

Powers and Duties of the Master.

- 1) The Master appointed under provision of 8-10-3 shall be limited to the powers and duties innumeraled in 8-10-3.1.
- 2) In all cases requiring extraordinary relief not enumerated in 8-10-3.1 the Master shall refer the matter to a Justice of the Family Court for resolution. He shall make findings of fact and set out the extraordinary relief requested and the Family Court Judge shall set the matter down for hearing with notice to all parties as in the case of appeals from decision of Master.

8-10-3.1. **Masters—Appointment, duties and powers.**—The court may appoint masters to assist the court in the conduct of its business. A person appointed to serve as a master shall be a member of the bar of Rhode Island. The powers and duties of such masters shall be prescribed in the order appointing them.

In addition, the chief judge of the family court may appoint masters to assist the court in the enforcement and implementation of chapter 11 of title 15.

Such master shall serve at the pleasure of the chief judge and his powers and duties shall be prescribed in the order appointing him or in the rules of procedure of the family court. Such special master may be authorized:

- (a) to regulate all proceedings before him;
- (b) to do all acts and take all measures necessary or proper for the efficient performance of his duties;
- (c) to require the production before him of books, papers, vouchers, documents and writings;
- (d) to rule upon the admissibility of evidence;
- (e) to issue subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses, to put witnesses on oath, to examine them and to call parties to the proceeding and examine them upon oath;
- (f) to adjudicate a person in contempt, but not order him imprisoned, for failure to appear in response to a summons or for refusal to answer questions or produce evidence or for behavior disrupting a proceeding;
- (g) to adjudicate a party in contempt, but not order him imprisoned, for failure to comply with a pending order to provide support or to perform any other act.

A party aggrieved by an order entered by a master shall be entitled to a review of the order by a justice of the family court. Unless otherwise provided in the rules of procedure of the family court, such review shall be on the record and appellate in nature. The family court shall, by rules of procedure, establish procedures for review of orders entered by a master, and for enforcement of contempt adjudications of a master.

Final orders of the family court entered in a proceeding to review an order of a master may be appealed to the supreme court.

History of Section.

As enacted by P.L. 1977, ch. 68, § 1.