

Contempt and Enforcement Orders in For Divorce and Custody

When a former spouse fails to comply with a court order or the terms of a private separation agreement that has been incorporated into a court order (such as a divorce decree or custody order), the other spouse may ask the court for help in gaining compliance.

Read the Law: [Md. Code, Family Law § 8-213](#)

The court may exercise its jurisdiction over the former spouse who has not abided by the order if:

- he or she lives within the state;
- if he or she lives in a state in the United States that has a reciprocal agreement with Maryland; or,
- in the case of enforcing a monetary agreement, if he or she owns property within the state (e.g., real estate, bank accounts, a business, or stocks and bonds).

Read the law: [Md. Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings, Title 6, Subtitle 1](#)

If the ex-spouse is not a resident of Maryland, the court may exercise its jurisdiction if the ex-spouse is served in accordance with the Maryland Rules AND:

- Maryland was the matrimonial domicile of the parties before their separation; OR
- the obligation to pay the child support, spousal support, or attorneys fees arose under Maryland laws or under an agreement executed by one of the parties in Maryland.

Read the Law: [Md. Code, Courts and Judicial Proceeding § 6-103.1](#)