

## CHAPTER 518

### MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION

518.002	Use term dissolution.	518.25	Remarriage; revocation.
518.003	Definitions.	518.27	Name of party.
518.005	Rules governing proceedings.		SUPPORT; DUTIES, RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT
518.01	Void marriages.	518.41	Purpose.
518.02	Voidable marriages.	518.42	Definitions.
518.03	Action to annul; decree.	518.43	Remedies additional.
518.04	Insufficient grounds for annulment.	518.44	Law of state.
518.05	Annulment; when to bring.	518.45	Proceedings for support.
518.055	Putative spouse.	518.46	Obligor not present.
	PROCEEDINGS	518.47	Duties of court of initiating state.
518.06	Dissolution of marriage; legal separation; grounds; uncontested legal separation.	518.48	Jurisdiction of court.
518.07	Residence of parties.	518.49	County attorney; duties.
518.09	Proceeding; how and where brought; venue.	518.491	Filing of foreign support orders.
518.10	Requisites of petition.	518.50	Laws attaching privilege not to apply.
518.11	Service; publication.	518.51	Governor, duties, extradition.
518.12	Time for answering.	518.52	Section 480.051 not limited.
518.13	Failure to answer; findings; hearing.	518.53	Citation, reciprocal enforcement of support act.
518.131	Temporary orders and restraining orders.		MAINTENANCE, SUPPORT, PROPERTY
518.14	Costs and disbursements and attorney's fees.	518.54	Definitions.
518.145	Decree.	518.55	Maintenance or support money.
518.155	Custody determinations.	518.551	Maintenance and support payments made to welfare agencies.
518.156	Commencement of custody proceeding.	518.552	Maintenance.
518.165	Guardians for minor children.	518.57	Minor children, support.
518.166	Interviews.	518.58	Disposition of marital property.
518.167	Investigations and reports.	518.61	Trustee.
518.168	Hearings.	518.611	Assignments.
518.17	Custody and support of children on judgment.	518.612	Independence of provisions of decree or temporary order.
518.175	Visitation of children and noncustodial parent.	518.62	Temporary maintenance.
518.176	Judicial supervision.	518.63	Homestead, occupancy.
518.18	Modification of order.	518.64	Modification of orders or decrees.
518.185	Affidavit practice.	518.65	Property; sale, partition.
518.24	Security; sequestration; contempt.	518.66	Power of court not limited.

**518.001** [ Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17 ]

#### **518.002 USE TERM DISSOLUTION.**

Wherever the word "divorce" is used in the statutes, it has the same meaning as "dissolution" or "dissolution of marriage".

**History:** 1974 c 107 s 28

#### **518.003 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the meanings provided in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

Subd. 2. "Residence" means the place where a party has established a permanent home from which the party has no present intention of moving.

**History:** 1979 c 259 s 2

#### **518.005 RULES GOVERNING PROCEEDINGS.**

Subdivision 1. Unless otherwise specifically provided, the rules of civil procedure for the district court apply to all proceedings under this chapter.

Subd. 2. A proceeding for dissolution of marriage, legal separation, or annulment shall be entitled "In re the Marriage of ..... and .....". A custody or support proceeding shall be entitled "In re the (Custody) (Support) of .....".

Subd. 3. The initial pleading in all proceedings under sections 518.002 to 518.66 shall be denominated a petition. A responsive pleading shall be denomi-

nated an answer. Other pleadings shall be denominated as provided in the rules of civil procedure.

Subd. 4. In sections 518.002 to 518.66, "decree" includes "judgment".

**History:** 1978 c 772 s 16; 1979 c 50 s 66,67; 1979 c 259 s 3

### 518.01 VOID MARRIAGES.

All marriages which are prohibited by section 517.03 shall be absolutely void, without any decree of dissolution or other legal proceedings; except if a person whose husband or wife has been absent for four successive years, without being known to the person to be living during that time, marries during the lifetime of the absent husband or wife, the marriage shall be void only from the time that its nullity is duly adjudged. If the absentee is declared dead in accordance with section 576.142, the subsequent marriage shall not be void.

**History:** RL s 3569; 1937 c 407 s 2; 1963 c 795 s 4; 1974 c 107 s 2; 1974 c 447 s 3; 1978 c 772 s 17 (8580)

### 518.02 VOIDABLE MARRIAGES.

A marriage shall be declared a nullity under the following circumstances:

(a) A party lacked capacity to consent to the marriage at the time the marriage was solemnized, either because of mental incapacity or infirmity and the other party at the time the marriage was solemnized did not know of the incapacity; or because of the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other incapacitating substances; or because consent of either was obtained by force or fraud and there was no subsequent voluntary cohabitation of the parties;

(b) A party lacks the physical capacity to consummate the marriage by sexual intercourse and the other party at the time the marriage was solemnized did not know of the incapacity;

(c) A party was under the age for marriage established by section 517.02.

**History:** RL s 3570; 1978 c 772 s 18 (8581)

### 518.03 ACTION TO ANNUL; DECREE.

An annulment shall be commenced and the complaint shall be filed and proceedings had as in proceedings for dissolution. Upon due proof of the nullity of the marriage, it shall be adjudged null and void.

The provisions of sections 518.54 to 518.66 relating to property rights of the spouses, maintenance, support and custody of children on dissolution of marriage are applicable to proceedings for annulment.

**History:** RL s 3571; 1974 c 107 s 3; 1978 c 772 s 19 (8582)

### 518.04 INSUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR ANNULMENT.

No marriage shall be adjudged a nullity on the ground that one of the parties was under the age of legal consent if it appears that the parties had voluntarily cohabited together as husband and wife after having attained such age; nor shall the marriage of any insane person be adjudged void after his restoration to reason, if it appears that the parties freely cohabited together as husband and wife after such restoration.

**History:** RL s 3572 (8583)

### 518.05 ANNULMENT; WHEN TO BRING.

An annulment may be sought by any of the following persons and must be commenced within the times specified, but in no event may an annulment be sought after the death of either party to the marriage:

(a) For a reason set forth in section 518.02, clause (a), by either party or by the legal representative of the party who lacked capacity to consent, no later than 90 days after the petitioner obtained knowledge of the described condition;

(b) For the reason set forth in section 518.02, clause (b), by either party no later than one year after the petitioner obtained knowledge of the described condition;

(c) For the reason set forth in section 518.02, clause (c), by the underaged party, his parent or guardian, before the time the underaged party reaches the age at which he could have married without satisfying the omitted requirement.

**History:** *RL s 3573; 1978 c 772 s 20 (8584)*

#### **518.055 PUTATIVE SPOUSE.**

Any person who has cohabited with another to whom he is not legally married in the good faith belief that he was married to that person is a putative spouse until knowledge of the fact that he is not legally married terminates his status and prevents acquisition of further rights. A putative spouse acquires the rights conferred upon a legal spouse, including the right to maintenance following termination of his status, whether or not the marriage is prohibited or declared a nullity. If there is a legal spouse or other putative spouses, rights acquired by a putative spouse do not supersede the rights of the legal spouse or those acquired by other putative spouses, but the court shall apportion property, maintenance, and support rights among the claimants as appropriate in the circumstances and in the interests of justice.

**History:** *1978 c 772 s 21*

### **PROCEEDINGS**

#### **518.06 DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE; LEGAL SEPARATION; GROUNDS; UNCONTESTED LEGAL SEPARATION.**

Subdivision 1. A dissolution of marriage is the termination of the marital relationship between a husband and wife. A decree of dissolution completely terminates the marital status of both parties. A legal separation is a court determination of the rights and responsibilities of a husband and wife arising out of the marital relationship. A decree of legal separation does not terminate the marital status of the parties. A dissolution of a marriage shall be granted by a county or district court when the court finds that there has been an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage relationship.

A decree of legal separation shall be granted when the court finds that one or both parties need a legal separation.

Defenses to divorce, dissolution and legal separation, including but not limited to condonation, connivance, collusion, recrimination, insanity, and lapse of time, are abolished.

