

## CHAPTER 13.

AN ACT directing the proceedings against persons guilty of Fornication.  
Supplements 1785, ch. 47, 1796, ch. 34.

*Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Justices to issue warrants, &c.  
from and after the end of this present session of assembly, it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace within this state, as often as he shall be informed of any female person having an illegitimate child, to issue his warrant to the constable of the hundred in which such person resides, who is hereby required to carry such person before some justice of the peace of the county, who shall call on her for security to indemnify the county from any charge that may accrue by means of such child, and, upon neglect or refusal, to commit her to the custody of the sheriff of the county, to be by him safely kept until she shall give such security; but in case she shall on oath discover the father, then the said justice is hereby required to discharge her from such warrant, and directed to call such father, if a resident of the county, before him, and shall cause him to give security in the sum of thirty pounds current money, to indemnify the county from all charges that may arise for the maintenance of such child; but in case the father be a resident of any other county within this state, then the justice shall transmit, under his hand and seal, a copy of the proceedings in such case had, and the justice to whom the said proceedings shall be sent, shall forthwith proceed against the father in manner and form as is before directed.

By 1785, ch. 47, the constables are required to give information to some justice of any free woman having an illegitimate child.

SEC. 2. *Provided always,* That in case any person charged Proviso.  
with being the father of a bastard child should think himself aggrieved by the judgment aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the said justice, and he is hereby required, to cause such person to enter into recognizance for his appearance at the next county court; and the justices of the said county court are hereby directed to take cognizance thereof, and such proceedings shall thereupon be had as in other criminal cases; and if the person so charged be found guilty by the verdict of a jury, the court shall immediately order such person to give security to indemnify the county from any charges that may accrue for the maintenance of the said child; and if he shall neglect or refuse to give such security, he shall be committed to the custody of the sheriff until he comply; and any person swearing falsely in the premises shall suffer the same pains and penalties as persons guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.

By 1785, ch. 47, the justices are directed to return such recognizances to the next county court, which is to be recorded, and process to issue thereon. By 1796, ch. 34, any justice of the peace may, on application,