

(1) the adoptive child, from unnecessary separation from his natural parents and from adoption by persons unfit to have such responsibility; (2) the natural parents, from hurried and abrupt decisions to give up the child; and (3) the adopting parents, by providing them information about the child and his background, and protecting them from subsequent disturbance of their relationships with the child by natural parents.

85B. (Jurisdiction and Venue.) The Circuit Courts of the several counties of this State, sitting in equity, and any court of Baltimore City having equity jurisdiction, shall have jurisdiction of all petitions for adoption under this sub-title. Any such petition may be filed in the county, or in Baltimore City, as the case may be, in which (1) the petitioner or petitioners have their domicil; or (2) the person to be adopted is located; or (3) any lawfully licensed child placement agency, having legal or physical care, custody or control of the person to be adopted is located. Provided, however, that no such petition shall be filed unless either the person to be adopted or the custodian of such person shall be physically within this State and subject to the jurisdiction of the courts thereof.

85C. (Federal Reservations.) All persons residing on property lying within the physical boundaries of any county of this State or within the boundaries of the City of Baltimore, but on property over which jurisdiction is exercised by the Government of the United States by virtue of the 17th Clause, Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States, and of Sections 31 and 32 of Article 96 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), shall be considered as residents of the State of Maryland and of the county or of the City of Baltimore, as the case may be, in which the land is situate, for the purposes of jurisdiction in the courts of equity of this State in all petitions for adoption.

85D. (Who May Adopt.) Any person over twenty-one years of age may petition the court to decree an adoption. If the petitioner has a husband or wife living, competent to join in the petition and not separated from the petitioner under circumstances which would give the petitioner a legal ground for divorce or annulment, such husband or wife shall join in the petition. If the marital status of the petitioner changes after the time of filing the petition, and before the time of the entry of a final decree of adoption in the case, the petition shall be amended accordingly, it being the intent of this section that married persons who are living together and competent may adopt a person only upon the joint action of both. Provided, however, that if either the husband or wife is a natural parent