Subd. 2. [ Repealed, 1978 c 772 s 63 ]

Subd. 3. If one or both parties petition for a decree of legal separation and neither party contests the granting of the decree nor petitions for a decree of dissolution, the court shall grant a decree of legal separation.

**History:** *RL s 3574; 1909 c 443 s 1; 1927 c 304 s 1; 1933 c 262 s 1; 1933 c 324; Ex1934 c 78 s 1; 1935 c 295 s 1; 1941 c 406 s 1; 1951 c 637 s 1; 1969 c 764 s 1; 1971 c 177 s 1; 1974 c 107 s 4; 1978 c 772 s 22,23; 1979 c 259 s 4,5 (8585)*

#### **518.07 RESIDENCE OF PARTIES.**

No dissolution shall be granted unless (1) one of the parties has resided in this state, or has been a member of the armed services stationed in this state, for not less than 180 days immediately preceding the commencement of the pro-

ceeding; or (2) one of the parties has been a domiciliary of this state for not less than 180 days immediately preceding commencement of the proceeding.

**History:** *RL s 3575; 1974 c 107 s 5; 1978 c 772 s 24; 1979 c 259 s 6 (8586)*

**518.08** [ Repealed, 1974 c 107 s 29 ]

**518.09 PROCEEDING; HOW AND WHERE BROUGHT; VENUE.**

A proceeding for dissolution or legal separation may be brought by either or both spouses and shall be commenced by personal service of the summons and petition venued in the county where the petitioner resides or, if the petitioner is not a resident of the state, then venued in the county where the respondent resides. If neither party resides in the state and jurisdiction is based on the domicile of one or both of the parties, the proceeding may be brought in the county where either party is domiciled. This venue shall be subject to the power of the court to change the place of hearing by consent of the parties, or when it appears to the court that an impartial hearing cannot be had in the county where the proceedings are pending, or when the convenience of the parties or the ends of justice would be promoted by the change. No summons shall be required if a joint petition is filed.

**History:** *RL s 3577; 1931 c 226 s 1; 1974 c 107 s 6; 1978 c 772 s 25; 1979 c 259 s 7 (8588)*

**518.10 REQUISITES OF PETITION.**

The petition for dissolution of marriage or legal separation shall state and allege:

- (a) The name and address of the petitioner;
- (b) The name and, if known, the address of the respondent;
- (c) The place and date of the marriage of the parties;
- (d) In the case of a petition for dissolution, that either the petitioner or the respondent or both:
  - (1) Has resided in this state for not less than 180 days immediately preceding the commencement of the proceeding, or
  - (2) Has been a member of the armed services and has been stationed in this state for not less than 180 days immediately preceding the commencement of the proceeding, or
  - (3) Has been a domiciliary of this state for not less than 180 days immediately preceding the commencement of the proceeding;
- (e) The name, age and date of birth of each minor or dependent child of the parties;
- (f) Whether or not a separate proceeding for dissolution, legal separation, or custody is pending in a court in this state or elsewhere;
- (g) In the case of a petition for dissolution, that there has been an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage relationship;
- (h) In the case of a petition for legal separation, that there is a need for a decree of legal separation; and
- (i) Any temporary or permanent maintenance, child support, child custody, disposition of property, attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements applied for without setting forth the amounts.

The petition shall be verified by the petitioner or petitioners, and its allegations established by competent evidence.

**History:** *RL s 3578; 1955 c 688 s 1; 1974 c 107 s 7; 1978 c 772 s 26; 1979 c 259 s 8 (8589)*

**518.11 SERVICE; PUBLICATION.**

Unless a proceeding is brought by both parties, copies of the summons and petition shall be served on the respondent personally. When service is made out of this state and within the United States, it may be proved by the affidavit of the person making the same. When service is made without the United States it may be proved by the affidavit of the person making the same, taken before and certified by any United States minister, charge d'affaires, commissioner, consul or commercial agent, or other consular or diplomatic officer of the United States appointed to reside in such country, including all deputies or other representatives of such officer authorized to perform their duties; or before an officer authorized to administer an oath with the certificate of an officer of a court of record of the country wherein such affidavit is taken as to the identity and authority of the officer taking the same. But, if personal service cannot be made, the court may order service of the summons by publication, which publication shall be made as in other actions.

**History:** *RL s 3579; 1909 c 434; 1913 c 57 s 1; 1974 c 107 s 8; 1978 c 772 s 27 (8590)*

**518.12 TIME FOR ANSWERING.**

The respondent shall have 30 days in which to answer the petition. In case of service by publication, the 30 days shall not begin to run until the expiration of the period allowed for publication. In the case of a counter-petition for dissolution or legal separation to a petition for dissolution or legal separation, no answer shall be required to the counter-petition and the original petitioner shall be deemed to have denied each and every statement, allegation and claim in the counter-petition.

**History:** *RL s 3580; 1945 c 7 s 1; 1974 c 107 s 9; 1979 c 259 s 9 (8591)*

**518.13 FAILURE TO ANSWER; FINDINGS; HEARING.**

Subdivision 1. If the respondent does not appear after service duly made and proved, the court may hear and determine the proceeding as a default matter.

Subd. 2. If one of the parties has denied under oath or affirmation that the marriage is irretrievably broken, the court shall consider all relevant factors, including the circumstances that gave rise to the commencement of the proceeding and the prospect of reconciliation, and shall make a finding whether the marriage is irretrievably broken.

A finding of irretrievable breakdown under this subdivision is a determination that there is no reasonable prospect of reconciliation. The finding must be supported by evidence that (i) the parties have lived separate and apart for a period of not less than 180 days immediately preceding the commencement of the proceeding, or (ii) there is serious marital discord adversely affecting the attitude of one or both of the parties toward the marriage.

Subd. 3. If both parties by petition or otherwise have stated under oath or affirmation that the marriage is irretrievably broken, or one of the parties has so stated and the other has not denied it, the court, after hearing, shall make a finding that the marriage is irretrievably broken.

Subd. 4. The court or judge, upon application, may refer the proceeding to a referee to take and report the evidence therein. Hearings for dissolution of marriage shall be heard in open court or before a referee appointed by the court to receive the testimony of the witnesses, or depositions taken as in other equitable actions. However, the court may in its discretion close the hearing.

**History:** *RL s 3581; 1974 c 107 s 10; 1978 c 772 s 28; 1979 c 259 s 10 (8592)*

**518.131 TEMPORARY ORDERS AND RESTRAINING ORDERS.**

Subdivision 1. In a proceeding brought for custody, dissolution, or legal separation, or for disposition of property, maintenance, or child support following the dissolution of a marriage, either party may, by motion, request from the court and the court may grant a temporary order pending the final disposition of the proceeding to or for:

(a) Temporary custody and visitation rights of the minor children of the parties;

(b) Temporary maintenance of either spouse;

(c) Temporary child support for the children of the parties;

(d) Award the temporary use and possession, exclusive or otherwise, of the family home, furniture, household goods, automobiles and other property of the parties;

(e) Restrain one or both parties from transferring, encumbering, concealing or disposing of property except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life, and to account to the court for all such transfers, encumbrances, dispositions and expenditures made after the order is served or communicated to the party restrained in open court;

(f) Restrain one or both parties from harassing, vilifying, mistreating, molesting, disturbing the peace, or restraining the liberty of the other party or the children of the parties;

(g) Restrain one or both parties from removing any minor child of the parties from the jurisdiction of the court;

(h) Exclude a party from the family home of the parties or from the home of the other party; and

(i) Require one or both of the parties to perform or to not perform such additional acts as will facilitate the just and speedy disposition of the proceeding, or will protect the parties or their children from physical or emotional harm.

Subd. 2. No temporary order shall:

(a) Deny visitation rights to a noncustodial parent unless the court finds that visitation by the noncustodial parent is likely to cause physical or emotional harm to the child; or

(b) Exclude a party from the family home of the parties unless the court finds that physical or emotional harm to one of the parties or to the children of the parties is likely to result, or that the exclusion is reasonable in the circumstances.

