 Proof of obligor's ability to pay
- § 24:7 Burden of proof to modify child support

### **II. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT**

- § 24:10 Child's inherent right to parental support



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 24:11 Income withholding orders for support
- § 24:12 Arrearage ascertainment
- § 24:13 Interest on arrearages
- § 24:16 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
- § 24:19 Constructive trusts
- § 24:20 Defenses—Credits
- § 24:21 Defenses—Social Security
- § 24:23 Defenses—Inability (Ability to Pay vs. Actual Earnings)

## III. TERMINATION OF CHILD SUPPORT

- § 24:29 Events terminating child support obligations

## CHAPTER 25. CONTRACTS AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

- § 25:2 Contractual precepts generally—Contracts and Agreements Defined
- § 25:3 Contractual precepts generally—Statute of Frauds
- § 25:9 Prejudgment settlement agreements
- § 25:12 Judicial construction—Intention of the Parties/Mutual Assent
- § 25:15 Judicial construction—Fraud
- § 25:17 Relief from judgments incorporating agreements—Clarification
- § 25:18 Relief from judgments incorporating agreements—Motion to Alter, Amend, or Vacate a Judgment
- § 25:20 Integrated bargain agreements
- § 25:22 Enforcement of agreements—Prejudgment
- § 25:23 Enforcement of agreements—Postjudgment
- § 25:24 Enforcement of agreements—Contempt

## CHAPTER 26. EQUITY

- § 26:1 Introduction to equity in Alabama family law
- § 26:3 Temporary restraining orders
- § 26:4 Injunctive Relief—Protection from Abuse Orders
- § 26:5 Fraudulent transfers
- § 26:7 Equitable defenses—Unclean Hands

## CHAPTER 27. PLEADINGS AND MOTIONS

- § 27:1 Introduction to pleadings and motions in family law
- § 27:2 Complaint
- § 27:3 Answer and counterclaim
- § 27:4 Affirmative defenses
- § 27:5 Amendments

§ 27:7 Motions to dismiss

## **CHAPTER 28. PARTIES**

- § 28:1 Real party in interest
- § 28:3 Joinder of claims and remedies
- § 28:4 Joinder of persons
- § 28:6 Intervenor

## **CHAPTER 29. SERVICE OF PROCESS**

- § 29:1 Rule 4 Process service—General provisions
- § 29:2 Rule 4.1 In-state service
- § 29:4 Rule 4.3 Service by publication

## **CHAPTER 30. DISCOVERY**

- § 30:1 Introduction to discovery in family law
- § 30:2 Relevance
- § 30:3 Discovery limitations and protective orders
- § 30:4 Discovery limitations and protective orders—Protective orders
- § 30:6 Privileges—Psychotherapist-patient privilege and counselor-client privilege
- § 30:7 Privileges—Child Custody Exception to privilege
- § 30:9 Privileges—Husband-wife privilege
- § 30:14 Discovery methods
- § 30:17 Discovery of electronic evidence

## **CHAPTER 31. TRIALS**

- § 31:1 Bench trials—Purpose, process, and proof
- § 31:3 Bench trials—Dismissals
- § 31:5 Bench trials—Trial judge matters—Recusal & reassignment
- § 31:7 Bench trials—Sealing the record
- § 31:11 Evidence and witnesses
- § 31:12 Evidence and witnesses—Rule 43—Evidence
- § 31:14 Evidence and witnesses—Evidence in child custody cases
- § 31:15 Evidence and witnesses—Fifth Amendment
- § 31:17 Evidence and witnesses—Expert witnesses
- § 31:18 Evidence and witnesses—Credibility of witnesses
- § 31:20 Evidence and witnesses—Electronic & videotape evidence issues
- § 31:21 Evidence and witnesses—Offers of proof
- § 31:22 Evidence and witnesses—Stipulations
- § 31:23 Evidence and witnesses—Spoliation of Evidence
- § 31:24 Evidence and witnesses—Admissibility of Specific Electronic Evidence

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 31:25 Proof of documents

## CHAPTER 32. JUDGMENTS

- § 32:1 Entry of judgments
- § 32:2 Court costs and attorney's fees—Court costs
- § 32:3 Court costs and attorney's fees—Attorney's fees in equity
- § 32:4 Court costs and attorney's fees—Attorney's fees by statute
- § 32:5 Default judgment
- § 32:6 Summary judgment
- § 32:8 Postjudgment motions
- § 32:9 Final judgments
- § 32:11 Void judgments

