

An Abridgement of the Laws of Maryland, now in force:
Servants and Slaves. Runaways. [1704]*

Servants and slaves. Runaways.

I. ... No Servant or Slave shall travel above 10 mile from his Masters House, without a Note under the Hand of his Master or Overseer, under the Penalty of being taken-up for a Runaway.

II. Any such Servant absenting from his or her Master or Mistress, shall serve 10 days for every one days absence.

III. Any Person that shall wittingly and willingly detain any Servant unlawfully absenting himself, shall be fined 5 l. of Tobacco for every night that such Person shall entertain such Servant, half to the King, half to the Informer.

VI. And if one of our Neighboring *Indians* takes up or seizes a Runaway Servant, and brings him before some Magistrate, he shall have a Reward or a Matchcoat paid him, or the Value thereof.

VIII. Every Man Servant shall have given him at the time of the expiration of his Service, one new Hat, a good Cloath Suit, a new Shift of White Linnen, a pair of new *French* full Shooes and Stockings, two Hoes, and one Axe, and one Gun ... And every Woman Servant shall have given her at the expiration of her Servitude, the like Provision of Cloaths, and 3 Barrels of Indian Corn.

X. No person shall trade, barter, or any ways deal with amy Servant or Slave belonging to any Inhabitant within this Province, without leave first had of the Master., Mistress or Overseer...

XII. A Servant Imported into this Province, without Indentures, if above the age of 22 years, shall be obliged to serve 5 years, if between 18 and 22 years, 6 years; if between 15 and 18 years, 7 years; if under 15, he shall serve till he attains the Age of 22 years.

XVIII. If any Master, Mistress, or Overseer of any Servant, shall deny sufficient Meat and Drink, Lodging and Cloathing, or unreasonably labour them beyond their Strength, or debar them of necessary Rest and Sleep, ... the Justices may fine such Offender for the first and second Offence as they please, ... and for the third offence, set such Servant so wrong'd at Liberty, and free from Servitude.

***Excerpted version**