Subd. 3. A party may request and the court may make an ex parte restraining order which may include any matter that may be included in a temporary order except:

(a) A restraining order may not exclude either party from the family home of the parties except upon a finding by the court of immediate danger of physical harm to the other party or the children of either party; and

(b) A restraining order may not deny visitation to either party or grant custody of the minor children to either party except upon a finding by the court of immediate danger of physical harm to the minor children of the parties.

Subd. 4. Restraining orders shall be personally served upon the party to be restrained and shall be accompanied with a notice of the time and place of hearing for disposition of the matters contained in the restraining order at a hearing for a temporary order. When a restraining order has been issued, a hearing on the temporary order shall be held at the earliest practicable date. The restrained party may upon written notice to the other party advance the hearing date to a

time earlier than that noticed by the other party. The restraining order shall continue in full force and effect only until the hearing time noticed, unless the court, for good cause and upon notice extends the time for hearing.

Subd. 5. A temporary order shall continue in full force and effect until the earlier of its amendment or vacation, dismissal of the main action or entry of a final decree of dissolution or legal separation.

Subd. 6. If a proceeding for dissolution or legal separation is dismissed, a temporary custody order is vacated unless one of the parties or the child's custodian moves that the proceeding continue as a custody proceeding and the court finds, after a hearing, that the circumstances of the parties and the best interests of the child require that a custody order be issued.

Subd. 7. The court shall be guided by the factors set forth in sections 518.17 (concerning child support), 518.552 (concerning maintenance) and 518.17 to 518.175 (concerning custody and visitation) in making temporary orders and restraining orders.

Subd. 8. Temporary orders shall be made solely on the basis of affidavits and argument of counsel except upon demand by either party in his motion or responsive motion made within the time limit for making and filing a responsive motion that the matter be heard on oral testimony before the court, or if the court in its discretion orders the taking of oral testimony.

Subd. 9. A temporary order or restraining order:

(a) Shall not prejudice the rights of the parties or the child which are to be adjudicated at subsequent hearings in the proceeding; and

(b) May be revoked or modified by the court before the final disposition of the proceeding upon the same grounds and subject to the same requirements as the initial granting of the order.

Subd. 10. In addition to being punishable by contempt, a violation of a provision of a temporary order or restraining order granting the relief authorized in subdivision 1, clauses (f), (g), or (h) is a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1979 c 259 s 11

**518.135** [ Repealed, 1979 c 259 s 35 ]

#### **518.14 COSTS AND DISBURSEMENTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES.**

In a proceeding brought either for dissolution or legal separation under this chapter, the court, from time to time, after considering the financial resources of both parties, may require one party to pay a reasonable amount necessary to enable the other spouse to carry on or to contest the proceeding, and to pay attorney's fees, including sums for legal services rendered and costs incurred prior to the commencement or after entry of judgment. The court may adjudge costs and disbursements against either party. The court may authorize the collection of money awarded by execution, or out of property sequestered, or in any other manner within the power of the court. An award of attorney's fees made by the court during the pendency of the proceeding or in the final judgment survives the proceeding and if not paid by the party directed to pay the same may be enforced as above provided or by a separate civil action brought by the attorney in his own name. If the proceeding is dismissed or abandoned prior to determination and award of attorney's fees, the court may nevertheless award attorney's fees upon the attorney's motion. The award shall also survive the proceeding and may be enforced in the same manner as last above provided.

**History:** RL s 3582; 1955 c 687, s 1; 1974 c 107 s 11; 1978 c 772 s 30 (8593)

**518.145 DECREE.**

A decree of dissolution of marriage or of legal separation is final when entered, subject to the right of appeal. An appeal from the decree of dissolution that does not challenge the finding that the marriage is irretrievably broken does not delay the finality of that provision of the decree which dissolves the marriage beyond the time for appealing from that provision. A party may remarry before the time for appeal has run if it is not contested that the marriage is irretrievably broken or if a stipulation that the marriage is irretrievably broken is incorporated in the decree of dissolution.

**History:** 1978 c 772 s 31; 1979 c 259 s 12

**518.15** [ Repealed, 1978 c 772 s 63 ]

**518.155 CUSTODY DETERMINATIONS.**

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a court in which a proceeding for dissolution, legal separation, or child custody has been commenced shall not issue, revise, modify or amend any order, pursuant to sections 518.16, 518.165, 518.168, 518.17, 518.175 or 518.18, which affects the custody of a minor child or the visitation rights of a noncustodial parent unless the court has jurisdiction over the matter pursuant to the provisions of sections 518A.01 to 518A.25.

**History:** 1977 c 8 s 26; 1978 c 772 s 32; 1979 c 259 s 13

**518.156 COMMENCEMENT OF CUSTODY PROCEEDING.**

Subdivision 1. In a court of this state which has jurisdiction to decide child custody matters, a child custody proceeding is commenced:

(a) By a parent

(1) By filing a petition for dissolution or legal separation; or

(2) Where a decree of dissolution or legal separation has been entered or where none is sought, by filing a petition or motion seeking custody of the child in the county where the child is permanently resident or where he is found or where an earlier order for custody of the child has been entered; or

(b) By a person other than a parent, by filing a petition or motion seeking custody of the child in the county where the child is permanently resident or where he is found or where an earlier order for custody of the child has been entered.

Subd. 2. Written notice of a child custody proceeding shall be given to the child's parent, guardian and custodian, who may appear and be heard and may file a responsive pleading. The court may, upon a showing of good cause, permit the intervention of other interested parties.

**History:** 1978 c 772 s 33; 1979 c 259 s 14; 1980 c 598 s 4

**518.16** [ Repealed, 1979 c 259 s 35 ]

**518.165 GUARDIANS FOR MINOR CHILDREN.**

In all proceedings for child custody or for dissolution or legal separation where custody or visitation of a minor child is in issue, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem from a panel established by the court to represent the interests of the child. The guardian ad litem shall advise the court with respect to custody, support and visitation. The court may enter an order for costs, fees and disbursements in favor of the child's guardian ad litem. The order may be made against either or both parties, except that any part of the costs, fees, and disbursements which the court finds the parties are incapable of paying shall be borne by the county.



**History:** 1974 c 33 s 1; 1978 c 772 s 35; 1979 c 259 s 15

### 518.166 INTERVIEWS.

The court may interview the child in chambers to ascertain the child's reasonable preference as to his custodian, if the court deems the child to be of sufficient age to express preference. The court shall permit counsel to be present at the interview and shall permit counsel to propound reasonable questions to the child either directly or through the court. The court shall cause a record of the interview to be made and to be made part of the record in the case unless waived by the parties.

In contested custody proceedings, and in other custody proceedings if a parent or the child's custodian requests, the court may seek the recommendations of professional personnel whether or not they are employed on a regular basis by the court. The recommendations given shall be in writing and shall be made available by the court to counsel upon request. Counsel may call for cross-examination of professional personnel consulted by the court.

**History:** 1978 c 772 s 36; 1979 c 259 s 16

### 518.167 INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTS.

Subdivision 1. In contested custody proceedings, and in other custody proceedings if a parent or the child's custodian so requests, the court may order an investigation and report concerning custodial arrangements for the child. The investigation and report may be made by the county welfare agency or department of court services.

Subd. 2. In preparing his report concerning a child, the investigator may consult any person who may have information about the child and his potential custodial arrangements. Upon order of the court, the investigator may refer the child to professional personnel for diagnosis. The investigator may consult with and obtain information from medical, psychiatric, or other expert persons who have served the child in the past after obtaining the consent of the parents or the child's custodian or guardian. If the requirements of subdivision 3 are fulfilled, the investigator's report may be received in evidence at the hearing.

Subd. 3. The court shall mail the investigator's report to counsel and to any party not represented by counsel at least ten days before the hearing. The investigator shall make available to counsel and to a party not represented by counsel the investigator's file of underlying data and reports, complete texts of diagnostic reports made to the investigator pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 2, and the names and addresses of all persons whom the investigator has consulted. A party to the proceeding may call the investigator and any person whom he has consulted for cross-examination at the hearing. A party may not waive his right of cross-examination before the hearing.

