guardians of such child, if any there be, by summons, order of publication or otherwise, as the court may order to be given, provided that the court passing the decree shall become satisfied, upon careful investigation, that the best interests and welfare of such child will be thereby promoted, and provided further, that the child, if of sufficient intelligence and capacity to give an understanding assent shall so desire.

1892, ch. 244.

62 B. The husband and wife may file a petition jointly praying the court to decree the adoption by them jointly of any child, but no decree of adoption shall pass where the petitioner is a married person unless it be shown that the husband or wife of the petitioner consents to the adoption, or is hoplessly insane, or that the parties are living apart under such circumstances as would entitle the petitioner to a divorce.

Ibid.

62 C. The effect of such decree of adoption shall be to entitle the child so adopted to the same rights of inheritance and distribution as to the petitioner's estate and the same rights of protection, education and maintenance as if born to such petitioner in lawful wedlock, and the natural parents of such child shall be freed from all legal obligation towards it, provided that where such child inherits property from its adopted parent or parents, upon its dying intestate without issue the property thus inherited shall descend and be distributed to the same persons who would take the same by inheritance and in course of distribution if the child had been the child of the adopted parents born to them in lawful wedlock, provided however, that this shall not be construed to limit or interfere with the power of disposition over such property by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise by said adopted child.

Ibid.

62 D. If the petition contains a prayer to that effect the court may also decree that the name of the child be changed.

Ibid.

62 E. The term "child" or its equivalent in a deed, grant, will or other written instrument shall be held to include any child