

Article - Family Law

[\[Previous\]](#)[\[Next\]](#)

§5–203.

- (a) (1) The parents are the joint natural guardians of their minor child.
- (2) A parent is the sole natural guardian of the minor child if the other parent:
 - (i) dies;
 - (ii) abandons the family; or
 - (iii) is incapable of acting as a parent.
- (b) The parents of a minor child, as defined in § 1–103 of the General Provisions Article:
 - (1) are jointly and severally responsible for the child's support, care, nurture, welfare, and education; and
 - (2) have the same powers and duties in relation to the child.
- (c) If one or both parents of a minor child is an unemancipated minor, the parents of that minor parent are jointly and severally responsible for any child support for a grandchild that is a recipient of temporary cash assistance to the extent that the minor parent has insufficient financial resources to fulfill the child support responsibility of the minor parent.
- (d) (1) If the parents live apart, a court may award custody of a minor child to either parent or joint custody to both parents.
- (2) Neither parent is presumed to have any right to custody that is superior to the right of the other parent.

[\[Previous\]](#)[\[Next\]](#)