**History:** 1978 c 772 s 37

### 518.168 HEARINGS.

- (a) Custody proceedings shall receive priority in being set for hearing.
- (b) The court may tax as costs the payment of necessary travel and other expenses incurred by a person whose presence at the hearing the court deems necessary to determine the best interests of the child.
- (c) The court without a jury shall determine questions of law and fact. If it finds that a public hearing may be detrimental to the child's best interests, the court may exclude the public from a custody hearing, but may admit any person who has a direct interest in the particular case.
- (d) If the court finds it necessary for the protection of the child's welfare that the record of an interview, report, investigation, or testimony in a custody

proceeding be kept secret, the court may make an appropriate order sealing the record.

**History:** 1978 c 772 s 38

### 518.17 CUSTODY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN ON JUDGMENT.

Subdivision 1. "The best interests of the child" means all relevant factors to be considered and evaluated by the court including:

- (a) The wishes of the child's parent or parents as to his custody;
- (b) The reasonable preference of the child, if the court deems the child to be of sufficient age to express preference;
- (c) The interaction and interrelationship of the child with his parent or parents, his siblings, and any other person who may significantly affect the child's best interests;
- (d) The child's adjustment to his home, school, and community;
- (e) The length of time the child has lived in a stable, satisfactory environment and the desirability of maintaining continuity;
- (f) The permanence, as a family unit, of the existing or proposed custodial home;
- (g) The mental and physical health of all individuals involved;
- (h) The capacity and disposition of the parties to give the child love, affection, and guidance, and to continue educating and raising the child in his culture and religion or creed, if any; and
- (i) The child's cultural background.

The court shall not consider conduct of a proposed custodian that does not affect his relationship to the child.

Subd. 2. Upon adjudging the nullity of a marriage, or a dissolution or separation, the court may make such further order as it deems just and proper concerning the care, custody, and maintenance of the minor children of the parties and may determine with which of the parents they, or any of them, shall remain. In determining the parent with whom a child shall remain, the court shall consider the best interests of the child and shall not prefer one parent over the other solely on the basis of the sex of the parent.

Subd. 3. The court may order either or both parents owing a duty of support to a child of the marriage to pay an amount reasonable or necessary for his support, without regard to marital misconduct, after considering all relevant factors including:

- (a) The financial resources and needs of the child;
- (b) The financial resources and needs of the custodial parent;
- (c) The standard of living the child would have enjoyed had the marriage not been dissolved;
- (d) The physical and emotional condition of the child, and his educational needs; and
- (e) The financial resources and needs of the noncustodial parent.

**History:** *RL s 3585; 1969 c 1030 s 1; 1971 c 173 s 1; 1974 c 107 s 14; 1974 c 330 s 2; 1978 c 772 s 39; 1979 c 259 s 17 (8596)*

### 518.175 VISITATION OF CHILDREN AND NONCUSTODIAL PARENT.

Subdivision 1. In all proceedings for dissolution or legal separation, subsequent to the commencement of the proceeding and continuing thereafter during the minority of the child, the court shall, upon the request of the noncustodial parent, grant such rights of visitation as will enable the child and the noncustodial parent to maintain a child to parent relationship that will be in the best

interests of the child. If the court finds, after a hearing, that visitation is likely to endanger the child's physical or emotional health or impair his emotional development, the court may restrict visitation by the noncustodial parent as to time, place, duration, or supervision and may deny visitation entirely, as the circumstances warrant. The court shall consider the age of the child and the child's relationship with the noncustodial parent prior to the commencement of the proceeding. A parent's failure to pay support because of the parent's inability to do so shall not be sufficient cause for denial of visitation.

Subd. 2. Upon the request of either parent, the court may inform any child of the parties, if eight years of age or older, or otherwise of an age of suitable comprehension, of the rights of the child and the noncustodial parent under the order or decree or any substantial amendment thereof. The custodial parent shall present the child for visitation by the noncustodial parent, at such times as the court directs.

Subd. 3. The custodial parent shall not move the residence of the child to another state except upon order of the court or with the consent of the noncustodial parent, when the noncustodial parent has been given visitation rights by the decree.

Subd. 4. Proof of an unwarranted denial of or interference with duly established visitation may constitute contempt of court and may be sufficient cause for reversal of custody.

Subd. 5. The court may modify an order granting or denying visitation rights whenever modification would serve the best interests of the child, but the court shall not restrict a parent's visitation rights unless it finds that the visitation is likely to endanger the child's physical or emotional health or impair his emotional development. If the custodial parent makes specific allegations that visitation places the custodial parent in danger of harm, the court shall hold a hearing at the earliest possible time to determine the need to modify the order granting visitation rights. The court may require a third party, including the county welfare board, to supervise the visitation or may restrict a parent's visitation rights if necessary to protect the custodial parent from harm.

**History:** 1971 c 172 s 1; 1974 c 107 s 15; 1978 c 772 s 40-42; 1979 c 259 s 18,19

### 518.176 JUDICIAL SUPERVISION.

Subdivision 1. Except as otherwise agreed by the parties in writing at the time of the custody order, the custodian may determine the child's upbringing, including his education, health care, and religious training, unless the court after hearing, finds, upon motion by the noncustodial parent, that in the absence of a specific limitation of the custodian's authority, the child's physical or emotional health is likely to be endangered or his emotional development impaired.

Subd. 2. If both parents or all contestants agree to the order, or if the court finds that in the absence of the order the child's physical or emotional health is likely to be endangered or his emotional development impaired, the court may order the county welfare board or the department of court services to exercise continuing supervision over the case under guidelines established by the court to assure that the custodial or visitation terms of the decree are carried out.

**History:** 1978 c 772 s 43; 1979 c 259 s 20

### 518.18 MODIFICATION OF ORDER.

(a) Unless agreed to in writing by the parties, no motion to modify a custody order may be made earlier than one year after the date of the entry of a decree of dissolution or legal separation containing a provision dealing with custody, except in accordance with clause (c).

(b) If a motion for modification has been heard, whether or not it was granted, unless agreed to in writing by the parties no subsequent motion may be filed within two years after disposition of the prior motion on its merits, except in accordance with clause (c).

(c) The time limitations prescribed in clauses (a) and (b) shall not prohibit a motion to modify a custody order if the court finds that there is persistent and wilful denial or interference with visitation, or has reason to believe that the child's present environment may endanger his physical or emotional health or impair his emotional development.

(d) If the court has jurisdiction to determine child custody matters, the court shall not modify a prior custody order unless it finds, upon the basis of facts that have arisen since the prior order or that were unknown to the court at the time of the prior order, that a change has occurred in the circumstances of the child or his custodian and that the modification is necessary to serve the best interests of the child. In applying these standards the court shall retain the custodian established by the prior order unless:

(i) The custodian agrees to the modification;

(ii) The child has been integrated into the family of the petitioner with the consent of the custodian; or

(iii) The child's present environment endangers his physical or emotional health or impairs his emotional development and the harm likely to be caused by a change of environment is outweighed by the advantage of a change to the child.

**History:** *RL s 3586; 1978 c 772 s 44; 1979 c 259 s 21 (8597)*

#### 518.185 AFFIDAVIT PRACTICE.

A party seeking a temporary custody order or modification of a custody order shall submit together with his moving papers an affidavit setting forth facts supporting the requested order or modification and shall give notice, together with a copy of his affidavit, to other parties to the proceeding, who may file opposing affidavits.

