

## Chapter 35

**(House Bill 36)**

AN ACT concerning

**Juvenile Proceedings – Fines, Fees, and Costs**

FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions of law authorizing the juvenile court to impose certain civil fines against a child found to have committed certain violations; repealing a certain provision of law authorizing the juvenile court to impose certain court costs against a juvenile respondent or the respondent's parent, guardian, or custodian under certain circumstances; repealing a provision of law authorizing the juvenile court to assess against any party or a parent of a certain child compensation for the services of an attorney appointed to represent the child in a certain action; repealing a provision of law authorizing a court to order a parent to pay a certain sum to cover the support of a certain child; prohibiting a court from ordering a certain parent, guardian, custodian, or child to pay a certain fine, fee, cost, or sum of money for a certain purpose; prohibiting the assessment of compensation for the services of an attorney against a parent, guardian, custodian, or child in a delinquency proceeding; providing that the balance of certain fines, fees, or costs will become unenforceable and uncollectable on a certain date; requiring a certain portion of a certain judgment to be vacated on a certain date; making conforming changes; and generally relating to fines, fees, and costs in certain juvenile proceedings.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3–8A–19(e), (h), (i), (j), and (k), 3–8A–20, and 3–8A–32

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3–8A–19(g) and 3–8A–29

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3–8A–29

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

3–8A–19.

(e) (1) (i) Subject to the provisions of subparagraphs (iii) and (iv) of this paragraph, in making a disposition on a finding that the child has committed the violation specified in a citation, the court may order the Motor Vehicle Administration to initiate an action, under the motor vehicle laws, to suspend the driving privilege of a child licensed to operate a motor vehicle by the Motor Vehicle Administration for a specified period of not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days.

(ii) In this paragraph, “driver’s license” means a license or permit to drive a motor vehicle that is issued under the laws of this State or any other jurisdiction.

(iii) In making a disposition on a finding that the child has committed a violation of § 10–113 of the Criminal Law Article specified in a citation that involved the use of a driver’s license or a document purporting to be a driver’s license, the court may order the Motor Vehicle Administration to initiate an action under the Maryland Vehicle Law to suspend the driving privilege of a child licensed to operate a motor vehicle by the Motor Vehicle Administration:

1. For a first offense, for 6 months; and
2. For a second or subsequent offense, until the child is 21 years old.

(iv) In making a disposition on a finding that the child has committed a violation under § 26–103 of the Education Article, the court shall order the Motor Vehicle Administration to initiate an action, under the motor vehicle laws, to suspend the driving privilege of a child licensed to operate a motor vehicle by the Motor Vehicle Administration for a specified period of not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days.

(v) If a child subject to a suspension under this subsection does not hold a license to operate a motor vehicle on the date of the disposition, the suspension shall commence:

1. If the child is at least 16 years of age on the date of the disposition, on the date of the disposition; or
2. If the child is younger than 16 years of age on the date of the disposition, on the date the child reaches the child’s 16th birthday.

(2) In addition to the dispositions under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the court also may:

(i) Counsel the child or the parent or both, or order the child to participate in an alcohol or a substance abuse education or rehabilitation program that is

in the best interest of the child; **OR**

(ii) [Impose a civil fine of not more than \$25 for the first violation and a civil fine of not more than \$100 for the second and subsequent violations; or

(iii)] Order the child to participate in a supervised work program for not more than 20 hours for the first violation and not more than 40 hours for the second and subsequent violations.

(3) (i) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection do not apply to a child found to have committed a violation of § 10–108 of the Criminal Law Article.

(ii) In making a disposition on a finding that the child has committed a violation of § 10–108 of the Criminal Law Article, the court may:

1. Counsel the child or the parent or both, or order the child to participate in a smoking cessation clinic, or other suitable presentation of the hazards associated with tobacco use that is in the best interest of the child; **OR**

2. [Impose a civil fine of not more than \$25 for the first violation and a civil fine of not more than \$100 for a second or subsequent violation; or

3.] Order the child to participate in a supervised work program for not more than 20 hours for the first violation and not more than 40 hours for a second or subsequent violation.

