

**Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1319  
(Representatives Klemin, Devlin, Dockter, Lefor)  
(Senator Dwyer)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 14-07-08 and 14-07-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to spousal debts.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-07-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-07-08. Separate and mutual rights and liabilities of husband and wife.**

The separate and mutual rights and liabilities of a husband and a wife are as follows:

1. Neither the husband nor the wife as such is answerable for the acts of the other.
2. Except for necessary expenses as provided in subsection 3, the earnings of one spouse are not liable for the debts of the other spouse, and the earnings and accumulations of either spouse and of any minor children living with either spouse or in one spouse's custody, while the husband and wife are living separate from each other, are the separate property of each spouse.
3. ~~The~~Except for abandonment as provided in section 14-07-11, the husband and wife are liable jointly and severally for any debts contracted by either, ~~while living together,~~ for necessary household supplies of food, clothing, and fuel, medical care, and for shelter for themselves and family, and for the education of their minor children.
4. The separate property of the husband or wife is not liable for the debts of the other spouse but each is liable for their own debts contracted before or after marriage.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-07-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-07-11. Spouse liable for support - Exception.**

An abandoned spouse is not liable for the support of the other spouse unless there is an offer to return on the part of the abandoning spouse or the abandonment is justified by misconduct. ~~Neither party is liable~~A party is not an abandoned spouse if the other party resides elsewhere for the support of the other when living separate by agreement unless the support is stipulated in the agreement~~medical or behavioral health treatment.~~

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Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1319.

House Vote:    Yeas 90            Nays 1            Absent 3

Senate Vote:    Yeas 47            Nays 0            Absent 0

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State