**History:** *1978 c 772 s 45*

#### 518.19-518.23 [ Repealed, 1951 c 551 s 15 ]

#### 518.24 SECURITY; SEQUESTRATION; CONTEMPT.

In all cases when maintenance or support payments are ordered, the court may require sufficient security to be given for the payment of them according to the terms of the order upon neglect or refusal to give security, or upon failure to pay the maintenance or support, the court may sequester the obligor's personal estate and the rents and profits of real estate of the obligor, and appoint a receiver of them. The court may cause the personal estate and the rents and profits of the real estate to be applied according to the terms of the order. If the obligor has an income from a source sufficient to enable him to pay the maintenance or support and he fails to pay the same, the court shall order him to pay it. If a person or party disobeys the order, he may be punished by the court as for contempt.

**History:** *RL s 3593; 1969 c 1028 s 1; 1978 c 772 s 46 (8604)*

#### 518.25 REMARRIAGE; REVOCATION.

When a dissolution has been granted, and the parties afterward intermarry, the court, upon their joint application, and upon satisfactory proof of such marriage, may revoke all decrees and orders of dissolution, maintenance, and subsistence which will not affect the rights of third persons.

**History:** *RL s 3594; 1974 c 107 s 16; 1978 c 772 s 62 (8605)*

**518.26** [ Repealed, 1974 c 107 s 29 ]

**518.27 NAME OF PARTY.**

In the final decree of dissolution or legal separation the court shall, if requested by a party, change the name of that party to another name as the party requests. The court shall grant a request unless it finds that there is an intent to defraud or mislead. The party's new name shall be so designated in the final decree.

**History:** *RL s 3596; 1974 c 107 s 17; 1975 c 52 s 5; 1978 c 772 s 47; 1979 c 259 s 22 (8607)*

**518.28** [ Repealed, 1974 c 107 s 29 ]

**518.29** [ Repealed, 1978 c 772 s 63 ]

**SUPPORT; DUTIES,  
RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT**

**518.41 PURPOSE.**

The purposes of sections 518.41 to 518.52 are to improve and extend by reciprocal legislation the enforcement of duties of support.

**History:** *1951 c 122 s 1; 1977 c 282 s 13*

**518.42 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of sections 518.41 to 518.52, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms defined in this section have the meanings ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. **State.** "State" includes a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico and any foreign jurisdiction in which this or a substantially similar reciprocal law has been enacted.

Subd. 3. **Initiating state.** "Initiating state" means a state in which a proceeding pursuant to this or a substantially similar reciprocal law is commenced.

Subd. 4. **Responding state.** "Responding state" means a state in which a proceeding pursuant to a proceeding in an initiating state is or may be commenced.

Subd. 5. **Court.** "Court" means the district or a county court of this state and, when the context requires, the court of another state as defined in a substantially similar reciprocal law.

Subd. 6. **Law.** "Law" includes both common and statute law.

Subd. 7. **Duty of support.** "Duty of support" includes a duty of support imposed or imposable by law or any court order, decree, or judgment, whether interlocutory, final, or incidental to a proceeding for divorce, legal or judicial separation, separate maintenance, or otherwise, and includes the duty to pay past due and unpaid support payments.

Subd. 8. **Obligor.** "Obligor" means a person who owes a duty of support or against whom a proceeding for the enforcement of a duty of support or registration of a support order is commenced.

Subd. 9. **Obligee.** "Obligee" means a person or a state or political subdivision to whom a duty of support is owed, or a person or a state or political subdivision that has commenced a proceeding for enforcement of an alleged duty of support or for registration of a support order. The person to whom the duty of support is owed need not be a recipient of public assistance.

Subd. 10. **Governor.** "Governor" includes any person performing the functions of governor or the executive authority of any state.

Subd. 11. **Support order.** "Support order" means any judgment, decree or order of support in favor of an obligee whether temporary or final or subject to modification, revocation or remission in any action or proceeding.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 2; 1973 c 403 s 1; 1977 c 282 s 14-19

#### 518.43 REMEDIES ADDITIONAL.

The remedies provided in sections 518.41 to 518.52 are in addition to and not in substitution for any other remedies.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 3

#### 518.44 LAW OF STATE.

When the court of a responding state determines to enforce the duties of support owed under the law of this state, the law of this state is declared to be:

(1) Unless relieved by conduct of the obligee, an obligor present in this state is bound by the duties of support imposed by the laws of this state regardless of the presence or residence of the obligee.

(2) When an obligee is a resident of this state, the obligor who is not present in this state is bound by the duties of support imposed by the laws of this state.

(3) This state or a political subdivision of this state is entitled to reimbursement from the obligor for support it has furnished under the laws of this state to an obligee.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 4

#### 518.45 PROCEEDINGS FOR SUPPORT.

Subdivision 1. **Initiation.** When the obligor is not present in this state, or when both the obligor and an obligee are present in this state but in different counties, an obligee may initiate a proceeding for support under this section.

Subd. 2. **Petition, filing contents.** A proceeding for support under this section is initiated by filing a verified petition in the court of this state stating:

(1) The name and, so far as is known to the petitioner, the address and circumstances of the

(a) obligor, and

(b) obligee for whom support is sought; and

(2) Facts showing that the obligor owes a duty of support to the obligee.

Subd. 3. **Court determination.** Subject to subdivision 4, when an obligee initiates a proceeding under subdivision 1, the court shall comply with subdivision 5 if it determines by its order that the

(1) petition states facts sufficient to support a determination that the obligor owes a duty of support to the obligee, and

(2) court of the responding state may obtain jurisdiction of the obligor or his property.

Subd. 4. **Dismissal of petition.** The court may dismiss the petition if the obligee was not a resident of this state at the time the petition was filed.

Subd. 5. **Notice to responding state.** If the court makes the order set out in subdivision 3, it shall send to the court of the responding state a certified copy of the petition and of the order and either an authenticated copy of sections 518.41 to 518.52, or a copy of sections 518.41 to 518.52 certified by the clerk of the court.

Subd. 6. **Jurisdiction; duties of court.** If the court of the county in which this petition is filed finds that the petition sets forth facts from which it may be determined that the obligor owes a duty of support to the obligee and finds that he resides in another county in this state or has property therein, the court shall send to the court of the other county a certified copy of the petition and of the order. The court in the county to which the copies are forwarded shall then have duties corresponding to those imposed upon it when acting for the state as a responding state.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 5; 1959 c 235 s 1; 1967 c 461 s 1,2; 1977 c 282 s 20-22

#### 518.46 OBLIGOR NOT PRESENT.

Subdivision 1. **Initiation by state or political subdivision.** When the obligor is not present in this state or is present in a different county in this state, this state or a political subdivision of this state may initiate a proceeding to obtain reimbursement as defined in section 518.44, clause (3). The obligee need not be resident or present in this state at the time the proceeding for reimbursement is initiated.

Subd. 2. **Petition, filing.** A proceeding for reimbursement for support furnished an obligee is initiated by filing a verified petition in the court of this state stating the facts required by section 518.45, subdivision 2, and that the petitioner is entitled to reimbursement as defined in section 518.44, clause (3).

Subd. 3. **Determination by court.** When a petition has been filed under subdivision 2, the court shall comply with subdivision 4 if it determines by its order that the

(1) petition states facts sufficient to support a determination that the obligor owed a duty of support to the obligee during the period support was furnished by petitioner.

(2) petitioner is entitled to reimbursement as defined in section 518.44, clause (3), and

(3) court of the responding state may obtain jurisdiction of the obligor or his property.

Subd. 4. **Notice to responding state.** If the court makes the order set out in subdivision 3, it shall send to the court of the responding state a certified copy of the petition and of the order and either an authenticated copy of sections 518.41 to 518.52 or a copy of sections 518.41 to 518.52 certified by the clerk of the court.