(4) (i) In making a disposition on a finding that the child has committed a violation of Title 4, Subtitle 5 or § 9–504 or § 9–505 of the Criminal Law Article, the court may order the Motor Vehicle Administration to initiate an action, under the Maryland Vehicle Law, to suspend the driving privilege of a child for a specified period not to exceed:

1. For a first offense, 6 months; and

2. For a second or subsequent offense, 1 year or until the person is 21 years old, whichever is longer.

(ii) If a child subject to a suspension under this paragraph does not possess the privilege to drive on the date of the disposition, the suspension shall commence:

1. If the child is at an age that is eligible to obtain the privilege to drive on the date of the disposition, on the date of the disposition; or

2. If the child is younger than an age that is eligible to obtain the privilege to drive on the date of the disposition, on the date the child is eligible to obtain driving privileges.

(5) (i) In making a disposition on a finding that the child has committed a violation under § 21–1128 of the Transportation Article, the court shall order the Motor Vehicle Administration to initiate an action, under the motor vehicle laws, to suspend the driving privilege of a child licensed to operate a motor vehicle by the Motor Vehicle Administration for a specified period of not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days.

(ii) If a child subject to a suspension under this paragraph does not possess the privilege to drive on the date of the disposition, the suspension shall commence:

1. If, on the date of the disposition, the child is at an age that makes a child eligible to obtain the privilege to drive, on the date of the disposition; or

2. If, on the date of the disposition, the child is younger than an age that makes a child eligible to obtain the privilege to drive, on the date the child is eligible to obtain driving privileges.

**[(g)]** The court may impose reasonable court costs against a respondent, or the respondent’s parent, guardian, or custodian, against whom a finding of delinquency has been entered under the provisions of this section.]

**[(h)] (G)** A child may be placed in an emergency facility on an emergency basis under Title 10, Subtitle 6, Part IV of the Health – General Article.

**[(i)] (H)** The court may not commit a child to the custody of the Maryland Department of Health under this section for inpatient care and treatment in a State mental hospital unless the court finds on the record based upon clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) The child has a mental disorder;

(2) The child needs inpatient medical care or treatment for the protection of himself or others;

(3) The child is unable or unwilling to be voluntarily admitted to such facility; and

(4) There is no less restrictive form of intervention available which is consistent with the child’s condition and welfare.

**[(j)] (I)** The court may not commit a child to the custody of the Maryland Department of Health under this section for inpatient care and treatment in a State mental retardation facility unless the court finds on the record based upon clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) The child is mentally retarded;

(2) The condition is of such a nature that for the adequate care or protection

of the child or others, the child needs in–residence care or treatment; and

(3) There is no less restrictive form of care and treatment available which is consistent with the child’s welfare and safety.

**[(k)] (J)** (1) Any commitment order issued under subsection **[(i) or (j)] (H) OR (I)** of this section shall require the Maryland Department of Health to file progress reports with the court at intervals no greater than every 6 months during the life of the order. The Maryland Department of Health shall provide the child’s attorney of record with a copy of each report. The court shall review each report promptly and consider whether the commitment order should be modified or vacated. After the first 6 months of the commitment and at 6–month intervals thereafter upon the request of any party, the Department or facility, the court shall grant a hearing for the purpose of determining if the standards specified in subsection **[(i) or (j)] (H) OR (I)** of this section continue to be met.

(2) If, at any time after the commitment of the child to a State mental hospital under this section, the individualized treatment plan developed under § 10–706 of the Health – General Article recommends that a child no longer meets the standards specified in subsection **[(i)] (H)** of this section, then the court shall grant a hearing to review the commitment order. The court may grant a hearing at any other time for the purpose of determining if the standards specified in subsection **[(i)] (H)** of this section continue to be met.

(3) If, at any time after the commitment of the child to a State mental retardation facility under this section, the individualized plan of habilitation developed under § 7–1006 of the Health – General Article recommends that a child no longer meets the standards specified in subsection **[(j)] (I)** of this section, then the court shall grant a hearing to review the commitment order. The court may grant a hearing at any other time for the purpose of determining if the standards specified in subsection **[(j)] (I)** of this section continue to be met.

