

Common Course Outline

LGST 206

Family Law

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

LGST 206 – 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. Students gain an understanding of Maryland’s laws related to guardianship, adoption, paternity, and children in need of assistance. Students gain experience preparing family court pleadings and motions, among other related documents.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. discuss the role of a paralegal in a domestic practice;
2. distinguish among void, voidable and valid marriages;
3. explain the grounds for annulment, legal and religious;
4. distinguish between limited and absolute divorce;
5. evaluate the concept of corroboration and the defenses of reconciliation, condonation, and recrimination;
6. examine the domestic violence petition process;
7. apply the best interests of the child standard in custody and visitation, using case law, statutory law and the litigation process in custody litigation;
8. apply the Maryland Child Support Guidelines to calculate support using the sole and shared physical custody worksheets;
9. examine the support of adult dependent children;
10. identify methods of enforcement for non-support;
11. analyze factors for indefinite and rehabilitative alimony;
12. examine the issue of marital property and the court's role in the division of such property;
13. analyze the elements of a valid separation agreement and a valid pre-nuptial agreement;
14. discuss paternity statutes and related litigation;
15. evaluate the factors involved in the adjudication of Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases; and
16. discuss the ‘best interests of the child’ standard in adoptions.

Major Topics

- I. Marriage

- II. Divorce
- III. Defenses to Actions for Divorce
- IV. Domestic Violence Statutes
- V. Custody
- VI. Maryland Child Support Guidelines
- VII. Alimony
- VIII. Marital Property
- IX. Separation Agreements
- X. Adoption

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams

- A minimum of one oral presentation or collaborative learning project conducted in groups, such as a group debate or discussion
- A minimum of one exam
- A minimum of two written assignments to allow for both objective and analytical review of primary legal sources
- Weekly assessments, such as quizzes, homework, and/or participation, to evaluate student progress

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is a Legal Studies elective for certificate and degree students.

Date Revised: 05/01/2018