Subd. 5. **Jurisdiction; duties of court.** If the court of the county in which this petition is filed finds that the petition sets forth facts from which it may be determined that the obligor owes a duty of support to the obligee during the period support was furnished by petitioner and finds that petitioner is entitled to reimbursement as defined in section 518.44, clause 3, and finds that the obligor resides in another county in this state or has property therein, and the court makes its order set out in subdivision 3, it shall send to the court of the county in which the obligor or his property is found a certified copy of the petition and order. The court in the county to which the copies are forwarded shall then have duties corresponding to those imposed upon it when acting for the state as a responding state.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 6; 1953 c 495 s 1; 1959 c 235 s 2; 1967 c 461 s 3,4; 1977 c 282 s 23-25

**518.47 DUTIES OF COURT OF INITIATING STATE.**

When acting as the court of an initiating state, the court of this state shall receive and disburse payments made by the respondent or sent by the court of the responding state. This duty may be carried out through the clerk of court or any other appropriate agency, agent, or individual.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 7

**518.48 JURISDICTION OF COURT.**

Subdivision 1. **In responding state.** The court shall exercise jurisdiction over proceedings commenced in this state as a responding state.

Subd. 2. **Powers of court.** When the court receives from the court of an initiating state a petition and any other papers required by an act substantially similar to sections 518.41 to 518.52, the court shall

- (1) docket the case,
- (2) notify the county attorney,
- (3) set a time and place for hearing, and
- (4) take such action as is necessary in accordance with the law of this state to obtain jurisdiction of the obligor.

Subd. 3. **Conduct of proceedings.** Except as expressly provided in this section, the court shall conduct a proceeding under this section in the manner prescribed by law for an action for the enforcement of the type of duty of support claimed.

Subd. 4. **Enforcement of duties of support.** The court shall, at its discretion, enforce the duties of support owed under the law of

- (1) the state where the obligee resided when the obligor failed to support the obligee, or
- (2) this state, as declared in section 518.44, clause (1), for the whole period of non-support.

Subd. 5. **Orders for enforcement of such duties.** When the court finds a duty of support it may

- (1) order the obligor to furnish support or reimbursement therefor,
- (2) subject the property of the obligor to the order,
- (3) require obligor to make payments at specified intervals to the clerk of the court of this state, the court of the initiating state, or the obligee,
- (4) require the obligor to report personally at specified intervals to an officer of the court appointed by the court for that purpose,
- (5) require the obligor to furnish recognizance in the form of a cash deposit or bond of an amount sufficient to assure payment of any amount required to be paid by the obligor,
- (6) punish the obligor for violation of a court order made under clause (1) to the same extent as is provided by law for contempt of the court in any other action or proceeding cognizable by the court,
- (7) subject the obligor to such other terms and conditions as are necessary to assure compliance with the order made under clause (1).

Subd. 6. **Copies of orders sent to court of initiating state.** The court shall send to the court of the initiating state a copy of all orders of support or orders for reimbursements for support.

Subd. 7. **Payments.** When the court receives payment from the obligor pursuant to court order or otherwise, the court shall send the payment to the court of the initiating state.



Subd. 8. **Statement as to payments.** When the court of the initiating state requests a statement of all payments made by the obligor, the court shall prepare and send to the court of the initiating state a certified statement containing that information.

Subd. 9. **Duties of court officials.** The court may direct that the duties imposed in subdivisions 7 and 8 shall be carried out by the clerk or other official of the court.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 8; 1977 c 282 s 26

#### 518.49 COUNTY ATTORNEY; DUTIES.

When requested to do so by a court judge, public welfare or other social service agency, the county attorney shall appear on behalf of and represent the petitioner in all proceedings under sections 518.41 to 518.52 and shall obtain and present such evidence as may be necessary. In those cases initiated in this or any state in which the county attorney in this state acting in his official capacity represents the petitioner, no filing fee shall be required by the clerk of court.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 9; 1953 c 495 s 2; 1959 c 235 s 3; 1977 c 282 s 27

#### 518.491 FILING OF FOREIGN SUPPORT ORDERS.

Subdivision 1. **Additional remedies.** If the duty of support is based on a foreign support order, the obligee has the additional remedies provided in this section.

Subd. 2. **Filing.** The obligee may file the foreign support order in a court of this state in the manner, with the effect, and for the purposes provided in this section.

Subd. 3. **Official to represent obligee.** If a court of this state has issued a support order or a support order has been filed in a court of this state for an obligee, the county attorney upon the request of the court, public welfare or other public social service agency shall represent the obligee in all proceedings under this section.

Subd. 4. **Filing procedure; notice.** (1) An obligee seeking to file a foreign support order in a court of this state shall transmit to the clerk of court:

- (a) Three certified copies of the order with all modifications thereof;
- (b) One copy of the reciprocal enforcement of support act of the state in which the order was made; and
- (c) A statement verified and signed by the obligee, showing the post office address of the obligee, the last known place of residence and post office address of the obligor, the amount of support remaining unpaid, a description and the location of any property of the obligor available upon execution, and a list of the states in which the order is registered. Upon receipt of these documents the clerk of the court, without payment of a filing fee or other cost to the obligee, shall file them.

(2) Promptly upon filing the clerk of the court shall send by certified mail to the obligor at the address given a notice of the filing with a copy of the filed support order and the post office address of the obligee. He shall also docket the case and notify the county attorney of his action. The county attorney shall proceed diligently to enforce the order.

Subd. 5. **Effect of filing; enforcement procedure.** (1) Upon filing the foreign support order shall be treated in the same manner as a support order issued by a court of this state. It has the same effect and is subject to the same procedures, defenses, and proceedings for reopening, vacating or staying as a support order of a court of this state and may be enforced and satisfied in like manner.

(2) The obligor has 20 days after the mailing of notice of the filing to petition the court to vacate the filing or for other relief. If he does not so petition the filed support order is confirmed.

(3) If at any hearing to enforce the filed support order the obligor shows to the court any ground upon which enforcement of a support order of a court of this state may be stayed, the court shall stay enforcement of the order for an appropriate period if the obligor furnishes the same security for payment of the support ordered that is required for a support order of a court of this state.

**History:** 1977 c 282 s 28; 1978 c 674 s 60

#### **518.50 LAWS ATTACHING PRIVILEGE NOT TO APPLY.**

Laws attaching a privilege against the disclosure of communications between husband and wife do not apply to proceedings under sections 518.41 to 518.52. Husband and wife are competent witnesses to testify to any relevant matter, including marriage and parentage.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 10

#### **518.51 GOVERNOR, DUTIES, EXTRADITION.**

Subdivision 1. **Demand by governor.** The governor of this state may

(1) demand from the governor of another state the surrender of a person found in the other state who is charged in this state with the crime of failing to provide for the support of a person in this state, and

(2) surrender on demand by the governor of another state a person found in this state who is charged in the other state with the crime of failing to provide for the support of a person in the other state.

Subd. 2. **Extradition provisions apply.** The provisions for extradition of criminals not inconsistent with this section apply to a demand under subdivision 1 although the person whose surrender is demanded

(1) was not in the demanding state at the time of the commission of the crime, or

(2) did not flee from the demanding state.

Subd. 3. **Contents of demand.** The demand, oath, or any proceedings for extradition pursuant to this section need not state or show that the person whose surrender is demanded

(1) was, at the time of the commission of the crime, in

(a) the demanding state, or

(b) the state on which the demand for extradition is made, or

(2) has fled from justice.

Subd. 4. **Surrender.** The governor of this state shall neither demand nor grant the surrender of an obligor subject to this section who submits to the jurisdiction of the court of a responding state

(1) so long as the obligor complies with an order of that court for support, or

(2) in the absence of an order for support, while a proceeding for support is pending in that court.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 11

#### **518.52 SECTION 480.051 NOT LIMITED.**

Sections 518.41 to 518.52 do not limit the power of the supreme court under section 480.051.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 12

**518.53 CITATION, RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ACT.**

Sections 518.41 to 518.53 may be cited as the Minnesota reciprocal enforcement of support act.

**History:** 1951 c 122 s 13

**MAINTENANCE, SUPPORT, PROPERTY****518.54 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of sections 518.54 to 518.66, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. **Child.** "Child" means an individual under 18 years of age or an individual who, by reason of his physical or mental condition, is unable to support himself.

Subd. 3. **Maintenance.** "Maintenance" means an award made in a dissolution or legal separation proceeding of payments from the future income or earnings of one spouse for the support and maintenance of the other.

