

# Common Course Outline

**PRLW 206**

**Family Law**

**3 Semester Hours**

## The Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

**PRLW 206- 3 credits- Family Law** introduces students to Maryland's domestic law. Topics covered in this course include marriage and divorce, as well as the related issues of child support, custody, and alimony. In addition, students gain an understanding of Maryland's laws related to guardianship, adoption, paternity, and domestic violence. Students gain first-hand experience preparing family court pleadings, among other related documents.

**Prerequisite: PRLW 103**

### Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. distinguish between the various types of marriages, including void, voidable and valid marriages;
2. analyze the grounds for annulment;
3. distinguish between limited and absolute divorce;
4. examine the grounds for divorce and relevant defenses;
5. explain the domestic violence petition process;
6. apply the best interests of the child standard in custody, adoption, and visitation, using case law, statutory law and the litigation process;
7. apply the Maryland Child Support Guidelines and calculate support using the sole and shared physical custody worksheets;
8. analyze the support of adult dependent children;
9. contrast methods of enforcement for non-support;
10. compare factors for awarding alimony;
11. analyze the court's role in the divisions of marital property;
12. compare a valid separation agreement and pre-nuptial agreement;
13. analyze Maryland's paternity statutes and litigation surrounding the issue of paternity; and
14. analyze the factors involved in the adjudication of Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Divorce
  - A. Absolute
  - B. Limited
- II. Valid Marriages
- III. Defenses to Divorce
  - A. Reconciliation
  - B. Condonation
  - C. Recrimination.
- IV. Domestic Violence
  - A. Ex Parte Orders
  - B. Protective Orders
  - C. Peace Orders
- V. Custody/Visitation Litigation
  - A. Best Interest of the Child
  - B. Grandparent Visitation
- VI. Maryland Child Support Guidelines
  - A. Civil Non-Support
  - B. Criminal Non-Support
  - C. Enforcement
- VII. Alimony
  - A. Pendent Lite
  - B. Indefinite
  - C. Rehabilitative
- VIII. Marital Property
- IX. Family Law Agreements
  - A. Separation Agreements
  - B. Pre-Nuptial Agreements
  - C. Post-Nuptial Agreements
- X. Paternity
- XI. Children in Need of Assistance (CINA)
- XII. Adoption

## **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member and specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance will be described in the individual class syllabus, but will include the following:

Grading/exams: A minimum of two exams: a mid-term and a final (the final does not have to be cumulative) OR two major written projects combining objective and analytical/critical thinking components such as researching and analyzing a fictional client's case and a preparing a written memorandum detailing the law on point and the student's application and analysis of the law to the client's situation; or preparation of a child support worksheet based upon a fictional scenario.

Writing: A minimum of two written assignments to allow for both objective and analytical review of primary legal sources, such as case briefs or a written comparison/analysis of cases and/or statutes.

**Other Course Information**

This is a Pre-Law elective course. It is taught in the classroom using a variety of instructional techniques, which are intended to meet the varied learning styles of our diverse population.