3–8A–20.

(a) Except as provided in subsection **[(d)] (C)** of this section, a party is entitled to the assistance of counsel at every stage of any proceeding under this subtitle.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a child may not waive the right to the assistance of counsel in a proceeding under this subtitle.

(2) A parent, guardian, or custodian of a child may not waive the child’s right to the assistance of counsel.

(3) After a petition or citation has been filed with the court under this subtitle, if a child indicates a desire to waive the right to the assistance of counsel, the court may not accept the waiver unless:

(i) The child is in the presence of counsel and has consulted with counsel; and

(ii) The court determines that the waiver is knowing and voluntary.

(4) In determining whether the waiver is knowing and voluntary, the court shall consider, after appropriate questioning in open court and on the record, whether the child fully comprehends:

(i) The nature of the allegations and the proceedings, and the range of allowable dispositions;

(ii) That counsel may be of assistance in determining and presenting any defenses to the allegations of the petition, or other mitigating circumstances;

(iii) That the right to the assistance of counsel in a delinquency case, or a child in need of supervision case, includes the right to the prompt assignment of an attorney, without charge to the child if the child is financially unable to obtain private counsel;

(iv) That even if the child intends not to contest the charge or proceeding, counsel may be of substantial assistance in developing and presenting material that could affect the disposition; and

(v) That among the child's rights at any hearing are the right to call witnesses on the child's behalf, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, the right to obtain witnesses by compulsory process, and the right to require proof of any charges.

(c) [Compensation for the services of an attorney appointed to represent a child in an action under this subtitle may be assessed by the court against any party or against a parent of the child.

(d)] (1) A party is not entitled to the assistance of counsel at a peace order proceeding.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not affect the entitlement of a respondent to the assistance of counsel in a contempt proceeding as provided by law.

**[(e)] (D)** (1) Unless the case is dismissed, if a child appears in court without counsel for a waiver hearing under § 3–8A–06 of this subtitle, or an adjudicatory hearing under § 3–8A–18 of this subtitle, and the child has not previously waived the right to the assistance of counsel in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the court shall continue and the clerk shall reschedule the waiver or adjudicatory hearing.

(2) The clerk shall issue a notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing at least 10 days prior to the date of the hearing.

(3) (i) The Office of the Public Defender shall enter an appearance for the child.

(ii) After entry of its appearance, the Office of the Public Defender shall verify eligibility for continued public defender representation in accordance with § 16–210 of the Criminal Procedure Article and the Maryland Rules.

(4) The continuance of a waiver or adjudicatory hearing under this subsection may not be a basis for detaining the child under § 3–8A–15 of this subtitle.

[3–8A–29.

After giving the parent a reasonable opportunity to be heard, the court may order either parent or both parents to pay a sum in the amount the court directs to cover wholly or partly the support of the child under this subtitle.]

**3–8A–29.**

**A COURT MAY NOT ORDER A PARENT, GUARDIAN, CUSTODIAN, OR CHILD TO PAY:**

**(1) A FINE, FEE, OR COST UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; OR**

**(2) A SUM OF MONEY TO COVER THE SUPPORT OF A CHILD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

3–8A–32.

(a) In addition to any requirements relating to the appointment of counsel for children, at any time during the pendency of any action under this subtitle, where it appears to the court that the protection of the rights of a child requires independent representation, the court may, upon its own motion, or the motion of any party to the action, appoint an attorney to represent the interest of the child in that particular action. Such actions include but are not limited to those involving a child in need of supervision, delinquent child, or mentally handicapped child.

(b) **(1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,** compensation for the services of the attorney under this section may be assessed against any party or parties to the action.

**(2) COMPENSATION FOR THE SERVICES OF AN ATTORNEY UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE ASSESSED AGAINST A PARENT, GUARDIAN, CUSTODIAN, OR CHILD IN A DELINQUENCY PROCEEDING.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on the effective date of this Act, the balance of any court-ordered fines, fees, or costs previously assessed under the provisions of law repealed by this Act shall be unenforceable and uncollectable and the portion of any judgment that imposed those fines, fees, or costs shall be vacated.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.**