Subd. 4. **Support money.** "Support money" means an award in a dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding for the care, support and education of any child of the marriage or of the parties to the annulment proceeding.

Subd. 5. **Marital property; exceptions.** "Marital property" means property, real or personal, including vested pension benefits or rights, acquired by the parties, or either of them, to a dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding at any time during the existence of the marriage relation between them, or at any time during which the parties were living together as husband and wife under a purported marriage relationship which is annulled in an annulment proceeding. All property acquired by either spouse subsequent to the marriage and before a decree of legal separation is presumed to be marital property regardless of whether title is held individually or by the spouses in a form of co-ownership such as joint tenancy, tenancy in common, tenancy by the entirety, or community property. The presumption of marital property is overcome by a showing that the property is of a type listed in clauses (a) to (e).

"Non-marital property" means property real or personal, acquired by either spouse before, during, or after the existence of their marriage, which

(a) is acquired as a gift, bequest, devise or inheritance made by a third party to one but not to the other spouse;

(b) is acquired before the marriage;

(c) is acquired in exchange for or is the increase in value of property which is described in clauses (a), (b), (d), and (e);

(d) is acquired by a spouse after a decree of legal separation; or

(e) is excluded by a valid antenuptial contract.

**History:** 1951 c 551 s 1; 1969 c 1028 s 2,3; 1973 c 725 s 74; 1974 c 107 s 18; 1978 c 772 s 48; 1979 c 259 s 23,34

**518.55 MAINTENANCE OR SUPPORT MONEY.**

Every award of maintenance or support money in a judgment of dissolution or legal separation shall clearly designate whether the same is maintenance or support money, or what part of the award is maintenance and what part is support money. An award of payments from future income or earnings of the custodial parent is presumed to be maintenance and an award of payments from the future income or earnings of the noncustodial parent is presumed to be support money, unless otherwise designated by the court. In a judgment of dissolution or legal separation the court may determine, as one of the issues of the case, whether or not either spouse is entitled to an award of maintenance not-

withstanding that no award is then made, or it may reserve jurisdiction of the issue of maintenance for determination at a later date.

**History:** 1951 c 551 s 2; 1969 c 1028 s 4; 1974 c 107 s 19; 1978 c 772 s 49; 1979 c 259 s 24

#### **518.551 MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT PAYMENTS MADE TO WELFARE AGENCIES.**

A court having jurisdiction over proceedings for dissolution or legal separation shall direct that all payments ordered for maintenance and support shall be made to the agency responsible for the welfare payments, when it appears that the party who is to receive the maintenance and support payments will receive public assistance. Amounts received by the agency greater than the amount granted to the party receiving public assistance shall be remitted to that party.

The petitioner shall notify the agency responsible for the welfare payments of all proceedings for dissolution, legal separation or for the custody of a child if either party is receiving aid to families of dependent children or applies for such aid subsequent to the commencement of the proceeding. After receipt of the notice, the agency shall recommend to the court the support that is proper and adequate for the care and support of the child or children before the issuance of the order for judgment and decree in the proceeding.

If the court finds in a dissolution or legal separation proceeding before issuing the order for judgment and decree that notification has not been given to the agency responsible for the welfare payments, the court shall order that notification be made and shall not issue its order for judgment and decree until the agency has made its recommendations. In those proceedings in which no notification has been made pursuant to this section and in which the agency determines that the judgment is not proper and adequate for the care and support of the child or children, it may petition the court for a redetermination of the support payments ordered.

**History:** 1971 c 961 s 21; 1974 c 107 s 20; 1977 c 282 s 29; 1978 c 772 s 50; 1979 c 259 s 25

#### **518.552 MAINTENANCE.**

Subdivision 1. In a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or legal separation, or in a proceeding for maintenance following dissolution of the marriage by a court which lacked personal jurisdiction over the absent spouse and which has since acquired jurisdiction, the court may grant a maintenance order for either spouse if it finds that the spouse seeking maintenance:

(a) Lacks sufficient property, including marital property apportioned to him, to provide for his reasonable needs, especially during a period of training or education, and

(b) Is unable to adequately support himself after considering all relevant circumstances through appropriate employment or is the custodian of a child whose condition or circumstances make it appropriate that the custodian not be required to seek employment outside the home.

Subd. 2. The maintenance order shall be in amounts and for periods of time as the court deems just, without regard to marital misconduct, and after considering all relevant factors including:

(a) The financial resources of the party seeking maintenance, including marital property apportioned to him, and his ability to meet his needs independently, including the extent to which a provision for support of a child living with the party includes a sum for that party as custodian;

(b) The time necessary to acquire sufficient education or training to enable the party seeking maintenance to find appropriate employment;

- (c) The standard of living established during the marriage;
- (d) The duration of the marriage;
- (e) The age, and the physical and emotional condition of the spouse seeking maintenance; and
- (f) The ability of the spouse from whom maintenance is sought to meet his needs while meeting those of the spouse seeking maintenance; and
- (g) The contribution of each party in the acquisition, preservation, depreciation, or appreciation in the amount or value of the marital property, as well as the contribution of a spouse as a homemaker.

**History:** 1978 c 772 s 51; 1979 c 259 s 26

**518.56** [ Repealed, 1969 c 1028 s 9 ]

#### **518.57 MINOR CHILDREN, SUPPORT.**

Upon a decree of dissolution, legal separation or annulment, the court may make a further order which is just and proper concerning the maintenance of the minor children as is provided by section 518.17, and for the maintenance of any child of the parties as defined in section 518.54, as support money, and may make the same a lien or charge upon the property of the parties to the proceeding, or either of them, either at the time of the entry of the judgment or by subsequent order upon proper application therefor.

**History:** 1951 c 551 s 4; 1974 c 107 s 21; 1978 c 772 s 52

#### **518.58 DISPOSITION OF MARITAL PROPERTY.**

Upon a dissolution of a marriage, an annulment, or in a proceeding for disposition of property following a dissolution of marriage by a court which lacked personal jurisdiction over the absent spouse or lacked jurisdiction to dispose of the property and which has since acquired jurisdiction, the court shall make a just and equitable disposition of the marital property of the parties without regard to marital misconduct, after making findings regarding the disposition of the property. The court shall base its findings on all relevant factors including the length of the marriage, any prior marriage of a party, the age, health, station, occupation, amount and sources of income, vocational skills, employability, estate, liabilities, needs, and opportunity for future acquisition of capital assets, the amount of support, maintenance and income of each party, whether the property award is in lieu of or in addition to maintenance or support. The court shall also consider the contribution of each in the acquisition, preservation, depreciation or appreciation in the amount or value of the marital property, as well as the contribution of a spouse as a homemaker. It shall be presumed that each spouse made a substantial contribution to the acquisition of income and property while they were living together as husband and wife. The court may also award to either spouse the household goods and furniture of the parties, whether or not acquired during the marriage.

If the court finds that either spouse's resources or property, including his portion of the marital property as defined in section 518.54, subdivision 5 are so inadequate as to work an unfair hardship, considering all relevant circumstances, the court may, in addition to the marital property, apportion up to one-half of the property otherwise excluded under section 518.54, subdivision 5, clauses (a) to (d) to prevent the unfair hardship. If the court apportions property other than marital property, it shall make findings in support of the apportionment. The findings shall be based on all relevant factors including the length of the marriage, any prior marriage of a party, the age, health, station, occupation, amount and sources of income, vocational skills, employability, estate, liabilities, needs, and opportunity for future acquisition of capital assets and income of each party.

Unless otherwise specifically set forth in the decree, if in a decree of dissolution one party is awarded the homestead and the other party is awarded a fixed dollar amount based on an assumed or appraised market value of the homestead and within 24 months following the decree the homestead is sold, within six months of the sale either party may petition, and the court may grant, an apportionment of the proceeds in the proportion awarded in the decree, based upon the net sale price rather than the assumed or appraised market value. This paragraph shall not apply to a decree of dissolution entered before May 30, 1979.

