

**TITLE 26 – FAMILY**  
**CHAPTER 1 - DOMESTIC RELATIONS**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACT**

**Arrangement of Sections**

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**DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACT**

**AN ACT** to provide for the regulation of domestic relations in the Republic and for matters connected therewith.

<i>Commencement:</i>	<i>Not Specified</i>
<i>Source:</i>	TTC 1966
<i>Amended By:</i>	39 TTC 1970      COM P.L. 4C-56 (1972)
	39 TTC 1980    P.L. 1995-124    P.L. 1999-95    P.L. 2002-64

**PART I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§101. Short title.**

This Chapter may be cited as the Domestic Relations Act.

**§102. Jurisdiction of High Court.**

The High Court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the District Courts to grant any adoption, and with the Community and District Courts to grant any annulment or divorce authorized under this Chapter, and may, for cause shown, order any proceeding in annulment, divorce, or adoption pending before another court transferred to the High Court for disposition.

[TTC 1966, §711; 39 TTC 1970, §1; COM P.L. 4C-56, §1; (1972); 39 TTC 1980, §1, modified.]

**§103. Proceedings in annulment, divorce, or adoption; petitions.**

(1) All proceedings for annulment, divorce, or adoption shall be commenced by petition signed and sworn to by the petitioner or

petitioners personally, except that a Community Court may accept an oral petition under oath if it deems best.

- (2) The petition shall set forth sufficient facts as to the residence of the parties to show jurisdiction under this Chapter.
- (3) A petition for annulment or divorce shall, so far as practicable, include the date and place of marriage of the parties, the cause for the annulment or divorce, and the approximate date and place where it occurred if the cause consists of individual acts, otherwise sufficient details as to cause to identify with reasonable certainty the facts relied upon, and a statement as to any prior application which is known to have been made by either party for annulment or divorce of the marriage in question or for separation under it, in this or any other jurisdiction, and the result of such application, if known.
- (4) Service of petitions filed under this Section shall be made upon any respondent or respondents, if any, in the manner provided by law for service of complaints. In such cases, any respondent or respondents shall be accorded such time as may be provided by law for filing an answer to complaints to file an answer to the petition. [TTC 1966, §712; 39 TTC 1970, §2; COM P.L. 4C-56, §2; (1972); 39 TTC 1980, §2, modified.]

**§104. Same; appeal and review.**

- (1) All decrees for annulment, divorce, or adoption under this Chapter shall be subject to appeal, and in the case of Community Courts and District Courts to review as in other civil cases, and no such decree shall become absolute or affect the legal status of the parties until the case has been reviewed, if subject to review by the High Court, and until the period for appeal has expired without any appeal having been filed or until any appeal taken shall have been finally dispatched.
- (2) Except as otherwise expressly provided by this Chapter, annulment, divorce and adoption proceedings shall be governed by the provisions of law and rules of civil procedure applicable to civil actions. [TTC 1966, §713; 39 TTC 1970, §3; 39 TTC 1980, §3, modified.]

**§105. Same; local custom recognized.**

Nothing contained in this Chapter, except for the provisions of Section 106 of this Part, shall apply to any annulment, divorce, or adoption effected in