

if the party against whom judgment would be rendered is subject to the jurisdictional processes of the courts of this State, the courts shall apply the legal effects of a final decree of adoption made in this State to such adoptive relationship created by a final decree of adoption in another jurisdiction.

85N. (Legitimation.) Whenever the petitioner is a spouse of the natural parent of the person to be adopted, and the natural parent consents to the adoption or joins in the petition for adoption the Court may in its discretion dispense with the investigation, report, and interlocutory decree provided for in this sub-title, but in all other respects the procedure shall be similar to the procedure prescribed by this sub-title for the adoption of minors; and the decree shall have the effect of reserving unto the natural parent all his or her natural relationships, rights and obligations to the person adopted by the spouse.

85-O. (Adults.) Persons over twenty-one years of age may be declared to be adopted, on the petition of the adoptive parent or parents, the consent of the person to be adopted, and notice to the nearest next of kin of the petitioner or petitioners, if upon hearing had the Court shall be satisfied that the adoption should be granted. The legal effect of such an adoption shall be the same as that of the adoption of a minor, except as to guardianship.

85P. (Prohibited Compensation.) It shall be unlawful for any agency, institution, or individual rendering any service in connection with the placement of a child for adoption to charge or receive from or on behalf of either the natural parent or parents of the person to be adopted, or from or on behalf of the person or persons legally adopting such person, any compensation whatsoever for the placement service, but this shall not be construed to prohibit the payment by any interested persons of reasonable and customary charges or fees for hospital or medical or legal services.

It shall be the duty of the State's Attorney in each county and in Baltimore City to prosecute all violations of this section, and any agency, institution or individual convicted of violating this section shall be subject to a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars or to imprisonment not to exceed three months, or both, for each offense.

85Q. (Appeal.) Any party to an adoption proceeding may appeal to the Court of Appeals from any interlocutory or final order or decree of the trial court, within the period specified generally for appeals in equity cases.