**History:** 1951 c 551 s 5; 1974 c 107 s 22; 1978 c 772 s 53; 1979 c 259 s 27; 1979 c 289 s 8

**518.59** [ Repealed, 1978 c 772 s 63 ]

**518.60** [ Repealed, 1969 c 1028 s 9 ]

**518.61 TRUSTEE.**

(a) Upon its own motion or upon motion of either party, the court may appoint a trustee, when it is deemed expedient, to receive any money ordered to be paid as maintenance or support money for remittance to the person entitled to receive the payments. The trustee may also receive property which is part of an award under section 518.58, upon trust to invest the same, and pay over the income in the manner the court directs, or to pay over the principal sum in the proportions and at the times the court orders. The court shall have regard in all cases to the situation and circumstances of the recipient, and the children, if there are any. The trustee shall give a bond, as the court requires, for the faithful performance of his trust. If it appears that the recipient of money ordered to be paid as support will receive public assistance, the court shall appoint as trustee the public authority responsible for support enforcement.

(b) The trustee shall maintain records listing the amount of payments, the date when payments are required to be made, and the names and addresses of the parties affected by the order.

(c) The parties affected by the order shall inform the trustee of a change of address or of other conditions that may affect the administration of the order.

(d) If a required payment of support or of maintenance and support combined is not made within ten days after the due date, the trustee shall send by first class mail notice of the arrearage to the obligor. If payment of the sum due is not received by the trustee within ten days after sending notice, the trustee shall certify the amount due to the public authority responsible for support enforcement, whenever that authority is not the trustee. If the public authority responsible for support enforcement refers the arrearage to the county attorney, the county attorney may initiate enforcement proceedings against the obligor for support or for maintenance and support combined.

(e) The public authority responsible for support enforcement may represent a person entitled to receive support or maintenance or both in court proceedings initiated under this section to enforce compliance with a support order or combined maintenance and support orders.

(f) If the person obligated to pay support or maintenance is beyond the jurisdiction of the court, the county attorney may institute any proceeding available under state or federal law for the enforcement of duties of support or maintenance.

**History:** 1951 c 551 s 8; 1969 c 1028 s 6; 1978 c 772 s 54

**518.611 ASSIGNMENTS.**

If the person obligated to pay support or maintenance fails to make a required payment, and is given a reasonable opportunity by the court to allege hardship or that the payment has been made, the other party or the public authority responsible for support enforcement may, after 30 days, move the court to order, and the court, unless hardship is shown, shall order the employer or trustee to withhold from the obligor's periodic earnings or trust income an amount equal to the court's order for support or maintenance. The assignment is binding on the employer, trustee, or other payor of the funds upon service upon him of notice that it has been made. The payor shall withhold from the earnings or trust income payable to the person obligated to pay support or maintenance the amount specified in the assignment and shall monthly or more frequently remit the amounts withheld to the other party or, in the case of a public assistance recipient, to the public agency responsible for support enforcement. Amounts received by the public authority responsible for support enforcement which are in excess of public assistance expended for the party or for a child shall be remitted to the party. An employer shall not discharge or otherwise discipline an employee as a result of a wage or salary assignment authorized by this section.

*History: 1978 c 772 s 55; 1979 c 259 s 28*

**518.612 INDEPENDENCE OF PROVISIONS OF DECREE OR TEMPORARY ORDER.**

Failure by a party to make support payments is not a defense to: interference with visitation rights; or without the permission of the court or the noncustodial parent removing a child from this state. Nor is interference with visitation rights or taking a child from this state without permission of the court or the noncustodial parent a defense to nonpayment of support. If a party fails to make support payments, or interferes with visitation rights, or without permission of the court or the noncustodial parent removes a child from this state, the other party may petition the court for an appropriate order.

*History: 1978 c 772 s 56; 1979 c 259 s 29*

**518.62 TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE.**

Temporary maintenance and temporary support may be awarded as provided in section 518.131. The court may also award to either party to the proceeding, having due regard to all the circumstances and the party awarded the custody of the children, the right to the exclusive use of the household goods and furniture of the parties pending the proceeding and the right to the use of the homestead of the parties, exclusive or otherwise, pending the proceeding. The court may order either party to remove from the homestead of the parties upon proper application to the court for an order pending the proceeding.

*History: 1951 c 551 s 9; 1969 c 1028 s 7; 1974 c 107 s 24; 1978 c 772 s 57; 1979 c 259 s 30.*

**518.63 HOMESTEAD, OCCUPANCY.**

The court, having due regard to all the circumstances and the custody of children of the parties, may award to either party the right of occupancy of the homestead of the parties, exclusive or otherwise, upon a final decree of dissolution or legal separation or proper modification of it, for a period of time determined by the court. An award of the right of occupancy of the homestead, whether exclusive or otherwise, may be in addition to the maximum amounts awarded under sections 518.58, 518.61 and 518.611.

**History:** 1951 c 551 s 10; 1969 c 1028 s 8; 1974 c 107 s 25; 1978 c 772 s 58

#### **518.64 MODIFICATION OF ORDERS OR DECREES.**

Subdivision 1. After an order for maintenance or support money, temporary or permanent, or for the appointment of trustees to receive property awarded as maintenance or support money, the court may from time to time, on petition of either of the parties or on petition of the public authority responsible for support enforcement where the party entitled to support or maintenance receives or has applied for public assistance, modify the order respecting the amount of maintenance or support money, and the payment of it, and also respecting the appropriation and payment of the principal and income of property held in trust, and may make an order respecting these matters which it might have made in the original proceeding, except as herein otherwise provided.

Subd. 2. The terms of a decree respecting maintenance or support may be modified upon a showing of substantially increased or decreased earnings of a party or substantially increased or decreased need of a party, which makes the terms unreasonable and unfair. On a motion for modification of support, the court shall take into consideration the needs of the children and the financial circumstances of the custodial parent's spouse, if any. A modification which decreases support or maintenance may be made retroactive only upon a showing that any failure to pay in accord with the terms of the original order was not willful. A modification which increases support or maintenance shall not be made retroactive if the obligor has substantially complied with the previous order. Except for an award of the right of occupancy of the homestead, provided in section 518.63, all divisions of real and personal property provided by section 518.58 shall be final, and may be revoked or modified only where the court finds the existence of conditions that justify reopening a judgment under the laws of this state. The court may impose a lien or charge on the divided property at any time while the property, or subsequently acquired property, is owned by the parties or either of them, for the payment of maintenance or support money, or may sequester the property as is provided by section 518.24.

Subd. 3. Unless otherwise agreed in writing or expressly provided in the decree, the obligation to pay future maintenance is terminated upon the death of either party or the remarriage of the party receiving maintenance.

Subd. 4. Unless otherwise agreed in writing or expressly provided in the decree, provisions for the support of a child are terminated by emancipation of the child but not by the death of a parent obligated to support the child. When a parent obligated to pay support dies, the amount of support may be modified, revoked, or commuted to a lump sum payment, to the extent just and appropriate in the circumstances.

**History:** 1951 c 551 s 11; 1974 c 107 s 26; 1978 c 772 s 59; 1979 c 259 s 31

#### **518.65 PROPERTY; SALE, PARTITION.**

In order to effect a division or award of property as is provided by section 518.58, the court may order property sold or partitioned. Personal property may be ordered sold in the manner directed by the court, and real estate may be partitioned in the manner provided by Minnesota Statutes 1949, Chapter 558.

**History:** 1951 c 551 s 12; 1978 c 772 s 60

#### **518.66 POWER OF COURT NOT LIMITED.**

Nothing contained in sections 518.54 to 518.67 shall be construed as limiting the power of the court in appropriate cases to make adequate provision for the support and education of any children of the parties to any dissolution, legal



separation or annulment action where such dissolution, legal separation or annulment is denied.

**History:** *1951 c 551 s 13; 1974 c 107 s 27; 1979 c 259 s 32*

**518.67** [ Repealed, 1978 c 772 s 63 ]