## CHAPTER 33. APPEALS

- § 33:1 Preservation of issues for appeal
- § 33:2 Appellate review of nonfinal orders
- § 33:5 Court of civil appeals—Appellate practice—Timeliness—Notice of appeal
- § 33:6 Court of civil appeals—Appellate practice—Contents—Notice of appeal
- § 33:7 Court of civil appeals—Appellate practice—Appellate briefs
- § 33:9 Court of civil appeals—Appellate practice—*Ore tenus* rule
- § 33:10 Court of civil appeals—Appellate practice—Supplementing the record on appeal
- § 33:14 Law of the case

## CHAPTER 34. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- § 34:3 Mediation—Pretrial Mediation

## CHAPTER 35. ADOPTION

- § 35:1 Adoption is purely statutory
- § 35:3 Adoption jurisdiction and venue
- § 35:4 Who may adopt
- § 35:5 Who may be adopted
- § 35:6 Express consent or relinquishment
- § 35:7 Implied consent or relinquishment
- § 35:12 Interlocutory decree
- § 35:17 Contested adoption proceedings
- § 35:20 Adoption by stepparents
- § 35:23 Grandparent visitation after adoption
- § 35:30 Fraudulent adoption

## **CHAPTER 36. ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

- § 36:1 Assisted reproduction and its impact on family law
- § 36:4 Alabama law on surrogacy

## **CHAPTER 37. PARENTAGE**

- § 37:1 Paternity in general
- § 37:2 Children born out-of-wedlock
- § 37:4 Presumption of paternity
- § 37:5 Voluntary acknowledgment of paternity
- § 37:6 Standing to bring paternity action
- § 37:7 Order adjudicating parentage—Education and support
- § 37:8 Putative Father Registry Act

## **CHAPTER 38. TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**

- § 38:1 Fundamental nature of parental rights
- § 38:2 Instituting a termination of parental rights case
- § 38:3 Basic requirements for termination of parental rights
- § 38:4 Factors considered in termination of parental rights proceedings
- § 38:5 Emotional and mental illness or deficiency
- § 38:6 Abandonment and voluntary relinquishment
- § 38:7 Results and requirements following termination of parental rights

## **CHAPTER 39. ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTION**

- § 39:7 Abortion rights and restrictions under federal law—  
Abortion as a fundamental right
- § 39:8 Abortion rights and restrictions under federal law—  
Multiple restrictions on abortion
- § 39:9 Abortion rights and restrictions under federal law—  
Public funding of abortion
- § 39:10 Abortion rights and restrictions under federal law—  
Parental notification
- § 39:19 Abortion rights and restrictions under state law—  
Abortion of viable fetus restricted
- § 39:20 Abortion rights and restrictions under state law—  
Abortion on unemancipated minor without parental consent prohibited
- § 39:21 Abortion rights and restrictions under state law—  
Judicial authorization for abortion on unemancipated minor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 39:22 Abortion rights and restrictions under state law—  
Medical emergency and abortion

**CHAPTER 40. DOMESTIC TORTS**

- § 40:1 Domestic torts generally  
§ 40:2 Domestic torts: defenses generally  
§ 40:5 Issue/claim preclusion and res judicata  
§ 40:7 Domestic violence—Third party liability  
§ 40:9 Intentional infliction of emotional distress

**CHAPTER 41. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AND OTHER CRIMINAL LAW ISSUES**

- § 41:3 Statute of limitations and privilege against  
self-incrimination  
§ 41:5 Crimes involving violence and threats of violence  
§ 41:6 Child abuse and neglect  
§ 41:7 Child abandonment, nonsupport, and related offenses

# **Table of Contents**

## **CHAPTER 42. FEDERAL FAMILY LAW POLICIES**

- § 42:1 Federal involvement in family law policy
- § 42:2 The domestic relations exception to federal diversity jurisdiction
- § 42:3 The federal role in child support enforcement
- § 42:6 Federal policies and treaties on intercountry adoption
- § 42:7 Federal policies regarding Native American children
- § 42:11 Federal immigration policy and the status of children
- § 42:12 The impact of federal constitutional doctrine on family law policy
- § 42:13 The Federal Defense of Marriage Act
- § 42:15 The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act

## **CHAPTER 43. ETHICS**

- § 43:1 Ethics for family law practitioners
- § 43:10 Conflicts issues

**Table of Laws and Rules**

**Table of Cases**

**Index to Text**